EDWARDSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

March 15, 2021

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), Meryl Christensen (Treasurer) and Trustees Sam Garwood, Nancy Stoner, Terry Bidwell, Jay Penny, and Kellen VanHulle. Absent: Trustee Laura Hughes

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

Public Comments: 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 Stoner to approve the minutes of the 2/15/2021 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 2/28/2021 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Check Register Report: Motion made by VanHulle, seconded by Bidwell to approve the Check Register Report checks #34686-34747. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The February 2021 (unaudited) report indicated that for the month receipts totaled $79,517.02, and the status of the certificates of deposit and savings accounts.

Public Hearing Proposed 2021-2022 Budget: At 7:15 Trustee Stoner made a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, supported by Trustee Bidwell. All in favor. Motion carried. President Peak asked for any public comment. The council discussed a few amendments prior to adopting the budget. The three full time employees will get 4 extra personal days added in lieu of a raise for this fiscal year only. The Cemetery Sexton's will get a pay increase of $50.00 per/month and the part time utility billing clerk will get a $1.00 per/hour raise. At 7:25 Trustee Bidwell made a motion to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting, supported by Trustee VanHulle. All in favor. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resignation Acceptance: President Peak read the resignation letter submitted by Council member Debb Martin at the February 15th meeting. Motion made by VanHulle, supported by Bidwell to accept Debb's letter of resignation. All in favor. Motion carried.

Council Member Appointment: President Peak recommended Sam Garwood to fill the vacant Village Council seat of Debb Martin whose term expires November 20, 2022. Motion made by Bidwell, supported by VanHulle to accept that recommendation. All in favor. Motion carried. Sam Garwood was then sworn in by Clerk Paula Ralph.

Alley Vacation: There was continued discussion on vacating the alley running parallel to Cass Street and Lake Street. The Village Council will hold a public hearing to hear comments or objections concerning this on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:15 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presidents Report: None

Invoices for Approval: Motion made by Bidwell, supported by Stoner to pay Kotz Sangster Wysocki P.C. $258.00 (101-104-826) for legal fees. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cemetery Board: Met on Tuesday, March 9th for their quarterly meeting. The Cemetery portion of the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget was discussed. The Cemetery Board made a recommendation to the Village Council to give the Sexton's a $50.00 per/month pay increase.

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: 3 permits issued; $496.00.00 fees collected. Electrical Permits: 1 permit issued; $181.00 fees collected. Mechanical Permits: 1 permit issued; $175.00 fees collected.

Police Board: Police Chief Doug Westrick provided the statistics for the month of February 2021 within the village, they are as follows: Calls for Service totaled 203, total Traffic Crashes 1. A complete transcript of the police board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburg.net

Ambulance Board: Ambulance Administrator Dennis Closson provided the Agency Activity Summary report for the month of February 2021. Total number of incidents was 87. Edwardsburg 22, Ontwa 27, Milton 1, Mason 1, Jefferson 3, Dowagiac 6, Niles Twp. 4, Cassopolis 3, Penn Twp. 1, Howard Twp. 2, Niles City 10, Bertrand Twp. 1, Sturgis 1, St. Joseph 2, and Other 3. A complete transcript of the ambulance board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburgambulance.org

Fire Board: None

Parks Administrator: None

Water Commissioner: The Village Council is going to enter into a discussion with the USDA and Williams & Works as to the pros and cons and the costs of having an iron filtration plant. Both organizations have been invited to the come down and talk with the council at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19th prior to the regular monthly meeting.

Street Administrator: None

Building & Grounds: None

Equipment Supervisor: None

Recycling/Refuse Administrator: None

Planning Commission: Will meet on Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce: Has been meeting via zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

2021-2022 Proposed Budget: Motion made by VanHulle, supported by Bidwell to give the part time utility billing clerk a $1.00 per/hour raise. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Penny, supported by Stoner to increase the Cemetery Sexton's salary by $50.00 per/month. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Bidwell, supported by VanHulle to give the three full time employees 4 extra personal days added in lieu of a raise for this fiscal year only. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by VanHulle, supported by Stoner to adopt the Proposed 2021-2022 Budget. Roll call vote. 4 yes, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Budget Amendments 2020-2021 Fiscal Year: Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by VanHulle to adopt the budget amendments dated 3/15/2021. Roll call vote. 4 yes, 1 abstain. Motion carried.

Adjournment: With no objection President Peak adjourned the meeting at 8:05.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Village Council Meeting – Monday, April 19th @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ralph, Clerk
Village of Edwardsburg