

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
February 8, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Fessenden at 6:56 pm.

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

Roll: Pres Fessenden, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Cox, Deblois, Durga, Grinwis and Kelly present.
Also present Chief Strait, Scott Beishuizen, Ed Hovey, Scott Meyers, Isabelle Stevens, Richard Raffeli, Helen Mara and Douglas Kelly arrived later.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Isabelle Stevens goes to WMU and here for preparing a report on local government meeting for school.
-Scott Meyers: Questions regarding day care talk. Asked about zoning requirements as they are looking at it for an option at the church or Christian school.

(Douglas Kelly arrived)

Zoning is residential, Grinwis asked how many students. If at church major number, if at house, then easy, smaller amount 15-20. Council will explore. Look at possible zoning variance need.

Richard Rafelli: Township Supervisor. Reported they are almost done with sports park. Phase II is for enclosed sports complex. No taxpayer additional money will be needed, they are \$200K short. Looking at breaking ground next year. Extra money out there. Elementary school in New Era could work for school for 18 months. Do an enclosed facility attached to the school. Half for daycare (40-50 kids). Just pay rent or give it to the school. Mention of talking to Peterson Farms. Have 3 different distinct areas, Dance/Tae Kwon Do, training facility for hairdresser. He mentioned our village being pretty and should be proud. Durga asked/mentioned about school board decision? It would have to be a legal route against them. He has told them to get taxpayer input. Mentioned needing our approval – but not really need, but wants. Would need a zoning permit to put up building. Look for township approval, village approval, go to the board. Public Hearing for neighbors and residents to hear about project. President asked about cost to township. Raffeli said not a cost to us (village). No charge for Zoning Permit and variance hearing ad in paper to us. Council told him of the nature trail behind (north of) the school. Durga asked if he saw report for housing. President asked council for motion. Deblois spoke of number of houses, Durga said unknown, would be more foot traffic. Motion by Deblois to affirm plan. Support Durga asked about public meeting. One step at a time. Roll call vote; carried 6-0.
(Rafelli and Mara left)

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-New signs list presented. Beishuizen and Grinwis talked with county. They (county) get supplies.
-We need to get pricing. First Street and Ray, chipping will give it another 7-8 years. \$35-36K.
-Compliment on depot work.
-Cherry Pie contest February 24th. Done for 51 years, 3 year hiatus.
-Future conversation needed for trees.
-30" of snow, 3 days of lots of plowing. President received lots of calls. Looked ugly for 5/6 days.

POLICE:

-165 hours, quiet month. Chief and Kelly met. Not spoken to officers yet about hours requirement.

PARKS/RECREATION: Nothing to report

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

--President noted we could not deposit into CD. Needs permission from council. Two signers and bank needs copy of driver's license and their SSN. Motion by Deblois to allow deposit of CD and two signers for CD, Pepple and Fessenden. Support Grinwis. Talk of 5/3 CD and \$15K not being good. Put that with it? Yes, take that CD out. Grinwis amended motion to include 5/3 CD closure adding to new CD. Carried.
-Motion by Grinwis to amend budget \$6000 added to audit, Kelly support; Carried.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

-Kelly noted an email and that it took 9 months to get permit done. President looked at proposal from Newhof. Amend and help with testing. They will do it for less than \$5K for the year. Motion by Kelly to fix EGLE (permit). Grinwis support; Carried. Permit now costs \$1800 year.

OTHER ITEMS:

-Deblois asked about email addresses. Mention of paying Frontier \$170/moth and that includes emails. Just need to set it up. Don't do the emails for the \$500 for Computer Refinery. Need to get this straight how we want it. No Limit. Now there is NewEraVillage@frontier.com
-Kelly mentioned school and report from Durga (from committee/group meeting about school).

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

Durga: Thank you Scott Meyers for keeping the sidewalks clean. (from snow)
Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 7:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted