

# EDWARDSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 18, 2023

The meeting of the Edwardsburg Village Council was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Dennis Peak, those in attendance were Paula Ralph (Clerk), Sarah Overgaard (Treasurer) and Trustees Sam Garwood, Nancy Stoner, Terry Bidwell, Jay Penny and Laura Hughes.

Absent: Kellen Van Hulle.

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

## **Public Comments:**

- Mary Ann Davis, 68530 Daily Road, voices concerns about the speed of traffic on that section of the road and informed the council that the double yellow lines need to be repainted. She also suggested seasonal speed bumps for that area.
- Bill Davis, 68530 Daily Road, requested that the DPW investigate a drain on his property.
- Beverly Thiel, 69450 Sundance Drive, is concerned about the landscape design around the iron filtration plant. She was assured that there would be some trees planted so that the buildings would not be so visible.
- County Commissioner Samuel Barrera provided the board with topics of interest within the county. A complete transcript of the minutes can be found at [www.casscountymi.org](http://www.casscountymi.org).

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Hughes to approve the minutes of the 08/21/2023 Regular Boad Meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Revenue/Expenditure Report:** Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Hughes to approve the Revenue/Expenditure Report for the period of 04/01/2023 to 08/31/2023 as presented. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Check Register Report:** Motion made by Penny, seconded by Bidwell to approve the Check Register Report checks #37097-37172, grand total of \$67,641.18. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The August 2023 (unaudited) monthly receipts totaled \$143,348.20.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Presidents Report:** President Peak revisited the possibility of starting council meetings at 6:00 instead of 7:00. After discussion it was determined that 6:00 would not work for everyone.

**Invoices for Approval:** None

**Cemetery Board:** The Cemetery Board met on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The board voted to make a recommendation to the Village Council to hire Arnt to fill the cracks and sealcoat the drives in the cemetery.

- Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Stoner to hire Arnt to fill the cracks this fall at the cost of \$4,305.00 and sealcoat in the spring at the cost of \$7,650.00 (101-276-818). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Stoner, seconded by Hughes to purchase a mulch discharge kit for the leaf vac in the cemetery at the cost of \$233.99 (101-276-970). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Hughes, supported by Garwood to hire Chisel Chest to remove a headstone so that a deteriorating foundation can be repaired by the DPW and then Chisel Chest will place the monument back on the new foundation. The cost of the project will be \$800.00 (101-276-818). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Library Board:** The library will be hosting a community forum at the Ontwa Township Hall on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to get an exclusive look at the new Edwardsburg Branch Library.

**Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator:** Working on Master Plan.

**Building/Electrical/Plumbing/Mechanical Reports:** Building Permit: 4 permits issued; \$490.00 collected. Electrical Permits: 1 permit issued; \$160.00 collected. Plumbing & Mechanical Permits: 5 permits issued; \$885.00 collected.

**Police Board:** Police Chief Doug Westrick provided the statistics for the month of August 2023 within the village, they are as follows: Calls for Service totaled 197, total Traffic Crashes 2.

**Ambulance Board:** Ambulance Administrator Dennis Closson provided the Agency Activity Summary report for the month of August 2023. The total number of incidents was 98. Edwardsburg 16, Ontwa 47, Milton 1, Mason 2, Jefferson 6, Calvin 2, Porter 2, Dowagiac 2, Niles Twp. 4, Cassopolis 6, Penn Twp. 1, Niles City 7 and Watervliet 2.

**Fire Board:** Fire Board representative Jacque Tighe provided a report for Council. As of June, the year-to-date fire calls numbered 164, the Village totals were 17. Starting in September the fire board will meet every month. It will be a regular meeting on the even-numbered months and a staffing meeting on the odd-numbered months. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30, held at the fire station and are open to the public. Recruitment is a priority currently as there are basically only two individuals to make calls during the day since most of the firefighters work a full-time job.

**Parks Administrator:** Waiting to hear about the Spark Grant application!

**Water Commissioner:**

- Mike Williams with Peerless Midwest reported that the Iron Filtration Plant is on schedule to get the outside of the building done before snow flies so that they can continue to work on the inside during the winter months.
- The DPW continues to get communication failure alarms. J&K Communications, Inc. came out to investigate. They will do a study that includes the physical propagation study for one (1) master site and two (2) remote sites. This testing would include installing a transmitter and an antenna at the new master/repeater location. Motion made by Penny, seconded by Garwood to hire J&K Communications, Inc to do the study at the cost of \$6,095.00. Roll call vote: Garwood-yes, Stoner-yes, Bidwell-no, Penny-yes and Hughes-yes. Motion carried.

**Street Administrator:** None

**Building & Grounds:** Only one bid has been turned in for additional electrical outlets in the Clerk's office, so we are still trying to get one more. Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Hughes to get the work done, not to exceed \$900.00 (101-266-970). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Equipment Supervisor:**

- Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Penny to purchase two (2) backup cameras for the snowplow for \$305.99 (641-850-740). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Hughes to order a new wiper motor for the compact loader for \$405.36 (641-850-930). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Recycling/Refuse Administrator:** None

**Planning Commission:** Will meet on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

**Chamber of Commerce:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Establish Halloween Hours:** Motion made by Stoner, supported by Bidwell to establish hours for trick-or-treating in the Village limits from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** With no objection President Peak adjourned the meeting at 8:10.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Master Plan Open House – Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
- **Next board meeting will be on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ralph, Clerk  
Village of Edwardsburg