

VILLAGE OF NEW ERA
Minutes of Meeting
October 14, 2021

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

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

Roll: Pres Richards, Treas Peple, Clerk Kelly, Trustees Grinwis, Hovey, Kelly, Sobers and VanSickle present. Trustee Fessenden absent. Also present Chief Strait, James Sponable, Scott Monroe, and Richard Westover. Cliff Prince arrived later.

Minutes: Under Parks-it should be Board of APPEALS, not review. OTHER ITEMS-Mention of leaves, VanSickle stated she mentioned bins. Not in notes.

(Sobers asked about further news on intersection of First and Garfield. President spoke to paver, not done to keep the road level.)

Motion by Grinwis to accept the September minutes with corrections; Kelly support; Carried

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Question of any more Covid money, treasurer stated no. Motion by Kelly to accept the September financial report. Sobers support; Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(Cliff Prince arrived)

-Monroe: He is here regarding property and showing his plans, but property is on M20, not in village limits. That is the township issue. Monroe then left.

-Westover: He lives on First St. He is concerned about a problem with speeding. He moved in when the speed went from 35 mph to 45 mph. The Passing sign is 1000 feet before the 30 mph sign. The 45 mph sign is faded. People disregard it. This is a village why high speed? Does he have grounds to take it higher up? People drive 55 – 65 mph. He signaled a fast driving man, that man turned around and came back to Westover telling him "He can" drive what he does. Westover asked/told him he does not have to drive 70 mph. People are out of control. Sobers questioned a study in that zone. Yes it was and the average speed was 28.2 mph. Heated words between Chief and Westover. Westover left meeting angry. Chief said he can drive Westover around and show him. VanSickle spoke of motor bike and loud noise every night. Probably from the Wesco. Chief asked to be told how to handle. His team can't be here every moment. Mention of "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign. Note that diesel engines are loud and there are some around. Chief left.

-Prince: Spoke of book "Our Towns" and the author visits towns to see how they become successful. What can we do for New Era? We have Meyers Chevrolet, Burnette Foods and Tri County Feed. Kelly explained how Helena, Wilbur Ellis and Nutrene are in the area and would not also come here. Mention of School Bond issue and the new schools coming. Then New Era Elementary will be empty. What will we do, the school district is planning on "giving" it to the village. Did the school talk to MCC or WSCC about having classes there? Not that we know of. Has the president met with Burnette Foods president to suggest a subcampus for welders or something. We have to take the first step. Grinwis noted that we have made efforts to plant seeds about use. Sponable mentioned a meeting at The Avenue, township brainstorming, mention of Tech Center. Peterson farms created on off campus center for meetings. Prince also noted he wanted a Board of Appeals meeting.

-Chief returned. He explained his feelings. He is not the DPW and carried a lot of that "stuff" around in his personal truck. He hauled leaves last year. We don't appear to appreciate all that he does or Dave (VanSumeren). What is his job description? President stated that the Village does appreciate him and what he does. People are complaining and don't show any appreciation. Give him a list of what we want done. He apologized for his "blowup" but he is tired and a lot of things are building up. State reports and work now takes hours more. He asked that we tell him if we don't want him and he will be out. Complain

(call) him when something happens, not all dumped at meeting. Everyone has his telephone number. Don't wait. Get it addressed right away. He did say that chickens are taken care of. He called VanSickle and let her know and another person complained too. Don't let this fester. Call him at home, text the cell.

STREETS/LIGHTS COMMITTEE:

- Trailer issue – broken axle. (along the road)
- Hovey asked about a sink hole.
- Lights are ok, chief checks into that.
- Pranger building gone in the alley (behind Wesco). Received a compliment from Wright (rents house at end of alley, building was right by his garage.
- Bill from Eric Nelson, engineer for \$2650 fees.
- Sobers asked about grass in front of Meyers Chev. Who takes care of that? There are clumps of grass between the roadway and trees.

POLICE:

- Kelly relayed chief report. Domestic on Meyers Ave. 911 Report. Stray dog barking on Ridge.
- Chief then asked What are job descriptions? DPW-who is in charge? Dave? Report took 8 hrs in front of computer for the state. Then all this stuff at meeting.

PARKS/RECREATION:

- Nets are still up at ballfield-Sobers noted.
- Halloween will be celebrated Saturday night (Oct 30). Shelby will do it Sunday night (Oct 31). Trick or Treat time will be 6-8 pm as always. Press has it.
- Hovey noted that shingles are missing from pavilion. Sam Near? Grinwis to call.

FINANCE /ORDINANCES:

- Audit starts Oct 25th. Meeting with auditor and clerk, via zoom on 21st.

INSURANCE/PRINTING/PUBLISHING: Nothing to report

SEWER:

- Still waiting on the new pumps

OTHER ITEMS:

- Treas computer battery exploded. Getting a new one.
- Grinwis spoke with Alan VanDuinen. They will talk with Scott Meyers and brainstorm for the sesquicentennial. VanDuinen cousin in Hesperia chaired their celebration. Mention of a lady in Detroit who wrote histories of people from New Era.
- Flagpole at Kelly house, not up yet.

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

Hovey spoke to property owner by sewer field, he is not interested in selling property.

Pres. Richards adjourned meeting 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted

