

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2018
302 East McMillan Ave.
6:00 p.m.

Present: President DeWitt, Trustees: Brown, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Clerk - Schummer, Superintendent WWTP - Blakely, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement - Watkins, Superintendent of Water & Light – Perry, Jim Diem, Steve Stiffler, Eric Buckler, Bruce Lane, Ken Stokes, Lori Stokes, Deb Singleton, Casey Cook, Robert Stevens, Carolyn Martindale, Julie Craig, Jean Simi, Charlie Mesloh, Chuck Pipes, Charly Pipes, Sterling McGinn, Byron Kisro, Barb Bennett, Scott Ouellette, Brad Huffman, Michelle Huffman, Bruce Bryers.

Call to Order: President DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Downey, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda. Ayes: All.

Minutes: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the March 19, 2018, regular session minutes as written. Ayes: All. Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to approve the March 27, 2018, special session minutes as written. Ayes: DeWitt, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Abstain: Brown, Downey. Moved by Brown, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the April 9, 2018, special session minutes as written. Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Abstain: Downey.

Village President’s Announcements: DeWitt stated this meeting was rescheduled from Monday, April 16th to Wednesday April 18th, due to the winter storm.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Comments heard from: Ken Stokes – 301 W. John St., Eric Buckler – Newberry, Lori Stokes – 301 W. John St., Carolyn Martindale – 306 W. John St., Scott Ouellette – 418 ½ W. John St., Barb Bennett – CR 441, Chuck Pipes – 210 W. W. Truman, Bruce Bryers.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- 1.) Village of Newberry – Monthly Bills. Moved by Brown, support by Medelis, **CARRIED**, to approve the March 2018 bills as presented, in the amount of \$188,218.77. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- 2.) Village of Newberry - Cash Balance – February 2018. Reviewed.
- 3.) Water & Light monthly bills for February 2018. Moved by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to pay March Electric Fund in the amount of \$153,383.80. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to pay March Water Fund in the amount of \$69,451.40. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Brown stated the amount may seem high but it was high because there was a bond payment made.
- 4.) Water & Light – Cash Balance – February 2018 - Reviewed.
- 5.) Treasurer’s Report - Accepted by Council as presented.
- 6.) Request for Disbursement of Funds: Moved by Downey, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to pay request #1 of the Stormwater/Asset Management/Wastewater (SAW) Grant program, in the amount of \$15,202.40, pay when paid. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.

Petitions and Communications: Communications addressed to the Village Council are distributed to all members and are acknowledged for information, or are referred to a committee or staff for follow-up.

Letters from: Ken and Lavern Haggart – regarding the fixed water rate, Sara Schultz of Michigan Works – in appreciation for the participation of the WWTP in the Tahquamenon Area Schools 7th grade Career Day.

FOIA Requests: Kenneth Stokes -25 inquiries for the following: list of entities where jobs were posted for public, copies of job evaluations, Director of HR plans, social media, and newspaper column, names and dates of interviews, employment agreements, Mike Danielson's garage, EA, Sewer-Pentland, Sewer-Prison, audit info from SOM, dollar amount paid to AT&T in 2016, list of united accounting codes, agreement between VON and TORC, dollar amount collected VON GF taxes & millage, security footage, TORC fund disbursements, Passport grant information, Part-time Clerk application materials, Village Manager applications & names of applicants, garbage revenues, 2017 end of year amounts for financial accounts, water bond language, revenues from generation 2016 & 2017, attorney fees for WL for 2016 & 2017, attorney fees for VON for 2016 & 2017.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

1. Water and Light Board Declaring Vacancy Resolution: Jim Johnson has resigned from the W&L Board, effective April 30, 2018, he was a member that represented the Village. Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to declare the Office of Water & Light Board member vacant. Ayes: All.

2. Revised Planning Commission Ordinance #26: Moved by Brown, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the amended Planning Commission Ordinance #26. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Abstain: Hardenbrook.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board Meeting from Tuesday, April 10, 2018: Medelis gave the report. He stated that there is a planned power outage for Sunday, April 29th in order to do maintenance on a regulator. Medelis also discussed information received from Michigan Public Power Agency regarding the Voluntary Green Pricing Program.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2018.

Reports of Village Officers and Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: Wendt absent due to Fire Department Meeting.
- B.) Ordinance Enforcement Officer: None.
- C.) Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report.
- D.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant: Blakely gave a verbal as well as written report. **Council Action:** Moved by Hitts, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to authorize Superintendent Blakely to have the pump at the WWTP repaired, not to exceed \$6,750, per quote from Rasmussen Electric, LLC. Ayes: All.
- E.) Superintendent of Water & Light: Perry gave a written as well as a verbal report.
- F.) Superintendent of Parks and Recreation: James-Mesloh gave verbal report.
- G.) Assistant Village Manager: Vallad absent. Written report and charts presented.
- H.) Village Manager: James-Mesloh gave a written as well as a verbal report.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Department of Public Works/Wastewater Treatment Plant (DPW/WWTP) Committee: Medelis gave the report. Discussed sludge hauling options.
- 2.) Save the Bells: The Save the Bells fund balance is reported to be \$16,487.69. Brown stated that she has been working with Paula Maki regarding this fund balance and believes the working funds are closer to approximately \$12,250. She will have a breakdown at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) Draft Council Rules: DeWitt asked the Council to review and to get back to him with changes they would like to have made.

New Business:

1. Fire Department Sault Tribe - Grant: Moved by Hitts, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to give the Fire Department authority to seek the 2% Grant funding from the Soo Tribe for the next 2-years. Ayes: All. Abstain: Downey.
2. Michigan Department of Agriculture – Grant: Moved by Hitts, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to accept the grant award from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Rural Development in order to purchase new accounting software, the award amount is \$55,305, with a 30% Village match of \$23,705. Ayes: All.
3. Discussion of Union Contract – closed session

Adjourn to Closed Session: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to go into closed session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss the Union Contract. Roll call vote – Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Nays: None. Council entered into closed session at 7:47 p.m.

Reopen Regular Meeting: Moved by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to reopen the regular session at 8:42 p.m. Roll call vote: Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Nays: None.

Council Action: Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, that the Village of Newberry Council approve the recommendation of the union negotiation team to accept the April 9, 2018 contract negotiated with the union to include the updated language for Article 33. Ayes: All.

Public Comment: Comments were heard from: Charlie Mesloh – 502 Newberry Ave., Carolyn Martindale – 306 W. John, Eric Buckler – 412 W. Ave. C, Lori Stokes – 301 W. John, Brian Link – 508 E. Ave. A, Scott Ouellette – 418 ½ W. John Street, Ken Stokes – 301 W. John.

Comments by Council Members: Comment heard from: Brown, Downey, Medelis.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Ayes: All.

These minutes are unofficial until voted on at the next meeting.

Terese Schummer, Clerk

John DeWitt, Village President