# EDWARDSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES
**May 21, 2018**

The meeting of the Edwardsburg Village Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Scott Mackling, those in attendance were Paula Ralph (Clerk), Lisa Withers (Treasurer) and Trustees Jacque Tighe, Dennis Peak, Terry Bidwell, Jim Meltinos, Laura Hughes and Suellen Hawks.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Tighe, seconded by Bidwell to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried

**Introduction of Miss Edwardsburg & Court:** Miss Edwardsburg 2017 and court introduced themselves and updated the council on the many activities these young people participate in while representing our community.

**Public Comments:** Residents Nathan Hutchison and Jim Knight both voiced concerns for blight in the village.

**Public Hearing Special Assessments:** At 7:15 Trustee Tighe made a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, supported by Trustee Meltinos. All in favor, motion carried. Treasurer Withers listed two parcel numbers and the amounts that will be put on the tax rolls. Neither parcel number owner was in attendance. At 7:20 Trustee Tighe made a motion to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting, supported by Trustee Meltinos. All in favor, motion carried.

County Commissioner Roseann Marchetti provided the board with topics of interest within the county.

- Before the May 3, 2018, regular meeting, Barb Cook former County planning commission chair, former Pokagon Twp. supervisor and author of a number of books and pamphlets about Cass County was honored with the first county Legacy Achievement Award. More than 50 people attended the reception and seven of those attendees took to the podium and talked about Barbôs impact on the county including the Southwest Michigan College. From the reception, we moved upstairs and passed a resolution honoring Barb Cook. At that meeting we heard the Southwest Michiganôs annual report, approved the payment to that group. We also passed a motion to approve the receipt of a mental health grant in the amount of $10,300.000 for circuit court, and passed a resolution accepting a disaster contingency fund grant from the state. That grant is for repair to bridges, culverts and roads due to the recent flooding which after the current rains continues to be a problem in parts of the county.

- The Visioning on May 9, 2018 was again well attended, about 200 hundred people viewed before and after pictures of downtown Cassopolis and were asked to give pro and con comments about what they saw and suggestions on how implementation could begin. I was impressed with the pictures and was glad to see that many of the MSUôs ideas did not involve huge costs. Currently one grant possibility is being pursued. Last Committee of the Whole we discussed the strategic plan and will continue to fine tune it. We also discussed some major repairs to county facilities: the retaining wall at the county building is failing and the L&C parking lot which has deep, wide cracks throughout. The parking lot is more than 15 years old. Thursday before our regular meeting we had a work study to hear security proposals for the county building. At the regular meeting Judge Dobrich gave the annual report on Cass County Courts. We approved the development of RFPôs for the retaining wall and L & C parking lots.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Tighe to approve the minutes of the 4/16/18 regular board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Revenue/Expenditure Report:** Motion made by Peak, seconded by Meltinos to approve the Revenue/Expenditure Report for the period of 04/01/17 to 3/31/18 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Check Register Report:** Motion made by Peak, seconded by Tighe to approve the Check Register Report checks #32161-32173 & 32200-32273. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The April 2018 (unaudited) report indicated that for the month receipts totaled $63,550.02, and the status of the certificates of deposit and savings accounts.

**Special Assessments:** Motion made by Meltinos, seconded by Hughes to put the two delinquent utility accounts on the tax rolls if not paid by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2018. All in favor. Motion carried.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Presidents Report:** The Street department has been working really hard to keep up with everything.

**Cemetery Board:** Met on Tuesday, April 17th at 4:00 p.m. A complete transcript of the cemetery board minutes can be found at www.villageofedwardsburg.org

**Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator:** Mr. Krempec gave an update on current and previous violations, what has been done and what further action is being taken. A letter will be sent to the owner of 68740 East Street to mow the property or the village will have it done and put it on the tax rolls.

**Building/Electrical/Plumbing/Mechanical Reports:** Building Permits: 2 permits issued, $380.00 fees collected. Plumbing Permits: 1 permit issued, $176.00 fees collected. Zoning Permits: 2 permits issued, $50.00 fees collected.

**Police Board:** Representative Meltinos provided the statistics for the month of April 2018 within the village, they are as follows: Calls for Service totaled 163, total Traffic Crashes 7. Year-to-date figures, Calls for Service 713 and Traffic Crashes 39, with the remaining stats 0. A complete transcript of the police board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburg.net

**Fire Board:** None

**Ambulance Board:** Representative Hughes provided the Agency Activity Summary report for the month of April 2018. Total number of incidents was 72. Edwardsburg 11, Ontwa 42, Mason 1, Jefferson 2, Calvin 1, Dowagiac 1, Niles Twp. 1, Cassopolis 3, Penn Twp. 1, Howard Twp. 2, City of Niles 4, and Other 3. A complete transcript of the ambulance board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburgambulance.org

**Parks Administrator:** Representative Hughes received letters from a second grade class with questions & suggestions for Gunn Park. It was part of a class writing project. There is need for a second basketball court one just doesnôt seem to be enough. There has been some discussion with the township to work together since Gunn Park is within Ontwa Township and is part of their Parks Master Plan.

**Water Commissioner:** The full system flush went well. Motion made by Tighe, seconded by Peak to purchase 50 assorted meters for $6,867.00 (from 591-552-970 Capital Outlay). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Street Administrator:** None

**Building & Grounds:** Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Hughes to purchase new flags not to exceed $250.00. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Equipment Supervisor:** Motion made by Meltinos, seconded by Bidwell to pay $240.00 for the broom rental (202-463-943 & 203-463-943). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried. Motion made by Meltinos, seconded by Bidwell to purchase a 2019 International HV Severe Service Truck from Selking International, South Bend for a total of $170,775.00 (641-850-970 Capital Outlay) over a 6 year period at $28,716.00 per year. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Recycling/Refuse Administrator:** None

**Planning Commission:** Meeting tentatively set for Tuesday June 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

**Chamber of Commerce:** The next meeting is June 6th the speaker will be Jennifer Gillam from Midwest Energy.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Truth in Taxation:** A truth in taxation public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Meltinos, seconded by Hughes to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. All in favor, Motion carried.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Day Parade ï Monday, May 28th @ 11:00 am with festival following at Gunn Park.

MDOT public outreach meeting ï Monday, June 11th @ 6:00 pm in the Ontwa Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ralph, Clerk
Village of Edwardsburg