

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA  
Minutes of Meeting  
August 12, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Richards at 6:58 pm.

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

Roll: Pres Richards, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Fessenden, Grinwis, Hovey, Kelly, Sobers and VanSickle present. Treas. Pepple absent. Also present Chief Strait and Cliff Prince, Jim Sponable arrived later.

Minutes: Under Parks/Rec – Fessenden did not chalk. He intended to, but never did it. Motion by Grinwis to accept the July minutes as corrected; Kelly support; Carried

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Due to Treasurer surgery and recovery, financials were not done at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Prince noted the website is a "beauty," but minutes are not up to date. He asked about paving of streets, thought it was to be done by August 1<sup>st</sup>. President replied that the contractor has been very backed up, apologized for the delay. Plans are to do milling on 26<sup>th</sup> and blacktop on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Prince said he saw the clerk and treasurer vote – this was immediately refuted. Clerk and Treasurer never have voted. Prince did not say where he saw this incorrect data.

(Jim Sponable arrived)

**STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:**

-Quick talk of resurfacing Elm.

**POLICE:**

-Kelly explained reports that Chief had given. County Traffic shows most speeders are at 7am. Traffic in one week was 18320 vehicles, 104 speed violations, 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of July. Max speed was 56 mph in the 30 mph zone. Chief noted that could be police or ambulance. Avg speed was 28.2 mph. 3 pm was the highest traffic flow.

-Chief noted that one officer was off for 10 days. Covid tested. Chief also noted that the internet was down for 10 days and they are behind with 3 reports.

-LEIN audit was done and we passed. Officer VanSumeren did all the work.

**PARKS/RECREATION:**

-Hovey noted that the park across from Wesco (The Depot Park) looks bad. Needs to look better. Needs to have sand removed from depot and mow the land. Discussion of Malda or Ben (VanSumeren) doing it.

-Also noted that there is a strip by the church parking lot owned by the village that needs to be mowed. Then talk of bags of leaves being left there. Perhaps signs stating we only collect leaves in the fall.

-Grinwis noted that Jim Beckman spoke with him and stated they are working 18 hours a day. Beckman spoke of pickleball court and is not optimistic about repairing it. Told we need/want both sides (repair vs replace) price.

-Resident on Elm (Bryce) asked about grinding of stump. They were told they need to remove the metal around the stump before we can have it worked on. This occurred two weeks ago, nothing since.

-Kelly relayed a comment from a resident that we should look at buying the Malda property on Meyers for a dog park.

-Grinwis spoke with Jim Beckman RE: Pranger building on alley. They have permit and will get it done (torn down) when they have time.

- VanSickle asked about Kiel's house (Third and Ray) and wire down. Just hanging there. Whose wire is it – Frontier?
- RailTrail Shelter – Ben (VanSumeren) shovel it out? Chief has an individual who has to perform 300 hrs of community service and will look into having him do it.
- VanSickle commented on waste baskets downtown. VanSumeren empties regularly. Are they not being pushed down and look fuller than they are?
- Sponable noted that he tries to help neighbors and it helps us establish pride in the community.

**FINANCE /ORDINANCES:**

- Kelly explained about application for federal money \$40600. Went on website, account created in 1996 - unknown who did it. We get 2 years to spend. To be used for General Public expenditures. (150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?)
- President presented a land split he wanted approved. Dutcher property on Elm St. 14' on the north side goes to Landis (landowner behind-west of Dutcher) and Landis giving Dutcher 70' to her on the south side of house. Motion by Kelly to approve land split. Grinwis support; Carried.

**INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING:** Nothing to report

**SEWER:**

Bad News – 2 big lift pumps need to be replaced. One has already failed and the second in very bad shape. Chuck & Wally (Wolting) looked at them and they have ordered 2 pumps. It will take 6-8 weeks. \$15K without installation costs, perhaps \$18K total.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- Wolting asked about extending his snowplowing contract another year (the 2021/2022 snow season). Motion by Fessenden to extend contract at present rate. VanSickle support; Carried.
- Prince asked about his appointment to Zoning committee and having a meeting. Currently there is no need. Need to meet once a year. Fessenden and Kelly also on committee.
- Little Park (Veterans on First by Garfield). Want it redone, Meyers' son-in-law has the ability to do more and make it better. Put Limestone dust so will not give way later.
- 150<sup>th</sup> Year for Village coming up. Shelby Township has given \$5K for activities for that event (to Chamber not village). Chamber will be coming to village for money as well.

Bills presented. Motion by Grinwis to pay bills as presented. Grinwis support; Carried 7-0.

Noted that all ordinances are uploaded to website, thank you Dave VanSumeren and Gary Grinwis.

Pres. Richards adjourned meeting 7:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted

