

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
January 11, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Fessenden at 6:59 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, Douglas Kelly, Eric Van Dop and Melissa Kindinger.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Eric Van Dop and Melissa Kindinger (Brickley DeLong) – Audit reports had been given out. Eric explained about giving an opinion and they gave Materially Correct opinion. Told of what is on the different pages, Financial Statements pg 1-3, Mgmt Discussion and analysis pg 4-5. Then he went to the numbers. Spoke of sewer and how per audit meetings with clerk, they are aware the sewer system (called/considered operating activities) will be spending a great deal of money. Reserves not there, have to review and understands we will be supplementing from the General Fund. Spoke of the American Rescue gave us additional funds and that was one time only, over \$40K. Did speak of Quickbooks and to make the audit go faster/easier, have separate companies but it would be hard since we have one bank account. Cox asked about other/better programs, small discussion of another but it costs \$30K+. Spoke of the letters presented, clerk signs representation letter. Spoke of Planning & Performing letter, sewer improvements came to their attention. Did recommend we use account numbers and not just names. Clerk needs to physically sign the bank reconciliation. (That has been started since meeting with them.) Spoke of clerk needing to be trained on the new reporting to the state for Act 51 and F65 to the federal. Grinwis asked based on a small village are we doing ok. As far as structures, he is unsure. We would need to find money for big projects. (Van Dop and Kindinger left)

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

- OCRC quote of \$5966.90 to replace signs and posts. Kelly stated that in the summer village bought signs and to pay now again.....(costly). Quote is for 1 Stop sign, 2 Street Signs and 18 posts. Cox asked if the posts are bad, YES-bad & twisted (Grinwis, Durga, Strait). Quote includes equipment, labor and 8.5% fringes. Kelly asked if it is checked to make sure which signs we have and not repeating. Grinwis said yes Ben VanSumeren did. Cox said he had not seen the post issues, Douglas Kelly, Grinwis and Durga all said they have. Deblois mentioned about misplaced signs. Also concerned over sewer costs and now the posts.... Beishuizen said only the generator is left (to pay) to get permit fixed and sample site plan. \$20K plus. Motion by Durga to accept OCRC quote and fix street signs and posts. Grinwis support; Carried.
- Durga noting that plowing behind EnerG Fitness, they hit a manhole cover and it shot off and damaged the truck. What is the solution? Steve Veltman told her the semis have had issues too. Put a cone on it? In the middle of the area. Build up around the cover? (Beishuizen). It is parking and not just the manhole. Look at in the spring.
- Kelly/Strait spoke of the school signs and chief spoke to NEC, kids are not crossing. Let's put a speed sign on the school sign post.

POLICE:

-Kelly pointed out reports and 911. Noted hours report and some officers are not putting in many hours. Chief suggests officers must put in 20 hours per month. Then we get something from them for having them trained. \$300 at the range for training. Chief explained the schedule, pres. asked about putting demands on them, noted the Dwyer only put in 36 hrs all year. Durga noted it is worth looking into putting into place. Might lose Furman and Dwyer.

-Durga noted that a few people approached a truck and Rivers Ace sitting in the parking lot behind old bank. She also noted that there is a man living in a van and drives with his lights off slowly in the morning. Chief to speak to the people concerned.

-Kelly mentioned over 220 service calls last year, lot of house checks. Not Crime.

-Pres wants it noted that John Heykoop donates a lot to the village. (Does work, things and not bills us.) We appreciate what he does, Delia too (took out tree stump).

PARKS/RECREATION:

-Ben's rate of \$14. There was a message that it was believed to go to \$15/hr in July 2023. Clerk looked up notes and minutes and budget. Went to \$14/hr in April 2022, Grinwis had mentioned \$15/hr request by Ben-but council action was to \$14/hr. (Police at that time were only \$14/hr.) Cox believes the rate is good for the work. There was no mention of rate for Ben at budget discussion. Note that in May 2022 Ben accepted the \$14/hr. Grinwis said he accepted thinking it would be going up.

-Cox showed Echo (paper) page and stated he sees that report as a bid. Wants village to look at submitting a more detailed bid and earlier for plowing. Discussion of snow plowing, being pushed in handicap spots. Wants our bid with specs and a timeline. Will come up with a game plan.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Need to amend budget for Parks maintenance – raise \$600. Also with the OCRC action earlier we need to amend the traffic budget \$6000. Motion by Grinwis to increase budget as noted. Support Kelly; Carried.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

-Quote from Prine Neihoff for Mag Meter. Waiting for power. Issue on Third St, no pump to replace bad one. Pumping not as fast but working now.

-CNC \$1750 for Meyers pump. 788/790 Ashland-this is a step up. This series had issues.

-Pres noted that Prine Neihoff has no proof Nordlund submitted the plan. Holly has not replied. EGLE deadline was January 4. Been sitting in the box for 7 months. Beishuizen has dealt with Prine for 20 years, good firm. He spoke to Barb (at Prine) regarding bi-annual. Cox asked about time frame for system failing, Beishuizen noted Montague was done in 1978 and by 2000 was bad/replaced/upgraded. Ours was installed 1985 – due for an upgrade. Need to set up plan to replace. Electronics too. Grants? Yes, there are. Pres, Kelly and Beishuizen to look at and make a decision in the next few months. Nordlund failed us.

OTHER ITEMS:

-Deblois asked about email accounts. Ted (in village) is good. Let's deal with him. Deblois to pursue.

-Deblois asked if money was moved to better interest funds. Treas has not as of yet, family sick.

-Durga had a call to Shelby Supt (Olmstead), there is chatter of making New Era School a tech school or daycare. School bus seems to still go there – pickup kids?

Bills presented. Motion by Grinwis to pay bills as presented. Kelly noted the cost for Swihart's was \$365 not \$240 – that was because of emergency pumpout on weekend. Durga support; Carried.

Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 8:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted