

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
May 9, 2024

Meeting called to order by President Fessenden at 6:57 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, Grinwis and Kelly present.
Trustee Durga absent. Also present Chief Strait, Ed Hovey, Anna Rapa, Scott Beishuizen, Douglas Kelly, Gene Zainea and Scott Meyers.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Anna Rapa-candidate for judge position of retiring Judge Lambrix. Referenced the difference between a judge and a lawyer is that a judge listens and the lawyer talks. She currently is the "referee" for Lambrix. Lived in Golden Township for 7 years. There are 20 years before her retirement. With her experience, she is the only one with judicial experience (compared to other candidates). She started at the MI Court of Appeals and has taught law school classes.

-Douglas Kelly: asked about with the street work wanted to make sure the intersection of Hillcrest and Third was being looked into/considered. Referenced DuMont asking about it previously. Need to get engineers to look at it. Also stated that the sign heights are different with different signs and also noted misspelling. He runs regularly and sees all the streets.

Scott Meyers: stated the plans are same as usual for Memorial Day. They have people to cover most of the streets for gardens, there is still one still open, at the PO. Mentioned asked about Tom Bratsburg bill for making the Depot sign for the rail trail. Noted that the sign looks good. On the Township level-mentioned that we might want to look into a camping ordinance. Allow it but make provisions to make it right/proper camping. He also stated/asked about joining council for open position. He lives outside limits, annex his area.....

-Eugene (Gene) Zainea: He has been a resident for 18 years. Came because of his spiritual life and wanting to serve. Help people of the community. He works with prayer and a lot of kids. Complimented Chief Strait on his work. "This Guy does a great job." Since the school left and is now in Shelby – what options. President stated they just did a walk through in consideration of daycare. Not a dead issue. Pres also explained that Durga is on a committee with the school board for options. Zainea thinks/sees a community center.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Grinwis reported getting quotes for rechipping roads, prices are up. Rechip First St north to south village limits, would last 7-10 more years. \$71690. Garfield, Third St. west to limits \$24200 + \$1600 contingency. Wolting Neighborhood, Seymour, Ridge and all \$52828 (6 pieces). \$578K is the fund balance. County wants to hear from us ASAP. Discussion of 10 year bandaid or more like three. Beishuizen believes that for Third and Hillcrest there should be a drain and concrete to fix the area. Grinwis stated the money is there. Thinks, \$3/4K for intersection. There are other issues on Third St. as well. Deblois said that the work did not hold up well and yet another hole arose. Kelly motioned to do First Street, and Garfield Road and Third St/Hillcrest St intersection. Talk of \$3K for striping. Grinwis support; carried.

POLICE:

-Kelly referenced reports and calls for Third St being down, but still 13. Person had moved to Whitehall but is back per chief.

Police will be covering Farmers Market that starts in June (at New Era Christian Reformed Church). Also covered soccer on Saturdays. Has a LEIN audit in June, every 3 years. Routine but a pain. Talk of abandoned vehicles, need a form and x number of days to take care of. Need help with that. Wesco AED pads are getting bad and the battery should be checked. It is our AED at Wesco.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Cox asked about Ben VanSumeren doing the mowing. Need to tell Malda his work is not needed. Ben is okay with this. He will get a rate increase with the budget. Cox to speak with Malda.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

-Preliminary budget presented, Ben up to \$15/hr, Police up \$3/hr. Cost \$10K each for the septic tanks at Garfield and Redwood (88th). Police need proper radios, \$15K. Pepple asked about pay increases for council and officers? None planned. Been many years.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

-Beishuizen stated samples have been taken and submitted. Permit was submitted. Talk of septic at The Artisan and it was in the building, so someone has to be at the restaurant to let people/worker in. Grinwis noted that when the sewer system was put in, part of that building was not there. Should have been checked out by builder – bad work. Mention of the manhole cover in the back parking lot again. Should have 6' of concrete. Beishuizen did take the test for the sewer work, no results yet. Kelly asked about numbers for discharge by the drainfield. 12/14K per day, not consistent. Wolting will mow the drainfield. 3 times. \$300 a time. Takes 6 hrs. Talk of bids, 10 acres could we get \$30/acre for hay?

OTHER ITEMS:

-Kelly noted that the HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) will be August 18th, fliers out. No Latex, must dry it out. No Tires. Mentioned partner with Farm Bureau for tractor tires.

-Deblois asked about dumpsters. First week in June. Bulldog. They drop off and pick up. No cleaning by them. Friday and Saturday of First weekend, Kelly asked about flyers? Yes.

-Deblois asked about road closure for Memorial Day parade – Parade route same as last year. First St closed from Third to Garfield for presentation. Talk of sending people through canning company parking lot.

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

Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 7:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted
NATALIE E KELLY
Village Clerk