

Official Minutes - Village Council Meeting September 8, 2015

The September 8, 2015 meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan was called to order by President Carl Wickett at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call taken with Trustee Richardson, Trustee Mead, Trustee Stull, Trustee Strickler, Trustee Heflin, Vice-President Elwaer and President Wickett being present. No one absent. Also present: Village Attorney Cooper, Village Manager Krizan, Village Clerk/Treasurer Mitchell, DPW Foreman Ebeling, Chief McLeese and Chief Deputy Tom Dahlquist with 13 guests.

Public Comment:

Dan Van't Zelfde has heard rumors that the old high school building was bought by someone and wondered what the zoning allowed for on the property. VM Krizan explains that it is zoned residential, and before any change, all neighbors within 300 feet would be given a chance to voice their opinions before a Zoning Board of Appeals.

Dale Bryant asked council what the plans are for the tree that was struck by lightning at 206 E. St. Mary's St. VM Krizan and Foreman Ebeling commented on the bids that have been received and explained that it's just a matter of scheduling for the tree's removal.

Shane Knapp heard that the Lion's Club group is moving back into the building. Asked if the village could inquire about whether they have liability insurance. President Wickett defers to VA Cooper, who explains that there would be no legal standing to ask for proof of insurance.

Blaine Rex asks if the council could talk to the Village Market to straighten the concrete blocks that have been moved from winter plowing. They have been pushed onto the public sidewalk. VM Krizan will ask them to have them fixed.

Consent Agenda:

No alterations made to the agenda. Motion made by VP Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Stull to accept the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion carries.

Trustee Mead makes a motion and seconded by Trustee Richardson to accept the minutes from the August 3, 2015 regular meeting as presented. All in favor, motion carries.

VP Elwaer makes a motion and seconded by Trustee Stull to accept the month's bills totaling \$161,648.53. All in favor, motion carries.

Communications:

No communications to report.

Officer Reports:

Chief's Report- Chief adds that it is likely Officer Simpson will be sworn in as early as tonight to be the new Chief of Police for the city of Bangor. He will at that time become a part-time officer.

Clerk's Report- Trustee Strickler would rather be referred to as Trustee Strickler and not Norma Strickler within the Clerk's Reports. It would be a more formal addressing. Clerk Mitchell will make the proper changes in future reports.

Treasurer Report- Treasurer Mitchell clarifies the date for the last date to receive taxes at the village, it is on the 14th, not the 15th. After that a taxpayer will have to pay the county with a delinquent fee.

Attorney Report- President Wickett asks VA Cooper if the Nelson house is structurally sound. He answers yes, and will pursue the property anyway the council advises. Nelson does not want a lien on the property, so that may be enough leverage to have him comply. Trustee Strickler asks about the status of 405 S. George; pertaining to whether it was inspected or if it has water. VM Krizan answers no to both questions, it is in the midst of a remodel. VP Elwaer believes we can't enforce any blight violations until 510 W. Edgar Bergen Blvd. is ticketed. VM Krizan explains that the Construction Board of Appeals heard the appeal and granted it under the fact there was no construction code violation. The violation should have been under the blight ordinance. Chief McLeese explains that the blight ordinance is written for finished buildings, if you want to enforce blight on this residence, you will need to pass an ordinance to force all structures to be sided. VP Elwaer agrees this is what the council should look to in the future.

Village Manager Report- SMC donated the furnishings within the newly finished DPW shop. The Village Hall painting is already done, they did a good job and sooner than we thought. Meeting on the MML Personnel Handbook is set for September 28th.

New Business:

Absenteeism- VM Krizan explains that there is little that can be done without an ordinance, even with an ordinance, the harshest penalty can be censure, due to state regulations with elected officials. Trustee Stull emphasizes the need for a policy due to the excessive absenteeism within the last 2 years. Trustee Mead suggests allowing a council member to miss 2 meetings per year, after that they should not receive a wage for any missed meeting. VM Krizan does not believe that is a policy we can enforce. He also explains the process of a censure policy. President Wickett asks VM Krizan to put something together for the next meeting.

