

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
March 14, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Fessenden at 6:59 pm.

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

Roll: Pres Fessenden, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Cox, Deblois, Durga and Kelly present. Trustee Grinwis absent. Also present Chief Strait, Scott Beishuizen, Ed Hovey, Scott Meyers and Phil Morse.

Moment of Silence in Honor of Donald Richards, past president who passed away Feb. 23, 2024.

Minutes: Motion by Deblois to accept February minutes as presented. Support Cox; Carried.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Phil Morse: Spoke of millage for Council on Aging and Medical Care Facility. Extend for 8 years. This would serve seniors with OCCOA, request to work with other organizations. It costs \$411/day to stay at the (medical care) facility. They (facility) have struggled since covid, it hit them hard. Also told of \$1/hr raise for the sheriff and deputies and jail personnel. There used to be 30 applications for an opening and now they do not get any.

-Scott Meyers: 1) The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 30th at 3pm at the New Era Christian School 2) Question on the sprinkler system in park, Cox told that everything is there to hook up on to. 3) Tentative school downsize. The Shelby residents are not happy about the daycare and want no facility expansion at this time. Talk of using the school (New Era Elementary) in the current shape/size. There is money being spent on the township park that is two miles out of town (Shelby). 4) Spoke of water issues between the Trailside building and the Dentist office. Water issues in the alley. Should the alley be torn up? These issues were observed last week or so. Mention of restructuring the alley.

-Agenda had Anna Rapa – she did not show up.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-No report from Grinwis.

-Eekhoff called about a tree he is concerned about. President noted that tree is not in our right of way.

POLICE:

-Kelly spoke of reports and his meeting with chief. All officers trained at range and CPR training. If there are any concerns, please get hold of the chief then, not waiting until meeting.

-Cox asked about officers and minimum hours. Chief noted we would lose 3 officers. Cox called chief to report of someone by the church and going door to door in the area.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Cox looked at the building paint. Some of it he felt is not good. Perhaps look at professional work the next time. Deblois noted the red looks real good, the white awful.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Noted that we need to increase DEQ budget \$300 (bill went from \$1500 as in the past decade to \$1800). Parks services need to be upped 550-600. Kelly made a motion to amend budget. Cox questioned if VanSumeren is being checked, audited for work and time. Durga asked as well. No support, motion failed.

Durga made a motion to only amend for DEQ, in the sewer budget, Cox support. Kelly pointed out that council had already agreed to pay VanSumeren his time. Motion carried. Other budget (parks) will go red.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING:

Talk of a meeting a year ago to get ordinances updated. Talk of leave things alone or speak with an attorney. Need to be updated, printed and handed to people. Chief noted that Officer VanSumeren has helped a lot but is not responsible for creating, adjusting ordinances. We need to redo the Ordinance book. Plan to have Grinwis and Chief get together.

SEWER:

-Beishuizen noted that monthly op reports were submitted. Testing done and submitted. Pump flow is considerable less. Down from 120 to 80. DEQ look at permit sampling together. The generator is backordered until June. No word on the transfer switch.

-Kelly asked if there has been any word from Nordlund. Not heard from them. Talk of Ben VanSumeren time sheet breakdown.

-Eric Noggles is putting up two homes on the property on Garfield and Redwood. Split the property. Build 2 spec homes. Question of whether to hook sewer up to those homes. 1 tank and pump cover both lots. Beishuizen noted that in Montague they tie the line and the resident does to the house. Question of size (of new homes) - 1400 sq ft home and 1850 sq ft home. Will that be okay?

OTHER ITEMS:

-Kelly asked about school committee? Durga and Olmstead have spoken. Wants to know if still ok. School Board has made no decisions.

-Cox asked about pole barn and secondary height limit. Max is 16', chief believes. Can look-up on ordinance website.

-Kelly noted that chief is working with other village chiefs to get another speed machine. Salazar (Hart) looking at getting grants. Discussion of tunnel or bridge across M20 for Lewis Farms.

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

Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 7:37 pm

Respectfully Submitted