EDWARDSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19, 2020

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), Meryl Christensen (Treasurer) and Trustees Debb Martin, Dennis Peak, Terry Bidwell, Jay Penny, Laura Hughes, and Kellen VanHulle.

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

Public Comments: Southwestern Michigan College President Joe Odenwald and Board Chairman Thomas Jerdon attended the council meeting to give a brief report on the college and the benefits to attending a community college.

County Commissioner Roseann Marchetti provided the board with topics of interest within the county. A complete transcript of the minutes can be found at www.casscountymi.org.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Peak to approve the minutes of the 9/21/2020 Regular board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Revenue/Expenditure Report: Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by VanHulle to approve the Revenue/Expenditure Report for the period of 04/01/2020 to 9/30/2020 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Check Register Report: Motion made by Peak, seconded by VanHulle to approve the Check Register Report checks #34354 - 34422. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The September 2020 (unaudited) report indicated that for the month receipts totaled $209,961.60, and the status of the certificates of deposit and savings accounts.

Trustee VanHulle reported that the Village has the opportunity to refinance the current sewer bonds. We are currently paying 4.125% interest and if we refinance the interest rate will be 1.51%. We have 24 years left on paying the bonds off so it would be a significant savings. Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Peak to move forward with refinancing the sewer bonds. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presidents Report: President Mackling informed the council that he is not seeking re-election in November so this will be his last Village Council Meeting. VP Dennis Peak will open the November meeting and a new President will be voted in. Motion made by VanHulle, supported by Bidwell to pay Kotz Sangster Wysocki P.C. $11,042.33 (101-104-826) for legal fees. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cemetery Board: None

Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator: Dawn Bolock gave an update on current and previous violations, what has been done and what further action is being taken.

Building/Electrical/Plumbing/Mechanical Reports: Building Permits: 4 permits issued; $473.20 fees collected. Plumbing Permits: 1 permit issued; $160.00 fees collected. Electrical Permits: 1 permit issued; $186.00 fees collected.

Police Board: Representative VanHulle provided the statistics for the month of September 2020 within the village, they are as follows: Calls for Service totaled 156, total Traffic Crashes 2. A complete transcript of the police board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburg.net

At the police board meeting it was brought up that the school crossing guard has not had a pay increase in several years. He is currently paid $10.75 per hour. Motion made by VanHulle, supported by Hughes to increase the crossing guard pay to $12.50 per hour. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ambulance Board: Representative Hughes provided the Agency Activity Summary report for the month of September 2020. Total number of incidents was 139. Edwardsburg 22, Ontwa 49, Mason 1, Jefferson 1, Porter 1, Dowagiac 35, Niles Twp. 2, Cassopolis 6, LaGrange 1, Niles City 12, Buchanan City 1, Three Rivers 6 and Watervliet 1, and Other 1. A complete transcript of the ambulance board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburgambulance.org

Fire Board: Fire run statistics were provided by Jacque Tighe. August had 26 runs: Village 4, Ontwa 12, Jefferson 2, Milton 4, and Mutual Aid 4. Total runs YTD 164. September had 23 runs: Village 2, Ontwa 15, Jefferson 3, Milton 3, and Mutual Aid 0. Total runs YTD 187.

Parks Administrator: The DPW has replaced all of the parking lot posts and installed new reflector posts along the park at Washington Blvd.

President Mackling received an e-mail from Steve Peterson (Starboard Choice Marine) regarding the purchase of Lindbergh Park. Mackling replied that the Village is not interested in selling the park at this time.

Water Commissioner: The tower cleaning and flushing is completed!

Street Administrator: Leaf pick up begins this week! There is a dangerous tree on Lake Street near Gunn Park that needs to be taken down. Two bids were turned in and Brown's Tree Service was the lower of the two. Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Martin to pay Brown's Tree Service $2.250.00 (203-463-818) to take the tree down, grind the stump and remove all the wood and debris. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds: Clerk Ralph gave an update on the All Aboard Project. There have been a few hurdles, but we will be ready to start planting in the spring! One final document for completion is a property lease agreement between the Village of Edwardsburg and Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company. The lease will allow the Village to use the property consisting of 0.68 acres, more or less, to plant/maintain trees and flowers that are listed as part of the All Aboard Project. The terms of the lease will be for 5 years at the cost of $1.00. Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Hughes to sign and file the lease agreement. All in favor. Motion carried.

Equipment Supervisor: The old leaf vac has been listed on a municipal auction site.

Recycling/Refuse Administrator: None

Planning Commission: None

Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber will meet on Wednesday November 4th at noon.

NEW BUSINESS

Adjournment: With no objection President Mackling adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Trick-or-treat hours: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 31st**
- **Next board meeting will be on November 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ralph, Clerk
Village of Edwardsburg