

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
April 8, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Richards at 6:59 pm.

Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance was said by all those who cared to join in.

Roll: Pres Richards, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Fessenden, Grinwis, Kelly, Sobers and VanSickle present. Also present Chief Strait, Ed Hovey, Cliff & Ellen Prince and Ruth Eekhoff.

There is a vacant position on council (Trustee). Council offered to Ed Hovey, who did accept. Clerk did swearing in of Trustee Hovey. His position will run until next election and be up for a 2 year vote.

President announced committee assignments:

- Police – Kelly/VanSickle
- Street – Grinwis/Fessenden
- Parks/Rec – Sobers/Hovey
- Finance – Fessenden/Hovey
- Sewer – President/Grinwis

Minutes: Sobers noted that under roll-should be TOM Malda (listed as Tm Malda). President asked that it be noted that Robert Walker is a county commissioner. Motion by Grinwis to accept the March minutes as corrected/adjusted; Kelly support; Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Prince and Eekhoff were present questioning that if the village has a zoning change, does it have to go to Board of Appeals. However it should be noted council has not had a zoning change. Mrs Eekhoff questioned the parcel split council approved last month for Tri County Feed/New Era Property Acquisition. Council approved the parcel split at the zoning line change. It was rumored that the property was Industrial and this would make property along Elm St. Industrial as well. Kelly showed the map of the parcels and explained to Mrs Eekhoff the parcel split and the easement. Council told her it was clearly in the motion to revoke the easement (if it existed) with the split of the parcels.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion by Fessenden to accept the March financial reports as presented. Kelly support. Carried

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Grinwis and Fessenden looked at streets and have 3 potential works.

- 1) First St (\$38-40K), Wesco to Garfield 1 ½ inch milled. Traffic issues.
- 2) Garfield Third to Oceana (First St) \$20-22K, no milling
- 3) Elm – Ray to Oak, \$19K, no milling

Kelly pointed out drain at corner of Ray and Elm (very low). First St to north end of village was \$70560 last year. Asphalt prices are down. Striping cost to be added.

Mr Prince (as a resident) expressed ([his wish the village](#)) to do all of the work. Grinwis asked about getting an alternate bid for milling. Motion by Grinwis to move forward to request/obtain bids for three projects.

Fessenden support; Carried.

-Chief believes that all lights are working at this time.

POLICE COMMITTEE:

-Note of lots of property checks. Central dispatch had a lot of calls to Wesco. Unwanted subject. Also ambulance to Malda. 31 blight checks-old Robinson House (now Torres) is cleaning up. Letter to go out to Pranger for building along alley behind Ray. Chief has been working hard on the blight issues.

-Pres., Chief and officers VanSumeren and Grillo are looking at how to enforce blight. They met with Novak (lawyer) and there are a lot of questions. Must document each step. Novak will be enforcing authority. House on Redwood (88th) Perigard, has cleaned up a lot. VanSickle asked about burning refuse. They should take to Ferry, leaves to Shelby, municipal wastewater area. Chief has taken them up there.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Pickle ball net is up. Softball going?

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Blight Ordinance spoken of a lot. Junk cars should be incorporated into blight ordinance. Tickets have to have email and phone (court ruled). Addendum to tow or hook after 14 days and remove.

-Budget needs to be prepared for meeting so can be approved at June meeting.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Insurance renewal time

SEWER:

-Rudy DeJong House (now Trouten) needs a septic tank replacement. Would like to hook to sewer. Property is above and behind Tri County. Connection fee is \$800. Would need easement from TCF for piping. Get a licensed plumber to hookup, inspection by village. President told him these would need to be done.

OTHER ITEMS:

-WELCOME to Ed Hovey

-Fessenden asked about tree on Blair and Second. He gets calls weekly. Tree work should be a priority. Kelly asked about tree on west side of Elm St-call to Jerod Johnson, property owner. If it falls on road their responsibility.

-VanSickle asked about an update on Veteran Park. Will it be ready by Memorial Day? They have bricks and pea gravel, 45 or 50 bricks bought. Scouts are done with their work. Village will have to pay for other work.

-Memorial Day – Parade? Soccer happening? There have been signups for soccer.

-Dumpsters for cleanup. 2 - 30 yard dumpsters? Security? Ben (VanSumeren)? It gets abused (cleanup day/garbage drop off). Grant Township, Ferry Township and Village of Shelby all do it. Village had the garbage packed down last year, cost. Couches galore last year. Even a wood burning stove. Greg Schultz packed it down. Republic would not pick it up the first time – too much.

-HHW is third Saturday in August. They collect/take tires. Get a state grant. CRCS gets it.

Bills presented. Motion Fessenden to pay bills as presented. Grinwis support; Carried.

Pres. Richards adjourned meeting 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted