

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
December 21, 2023

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

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

Roll: Pres Fessenden, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Cox, Deblois, Durga, Grinwis and Kelly present. Also present Chief Strait, Ed Hovey, Douglas Kelly, Scott Meyers, Jesse Atkins, Michael Sylvester and Scott Beishuizen. Treas. Pepple and Phil Morse arrived late.

Minutes: Motion by Deblois to accept November minutes as presented. Support Kelly; Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Kelly to accept the November financials as presented. Cox support; Carried.

(Treas. Pepple and Phil Morse arrived)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Phil Morse (county commissioner): announced that today the county approved a \$3.5 Million Bond for OCRC to do roads. Budget is \$13.1 million for county. Most expenses are the sheriff, jail and roads. Deblois mentioned, noted that in the last many months social media indicated tremendous drunk driving issues. Does the sheriff say anything? Are they being pro-active? Appears just a slap-few dollars penalties. The sheriff talks of jail more and Morse suggested speaking/asking the prosecuting attorney. That is in their realm.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Ben VanSumeren is working on street signs. Called OCRC to do a survey and the condition. Lots of the posts are twisted and need to be replaced. County put together a bid for 60-70 posts. All work and items would be less than \$7K. If we do not do this, new signs would not do what they should. Pres. asked how long the bid is for. Grinwis noted they have time to do it now. Motion to approve the bid and get to work on it? Cox would like to see the bid first (Grinwis forgot to bring, will email council after meeting). Decision to proceed with next month.

POLICE:

Kelly referenced chief's reports, 911 calls. Chief noted that the body cam is working good, radios may become an issue. New ones are \$3K each, need one for the car and 3 portables. Pres noted to plan for in next year budget. Chief has been working with Chief Salazar (Hart) regarding a speed detector. Pres asked that Chief or Ben take down the sign on First allowing passing. It is no longer a passing zone, painted doubled lines this year. Chief noted that the line was cut down on Third and Blair.

PARKS/RECREATION: Nothing to report

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Clerk noted the audit is going on but planning to meet after Christmas for exit appointment. Per financials, budget needs adjustment for payroll taxes-other non police add \$1200 (due to Beishuizen going on payroll and not contractor), Parks services add \$600 (Ben working more hours), Major services add \$3K (Ben working more hours). Motion by Kelly to amend budget as noted. Grinwis support; Carried.
-Discussion of Ben VanSumeren pay dating back to July 2022, clerk was sent an email stating there had been approval to pay him \$15/hour. Upon research clerk found in April 2022 note of request of \$15 but motion and action to take to \$14/hour and no mention of taking to \$15/hour. No mention of this during budget work and approval. Discussion. No action at this time. Deblois noted he is uncomfortable with adjustments. Pres says results of growing pains.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

-Meter installed. CNC to put panel in. EGLE-Nordlund to send sample site plan, no one looked at. Just did it and sent back to Nordlund. Site plan was on Holly's (Nordlund) desk forever. Kelly noted this is strange that Nordlund has done this since to 80s and nothing has changed. Trace Analytical says sampling changing. This is a whole ordeal. Need to get sample site plan done.

OTHER ITEMS:

-Pres need committee assignments

Finance-Deblois on it, volunteers? Cox

Street-Grinws

Police-Kelly

Rec-Cox

Ins/Print/Pub-clerk

Sewer-Kelly/Beishuizen/Pres

Then Pres spoke of Supt (Shelby Public Schools Supt) coming and his talk for what to do with New Era Elementary. Durga represent village? She accepted. Talk of AP classes or utilize school to keep people here.

-Grinwis asked Treas about interest rates. She replied there are separate rates for government and they are not as good. 5/3 account due in a couple months. Look into. Kelly asked about \$400K standing in Major checking-move it for better interest?

-Deblois told of suspicious characters at churches. The MSP and County police involved. NEB had a situation last week-had an intruder. MSP knows who he is.

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

Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 7:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted