

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
April 20, 2023

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

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were said by all who cared to join in.

Roll: Pres Fessenden, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Bayer, Cox, Deblois, Grinwis and Kelly present. Trustee Durga absent. Also present Chief Strait, Ed Hovey, Doug Fessenden, Larry Byl and Scott Beishuizen.

Minutes: Deblois mentioned that the question of reimbursements (under sewer) was for licenses and classes. Pepple asked about Police and calls TO Wesco. Clarified that the police are responding to calls that bring them to Wesco, not from Wesco. What is stated is accurate. Motion by Deblois to accept March minutes of meeting and hearing as presented. Support Kelly; Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Clerk noted that not presenting Profit and Loss nor Balance Sheet as quickbooks crashed. Motion by Kelly to accept the financial report. Cox support; Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Larry Byl: Here about the request for separation of pole barn and land from Pepple property. First page he presented has details of the request. The Property is good size so not an issue. He mentioned someone could build a home or convert part of pole barn to residence. Pole Barn was built with permission of council with the stipulation it be used personally, parcels be joined and not separated. Byl mentioned other properties that have garages, Eekhoff on Elm, Nicholas on Hillcrest, Plummer on Meyers and VanGunst on Ridge. It was noted that across the street from pole barn is zoned parks, not commercial nor industrial. Discussion of personal use, conversion of property along Fruitvale. They would need septic and well to have a residence on that property. Cox asked if enough space, Byl said yes. Grinwis pointed out how other properties were bought after the house purchase and that is why separate parcels. Pepple stated there are two tax bills. There are 2 large pieces of property. Expressed the ordinance is clear and we need to act. Scott Meyers previously recommended we contact the lawyer, Bayer asked, it has not been done. Mention of Stephen Carlson (WMRSDC) and Master Plan. Per zoning would have to be personal use. Cox express concern over legalities. Exception with the stipulation in the past. Could put deed restriction? Mention of VanDuinen pole barn but that is not in village, in township. Fessenden noted needs to contact attorney. Motion by Grinwis to talk to attorney. Bayer support; Carried.

(Byl left)

-Scott Beishuizen: is the new DPW help. Pres and Kelly interviewed. They knew that he was a good person. Must amend budget to reflect the additional \$1200/month for Beishuizen as well as Wolting for the months of April, May and June. He will have to wait a year to get his license, use Wolting's until then. Tests are in May and November. Motion by Deblois to allow the changes. Bayer support; Carried.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Grinwis noted checking streets for plans of work this year. Wolting Ave has spider web cracking and shoulder is breaking down. Meyers Ave also has cracking and humps and bumps. Third St has lots small pot holes as well as the cut squares. Clerk noted those cuts were done as the pavement job was ending years ago. Mention of Elm St from Wolting to Oak, spider web issues. Eekhoff to VanDuinen residences. Ray from First to Third has cracks and webs. Ray Ave to CRC not too long ago it was done. James is good, Garfield not fine, Garfield east needs work. Hillcrest and that neighborhood, nothing has to be done. But Kelly noted the intersection Third to Hillcrest has bad dip. Grinwis motion – Wolting, Meyers and Third. James east is the worst part. Mention of getting quote for Wolting all the way and one for just half the way. Kelly support; Carried.

-Fessenden knows people for road signs. Noted that Tuesday Chief and Kelly put up 7 new signs. Beishuizen has quotes of chip and seal, \$30K for five miles. Should/would last 5-8 years.
-List given to Grinwis, there are 67 sites throughout village.

POLICE:

-911 report noted. Someone stopped at Wesco. One accident took out stop sign at First and Garfield, to be reimbursed. Who bent sign on Meyers? Unknown. Need to get some posts. Police had 171 hours. Officer VanSumeren has a letter for the house on Meyers for blight.
-ORV and Golf Cart ordinance needs map, so map has been put on it. Allowed everywhere but First St. Put the map up at the Police Dept.

PARKS/RECREATION:

-Chief got hold of Cox for RailTrail problems. He spoke with Beckmans for the culvert. No call back yet.
-Spoke to Blackmer for Memorial park, put a box under the New Era sign. Talk of underground and 100 amp. Call Joel. Kelly asked if there would be power to well also. Yes, more options as well. Meyer Well Drilling ready to test well.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING:

Clerk noted that renewal with MML was submitted. No bill yet. Connie Munson working on things now.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Deblois asked about VanSumeren having old ordinances ready for review.
-ORV: pg 2 paragraph top, ORV not include 3 wheeler, then later says operate 3 wheeler. The intention was to not allow 3 wheelers. Cox stated he does not want to restrict freedom. LOTS OF DISCUSSION about correction and clarifications. Talk of ages of people using ORV and such. Ordinance to be cleaned up, sent and reviewed timely.

SEWER:

-As noted, hired Beishuizen. Should meet what will be happening. Spend 25K for things missed. Will cost about \$10K to fix two wells. Beishuizen has grant writing ability.

OTHER ITEMS:

-Cleanup Days? Use Republic, Cox & Bayer want someone else. Note they would be cheaper. 2nd weekend of May too early, May 20th? Get flyers. Post it on website as well.
-Bayer noted that she has changed her name, now Walsh.

Bills presented. Motion by Kelly to pay bills as presented. Cox support; Carried.

Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 8:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted