

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
January 13, 2022

Meeting called to order by Roger Fessenden at 7:01 pm.

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

Roger Fessenden was sworn in as Village President.

Roll: Pres Fessenden, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Grinwis, Hovey, Kelly, Sobers and VanSickle present. Also present Chief Strait, and Eric VanDop (Brickley DeLong).

Minutes: Motion by Grinwis to accept the December minutes as presented; Sobers support; Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Clerk explained the new reports that were handed out. A Profit/Loss and Balance sheet – as requested/recommended by the auditors. Motion by Kelly to accept the December financial report. VanSickle support; Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Eric VanDop: here to present the audit and answer any questions. Explained the audit Opinion letter, it is the most important document and we received a good one. There were no concerns/issues found. Spoke of Revenue Sharing and Taxes, they are the bulk of our income. Per reports we have about four years of reserves and being a small budget that is good. Major and Local look good. Spoke of Sewer and the need to look at/watch it, major repairs as the system is getting old and we should consider planning to set aside monies. Keep closest eye on this fund. Recommended a Capital Improvement Schedule. Told of the usual footnotes and there are a few less this audit. Did explain recommendation letter, internal control and using passwords and backups ---which clerk noted she is now doing. Thanked council for our business. (VanDop left)

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Wolting was sick over the weekend so had Pete Roskam do the plowing. We should think about a backup plan. Also had county do the sanding.

-Wreaths had to be taken down (from light poles), chief had Ben (VanSumeren) assist.

-Kelly asked about light issues at Third and Hillcrest. No results yet.

POLICE:

-Kelly referenced reports from chief. Our team is down two officers, Grillo passed away and Furman is out due to son's serious injury.

-Kelly did get job description and should meet with chief and Hovey.

-No estimate for sign yet-Kelly asked Windridge.

-Village sign on north end of village is down from wind. Apparently not broken.

-Grinwis mentioned he looked at First St and the passing area is short distance (by canning plant). Thought perhaps look at making No Passing. Mention of No Passing in village at all.

-Chief spoke of Salazar (Hart PD) is trying to get grant and would like of letter of support from us. Had to do with an electronic sign.

-Letter recognizing our Police Dept read, from Jon Bumstead.

-Hovey asked about parking concerns and an ordinance. Do we have one? Some discussion of ordinances – no parking overnight and more. Hovey mentioned Blair issues.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Kelly spoke of 2 years ago, he and then Pres. Richards met with Delta Institute along the rail trail and trees. Has a memorandum to help work with them, needing to be done. They planted trees, some have died. Since the work already done – sign the letter.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Clerk mentioned numbers from the action taken last month under sewer budget/expenses. Increase in fees was 20% and gave a 39% increase to the largest expense. Need to look harder at just agreeing to matters brought before the council and not looked into before action. Re-enforces concerns the auditor brought up as well.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

-Sobers asked about a monthly report from Wolting for the work he is doing.
-Pres.Fessenden mentioned that Sewer Committee was Pres. Richards and Grinwis. He feels he (Fessenden) should be off due to family ties.

OTHER ITEMS:

-Grinwis stated that due to the last 2 to 3 months he looked into some other village rules under Public Comment. Shelby has a 3 minute rule (per person) and Whitehall and Rothbury have a 5 minute rule. Grinwis made a motion the Village of New Era instill a limit of 5 minutes talking time per person under Public Comment. Kelly support. Hovey stated he did get his own speed gun and sat at the canning company, no one knew he was there. He found basically the speed mirrored the speed study that was done. We will need to publish the time limit rule on the website and on the agenda. Carried
-Stated that there would be no Open House for retired President Richards – per his insistence.
-A Thank you Card from retired president was read/shown to council.
-Dept of Treasury sent info about a First Responder Training. By Bumstead, 9/30/22, submit by 2/15/22 if interested. Recruiting and training and Academy would cost about \$5K for new hire.
-Eric Nagels owns property by two track on edge of village and would like to split it.
-Question about Sesquicentennial this year – Grinwis is on it. VanSickle and Fessenden will help too.
-VanSickle asked about housing. Also asked about light on flagpole in Veteran's park. There is a light but does not shine on flag.

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

Fessenden
Pres. Richards adjourned meeting 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Natalie E Kelly