

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 2022

Oath of offices were made. President, Treasurer, Clerk, Trustees-Grinwis (4 yrs), Kelly (4 yrs), Bayer (2 yrs) and DeBlois (2 yrs).

Meeting called to order by President Fessenden at 7:00 pm.

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

Roll: Pres Fessenden, Treas Pepple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Bayer, DeBlois, Grinwis, Kelly and Sobers present. Trustee Cox absent. Also present Chief Strait, Scott Meyers, Sara Durga, Dick Walhout and Phil Morse.

Minutes: Motion by Kelly to accept September hearing and council minutes and October minutes as presented. Support Sobers; Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Sobers to accept the September and October financial reports. Kelly support; Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

-Sara Durga - here to observe. She is interested in getting involved.

-Scott Meyers - wants council to know he is in the process of selling the bank. Would like to retain the parking lot and wondering if there needs to be a zoning variance. They are splitting the parcel for the bank to be separate and they will retain the post office and upstairs apartments to go with the parking lot. Tim Horton (real estate agent) told him he should speak to the zoning administrator (that is Roy Strait). Council does not believe requires a variance. Motion by Grinwis to allow Scott Meyers a variance if one is required to retain the parking with the parcel that will include the post office and apartments. Support Kelly; Carried.

-Scott also spoke of Halloween and kids in town, DeBlois said he believed 800+, Fessenden had 350, Kellys had 313. Scarecrow winners were at Elm and Wolting, Peterson by the school and Alan VanDuijn.

-Dick Walhout - here to observe

Phil Morse – He is county commissioner for all of New Era village (and more land) and reported to village some info from county. County had \$12mil for general and \$25mil for Spec Revenue, \$19mil for Med Care. They are working on getting county wide broadband. There is a steering committee to expand TruStream. They are having a workforce Development Study. Want to grow economic tax base for post-secondary education options for jobs. Cost is \$85K.

-Sharon Pepple – 20 years ago they put up the pole barn and when that happened the village required the parcel to remain attached to the parcel with the house. She is wanting to split it so the garage can be used by another person. Village would need to rescind the condition. Council took no action at this time. Need to look into. Grinwis and Kelly will do so.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

-Couple of lights are out, DeBlois spoke of one on Third St. Strait called and was told done.

-Question of activating well/water at vet park. Cox was to be working on. Canning company said they would write the check to cover the cost.

-No work on line painting with county work. Grinwis has the telephone number.

-Signs: Grinwis and Strait on working on them. Sobers gave them a catalog with signs, to look at cost and ordering possibility.

-The road along Second Street will not be fixed this year.

POLICE:

- Kelly relayed report.
- Chief reported Dickey's BBQ from Muskegon gave the village a new AED. This one will be in the car from now on. (There is presently one at Wesco.)
- On Third St. there was a drive over a unit that wrecked a sewer line. It was run over with a pickup truck and wires are loose. Person who wrecked it is to have it fixed
- DeBlois asked if our officers are trained for the AED. Yes, they are, along with many other trainings.

PARKS/RECREATION:

- Nothing new. Are pickleball courts still being used? Yes. When to take net down? Ben VanSumeren was working the other day and chief will have him do it.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

- ORV? Grinwis spoke with Paul Inglis (Shelby Village) and he will share their ordinance. His police chief is good at it (Waltz). Should meet with him.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

- Wolting speaking of resigning. Stay until 12/31/2022. He does not like hearing about broken pumps and maintenance. He is OK with meter reads. Kelly thinks there is a lot of need for coordination. CNC and Swiharts. Pres would like to keep things good with Wolting, negotiate a lesser wage and have Wolting maintain meter reads and lab reports. Mention of Police drive around village regularly and could they look at meters. Need to check once a day. Need to have the ability to coordinate a work team.
- Question of backup generator for sewer pump building/pumps. What size.
(Meyers left)
- Need to get the committee together (Kelly and Pres plus a couple others).

OTHER ITEMS:

- Chief asked about plowing – Wolting still planning on it. He took rate from \$90/hr to \$125/hr. Been many years since bid requested. Sobers noted it is too late to request bids now. Need to do early fall. Plan for next year.
- Covid report - The money was \$42/43K? Unsure. Money was used for sewer. Treas noted there are direct deposits and sometimes there is no indication what it is for.
- Question of money and investments. CD is just monthly.
- Kelly noted Halloween was not as nice for homeowners. Lots of people, more than residents of village. Should only do Saturday for Sunday holiday. Bayer noted it is good. Heard teachers and kids liked it. Grinwis noted that this should be spoken about.
- Noted that contract for plowing had been two years at a time.

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

Pres. Fessenden adjourned meeting 8:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted