

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2020 – 6:54 p.m. (Due to Public Hearing held prior to meeting)
Electronic Public Meeting – Due to COVID-19 Virus

****NOTE – All votes were done by Roll Call Vote**

Present: President Freese, Trustees: Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes. All Board members identified as calling in remotely via ZOOM from Newberry, MI. ****NOTE:** The following newly elected members took the Oath of Office prior to this meeting: Clerk – Terese Schummer, Treasurer – Nathan Moulton, Catherine Freese – Village President, Kip Cameron – Trustee, Lori A. Stokes – Trustee.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager/Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Clerk – Schummer, Newberry News - Sterling McGinn. Treasurer – N. Moulton, Village Accountant – G. Moulton

Call to Order: President Freese called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to approved the revised agenda, adding under New Business #7: Bank Signatories. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.

Minutes: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020, regular meeting as written. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Village President’s Announcements: None

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- A.) **Village of Newberry monthly Bills:** Moved by Stokes, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the November 14, 2020 – December 11, 2020 bills, in the amount of \$219,934.42. (Includes disbursement of funds to McGahey Construction) Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- B.) **Water & Light monthly bills:** Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to pay the Electric and Water Fund bills for November 7, 2020 – December 4, 2020, with a total amount of \$94,190.95. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- C.) **Christmas Lights Fund** – as of 11/30/2020 - \$14,924.69.
- D.) **Treasurer’s Report:**
 - a.) November 2020 – N. Moulton submitted a written report. Council accepted the report as presented.

Petitions and Communications: None

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) 2020-12-15 SAW - Resolution authorizing changing the SAW Grant Agreement, Authorized Representative, to Village Manager, Allison Watkins: Moved by Stokes support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adopt Resolution 2020-12-15 SAW. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- 2.) 2020-12-15 Budget: Resolution to adopt the 2021 Operation Budget – Reviewed under New Business.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) **2019 Audit Update:** Watkins gave an update. The audit is still not done.
- 2.) **New Maintenance Building Update:** Watkins gave an update. The building is complete.
- 3.) **New VON lobby space update:** A lobby area is now open to the public.
- 4.) **Public Comment Follow-Up from previous meeting:** None needed.

New Business:

- 1.) **2020 Budget Adjustments:** Moved by Freese, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to approve the 2020 budget adjustments as presented. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- 2.) **Deliberation on Public comment During Public Budget Hearing:** No comments made, no deliberation needed.
- 3.) **Budget Adoption:** Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to adopt the 2021 operating budget which is Resolution 2020-12-15-Budget. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- 4.) **Approval of MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum:** Watkins explained the agreement to the Council. Discussion followed. Moved by Stokes, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to adopt the MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for the Village of Newberry Division. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to adopt the MERS Hybrid Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for the Water & Light Division. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- 5.) **Selection of President Pro Tempore:** Freese nominated Dennis Hendrickson to be President Pro Tempore, Hendrickson declined. Freese then nominated Lori Stokes. Moved by Freese, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to appoint Lori Stokes as the President Pro Tempore. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- 6.) **Review of Submitted Council Pre-Appointment Questionnaires for open trustee seat:** Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to appoint Jeffery Puckett to one of the open Trustee seats for a 2-year term. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.
- 7.) **Bank Signatories:** Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to remove Buck Valad from all bank account signatories and to add Catherine Freese and Lori A. Stokes as signatories to all bank accounts. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) **Water & Light Board:** Regular electronic meeting minutes for December 8, 2020, were presented to the Board. Stokes gave a verbal report.
- 2.) **Planning Commission Meeting:** Meeting minutes for November 23, 2020 meeting were presented. Watkins gave a verbal report.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) **Finance Committee:** December 3, 2020 meeting minutes provided. Stokes gave the report.
- 2.) **Management Committee:** Stokes and Watkins gave the report for the December 9, 2020 meeting.

Reports of Village Officers & Management:

- A.) **Fire Chief:** Chief Wendt submitted a written report.
- B.) **Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant & DPW:** Blakely submitted a written report.
- C.) **Water & Light:** Written report submitted by Working Superintendent Kucinkas. Watkins gave a verbal report. Discussion followed.
- D.) **Village Manager:** Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report.

Public Comment: None

Comments by Council Members: Comment heard from Cameron, Hendrickson, Hardenbrook, Stokes and Freese.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Stokes.

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

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Catherine Freese, Village President