

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
December 9, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Richards at 7:01 pm.

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

Roll: Pres Richards, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Fessenden, Grinwis, Hovey, Kelly, Sobers and VanSickle present. Also present Chief Strait, James Sponable and Richard Westover.

Minutes: Motion by Grinwis to accept the November minutes as presented; Kelly support; Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Motion by Fessenden to accept the November financial report. VanSickle support; Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Westover: What is happening (with First St)? Michigan State Police (MSP) is trying to stop speeding, deaths up 10% (traffic deaths). The emphasis by MSP will be December 1st to February of 2022. He read a report from Oceana Press off his phone. He is concerned with the 45 mph and people think they can ramp it up. At night you cannot see the northbound Speed Limit sign headed north. The speed report done shows speeds slower than Mr. Westover feels (cars travel). Fessenden and Kelly noted the details of police report--14K cars, 25 cars violated limits. Westover then noted loud engine noise and road noise. It is a neighborhood. Spoke of him hiring an attorney.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Eight lights (downtown) were fixed. Need to look at light on Hillcrest and Third (Sobers and Kelly confirmed problems-goes on and off)
-Discussion of accident knocking down the Village sign by Burnette Foods: .15 alcohol level. Chief has insurance info. The man's brother-in-law owns the truck. Happened Saturday night.
-Westover cut in and mentioned sign effectiveness. (County sign showing speed you are going). It lights up and flashes, decreases speeds by 8%.
-Christmas Lights are up, Chief and Ben helped. Did wreaths.
-Wolting has done a little plowing, sun comes up and the snow melts. (Not much snow!)
-Sponable informed council that he asked Wolting to build up a snowbank in his yard. Is it OK? As long as doesn't impair vision at the corner.
-VanSickle asked about lights and the flagpole. Flag is not lit. Is there lighting on the ground? Wired? Yes. Grinwis to check. Mention talk to Dick Walhout (across the street from park) and have him notify council.

POLICE:

-Kelly relayed chief report. Speed study done 11th through 18th. Chief also went to OCRC to get signs replaced (signs that are worn out).
-Westover asked/wants the Pass with Care sign eliminated. Northbound people are passing beyond the passing limits.
-Santa coming the 18th at 6pm, Saturday night.
-Job description: Kelly spoke with Shelby Village and is going to get a copy of theirs.
-Hours for police were down due to covid. Officer VanSumeren is gone (away) and Officer Grillo is in hospital.

PARKS/RECREATION: Nothing to report

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

- Audit is near the end.
- One Building permit – Parmalee on James, north of Wolting.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

- Wolting turned in the list of jobs and his certification. He believes it is time for a raise. Fessenden does not want to lose him. An engineering firm would cost a lot of money. Wolting stated he wants \$1200 a month. Kelly asks what he does do. His certificate expires next July and one in 2024. Richards thought perhaps pay \$1000 until 2023. Sobers noted this is first time brought up, have to do it by end of month? Hovey said we would have to rely on engineering firm. Sobers proposed putting Wolting under contract. Fessenden asked if he quits, who do we hire or rehire him? Motion by Grinwis to pay Wolting \$1200 month. Hovey support. Kelly asked about communication with council as to his work. Discussion. Sobers not opposed, but worried about this happening every/any year. Outline what we want on report. Adds \$3600 to sewer budget right there. Ask the start date, January 1st or budget cycle? Wolting wants Jan. 1st. Carried. (one opposed)
- Kelly asked about spending money on equipment. We need to adjust budget for that. It was asked – can we spend covid money? NO. In November we spent \$20800. Motion by Fessenden to transfer from General to Sewer \$30K. Kelly support; Carried.

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

OTHER ITEMS:

- In Honor of 37 year as President, Grinwis presented a plaque to Pres. Don Richards.
- Grinwis nominated Roger Fessenden to take over for Pres. Richards as his resignation is effective January 1st. VanSickle support; Carried.

Pres. Richards adjourned meeting 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Natalie E Kelly