Brush Policy Addition- VM Krizan suggests creating a special brush pick-up policy. The cost to the resident will be wages and equipment for the brush pick-up, or allow them to take it to the compost themselves. VP Elwaer asks how the public will be informed. VM Krizan will publish it in the paper, put it on the village's Facebook page and include it on the notes on the water bills. The topic was tabled to the next meeting. President Wickett requested VM Krizan to look into installing some surveillance cameras at the compost site, due to the amount of waste that is being left by the front gate. VM Krizan brings to the council's attention that the DPW has changed the locks on the gates to the compost, due to the excessive amount of keys to the previous locks that were available throughout the community, some that were being used by some contractors from outside of the village.

Part-time DPW Worker- This would bring help to the busy times of the year like leaf pick-up and along with things that are always in need like fire hydrant painting. It would be 20 hours per week, coming in around \$9500 a year. Motion made by Trustee Strickler and seconded by Trustee Stull to add a part-time DPW worker. All in favor, motion carries.

Swim Lessons- We had 61 swimmers this summer, another successful year. Exit surveys were conducted and reviews were very high for the program. In the coming years we will be looking at a higher

minimum wage, so the financials will alter a little bit, but we should be pretty good for the next couple of years.

Front Office Computer- Received a quote from IT Right for \$800, the money is there for this use. Motion by VP Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Richardson to purchase the computer for \$800. All in favor, motion carries.

Fire Department Repairs- Repairs must be discussed and approved by all municipalities. The total is \$75,798.00, and the money is there. Motion made by Trustee Heflin and seconded by Trustee Stull to allow for the fire station repairs. All in favor, motion carries.

Budget Amendment- Motion made by Trustee Mead and seconded by Trustee Richardson to approve the budget amendment. All in favor, motion carries.

Payroll Adjustment- Former Clerk Lou Anne Conklin was overpaid on her last paycheck. Motion made by Trustee Stull and seconded by Trustee Richardson to not pursue the overpayment, due to the consulting fee to help train the interim clerk on procedures. 6 agree and 1 dissent, motion passes.

Planning Commission Appointment- With the passing of Wayne Hellinga, we are in the need of appointing a new member. Planning Commission Chairman Blaine Rex has suggested Larry Rolston. Motion by VP Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Richardson to appoint Larry Rolston to the Planning Commission. All in favor, motion carries.

Treasurer Rex retirement- VM Krizan reads a letter aloud that Treasurer Rex wrote to the council. Motion made by Trustee Mead, seconded by VP Elwaer to accept the letter of retirement. All in favor, motion carries.

Public Comment:

Blaine Rex: believes there was a policy made in the 70's by the council that dealt with absenteeism. VM has looked for it but can't find any records of it.

Blaine Rex: asks if it is required for all residents to have Waste Management, and if so why are we still seeing other companies being contracted throughout the village, including a village owned dumpster. VM Krizan explains the contract that all residents have with Waste Management is residential only, but businesses can have contracts with other vendors.

Blaine Rex: asks how the water accounts work. How does the money go into those accounts? And where does it go? VM Krizan explains that the water account does not have a check writing feature, so there is a couple of transfers per year from the water account to the general checking account to pay for the bills that the water department is responsible for.

Rose Mary Stull: Waste Management is enforcing the residential contract throughout the village.

Comments from Council:

Trustee Heflin: Explains his absenteeism; his mom has been very sick, dealing with stage 4 cancer. Pledges to make all meetings as possible but he will also not neglect his sick mother.

Trustee Stull: Thanked VM Krizan and DPW Foreman Ebeling for such a smooth transition.

Motion made by VP Elwaer and seconded by Trustee Richardson to adjourn. All in favor motion carries at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Mitchell, Village Clerk/Treasurer