EDWARDSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES
November 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, Laura Hughes and Kellen VanHulle.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Hughes 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 10/18/2021 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 04/01/2021 to 10/31/2021 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 #35255-35314. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The October 2021 (unaudited) report indicated that for the month receipts totaled $66,166.69, and the status of the certificates of deposit and savings accounts.

Public Hearing Iron Filtration Plant: At 7:15 Trustee Bidwell made a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, supported by Trustee Stoner. All in favor. Motion carried. President Peak began with a background to the decision of the project. The Village has considered an iron filtration plant for several years. Peak said the project cost has doubled over the years and is not likely to cost less in the future. He then introduced Brandon Mieras a representative with Williams & Works an engineering firm that has been putting some numbers together for us and attended the meeting to answer any questions. Brandon pointed out that the iron currently coming out of the well is 3 parts per/million. A filtration plant would take that down between .3 to .1 parts per/million. Homeowners would no longer need home filter systems. The estimated cost of the project is 3.5 million dollars. The Village plans to put $700,000.00 down and the remainder will be paid for with a 30- or 40-year bond. The bonds will be paid with the "ready to serve" fee on the monthly water bills. The estimated increase

would be an additional $12.00 to $15.00 per month with no grant monies. The Village will apply for grants through the USDA. Peak then asked for any public comment. Citizens in attendance with questions were James & Carol Bourne (68989 Cass Street), David & Paula Miller (69116 Elkhart Road), Pat Bellaire (26903 Main Street) and Melanie Galbreath (69445 Section Street). They were all concerned about their rusty water, the extra costs of home filtration, ruined clothing, buying bottled water to drink and how the Village will pay for the plant. At 8:00 Trustee Bidwell made a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting, supported by Trustee Stoner. All in favor. Motion carried.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Presidents Report: President Peak reassured the council and citizens that the DPW will continue to pick up leaves until they are done. The last day is supposed to be December 3rd but due to an early snowfall that date can/may be extended. He also announced that DPW member Whitney Smith is no longer with the Village. Carroll Stone was hired prior to Smith leaving. The DPW is still looking for a third person.

DPW Report: Coordinator Rich Low reported on the activities of the DPW this month. Lonnie Brown will once again be hanging the snowflakes for the Village. The library has been prepared so that the garland can be hung this year.

Invoices for Approval: Motion made by Bidwell, supported by VanHulle to pay Alexander Chemical $957.50 for chlorine (591-553-740). Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cemetery Board: Will meet December 14th.

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: 2 permits issued; $130.00 fees collected. Electrical Permits: 1 permit issued; $181.00 fees collected. Mechanical & Plumbing Permits: 6 permits issued; $1,330.00 fees collected.

Police Board: Police Chief Doug Westrick provided the statistics for October. 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 October. A complete transcript of the ambulance board minutes can be found at www.edwardsburgambulance.org

Fire Board: None

Parks Administrator: None

Water Commissioner: None

Street Administrator: None

Building & Grounds: None

Equipment Supervisor: None

Recycling/Refuse Administrator: None

Planning Commission: Will meet Tuesday, November 23rd.

Chamber of Commerce: None

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Health Insurance 2022: Motion made by Hughes, supported by Bidwell to renew the employee health insurance for full time employees with no changes to the policy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Employee Handbook Committee: Sam Garwood, Jay Penney and Kellen VanHulle volunteered to review the Employee Handbook and get it ready for council approval at the December Village Council meeting.

Budget Amendment-ARPA Funds: Motion made by Bidwell, seconded by Penny to adopt the budget amendments dated 11/15/2021. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment: With no objection President Peak adjourned the meeting at 8:30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Village office closed Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th.
- Cemetery Board Meeting Tuesday, December 14th @ 4:00 p.m.
- Next Village Council Meeting – Monday, December 20th @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Ralph, Clerk
Village of Edwardsburg