

## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE DECATUR VILLAGE COUNCIL - May 4, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Carl Wickett at 7 p.m. All Council Trustees present, i.e. Mike Heflin, Norma Strickler, Patrick Richardson, Carl Wickett, Ali Elwaer, Robert H. Mead Jr, and Tom Stull. Also present: Chief McLeese, Village Manager Krizan, VT Rex, Village Attorney and 19 guests. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

President Wickett welcomed everyone and asked if there were public comments not on the agenda. Charlene Jackson requested that Public Comments be asked at the end of the meeting. Andy Conklin requested an investigation into damage done to the Village Car and the following of personnel policies. President Carl Wickett advised it would be looked into. A. Elwaer mentioned the Council needs to address the current, vague policy on fitness for duty testing.

Consent Agenda: Under Communications "Lions Club Billing" was added, and under New Business "Public Comments" was added. It was moved by A. Elwaer and Seconded by T. Stull. Motion passed, all yes votes. Minutes of regular meeting held April 6, 2015 were approved. Motion by R. Mead, seconded P. Richardson, All in favor, Motion passed. Minutes of special meeting held April 20, 2015 were approved. Motion by M. Heflin, seconded N. Strickler, All in favor, Motion passed. Bills in sum of \$128,856.26 were approved. Motion by Robert Mead, seconded by Patrick Richardson, All in favor, Motion passed.

Officer Reports: Nothing added to Treasurer, Police Chief, Village Clerk or Public Works, except Dale Avery advised the street improvement on Phelps Street is ready to start May 5, 2015. Village Attorney Matt Cooper advised that initial Court date for lawsuit against Lions Club is May 18, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Village Manager Report: Clerk/Treasurer position has been posted on MLive, MML Website, Republican, Village website and facebook page. A. Elwaer requested that it also be posted in the Kalamazoo Gazette. VM advised some applications have been received with due date of May 8, but with new listing will move date to May 15. VM also advised a new feed mill may be going in at Excell Auto Body location.

Unfinished Business: Fireworks are all set for July 4th. Bernie Sherburn has offered his property on Territorial Road for the display. A. Elwaer questioned the requirement of insurance needed for that night and was advised it is for liability.

New Business: After discussion regarding the appointment of an Interim Clerk, Motion made by A. Elwaer and seconded by P. Richardson that Roberta Rex be appointed. All voted yes. Two surplus wood bids were received. It was moved by R. Mead and seconded by A. Elwaer that the firewood be sold to Thomas M. Stull for a sum of \$552.00. All voted yes. It was mentioned there would be wood chips left and VM will make up a waiver for anyone who wishes to clean up same.

Discussion was held in regard to the water pipes into the Decatur Human Services building. The pipes are ancient and go that direction through the corner building which is empty so they

freeze every year. Because the street is being improved this year it was decided to change the configuration of the pipes at this time. Normally the cost for a new service is \$500.00 but because of this situation the Village Council doesn't feel Decatur Human Services should be liable. R. Mead moved the fee be waived, seconded by M. Heflin. All voted yes.

In regard to the M-51 approach repairs it was advised that MDOT will not be doing any off highway repairs, but will fill in the manhole covers on M-51. Motion made by N. Strickler and seconded by T. Stull that the Village pick up the cost of \$12,862 to include repairs on either side of M-51 at Willimas and south on George Street. All voted yes.

In regard to Swim Lesson fees it was recommended we keep the price same as last year. Motion by M. Heflin and seconded by N. Strickler. All voted yes.

Rental Inspection fees/Ordinance No. 198. VM advised the present fee of \$15.00 does not cover the cost of same, and our fees are lower than many around the area. The Ordinance will raise the fee to \$20.00, \$16.00 of which is paid to the inspector. Motion by N. Strickler seconded by M. Heflin, all voted yes.

Village owned property: two empty lots, one on Prospect, one on Bronson, costs the Village to maintain and VM suggested we put them up for sale. It was noted that any profit from the Bronson Street sale would need to be given to the County. R. Mead moved we put these lots for sale. Seconded by P. Richardson. All voted yes.

Council Goal Setting meeting: VM suggested a facilitator be brought in to see that we are all on the same page as far as what direction the village should take, before we do the new masterplan. Cost is unknown but VM will check on same for one evening about four hours. A. Elwaer questioned why we need this when we set goals last fall that we need to follow through on, and possibly MML could provide this for less money than an outside firm. After more discussion it was tabled to June meeting.

Public Comments: Motion made by T. Stull, seconded R. Mead to have public comments at the end of meetings still limited to three minutes for each person. All voted yes.

Comments from Council: A. Elwaer said he would like to see a report on trips taken by employees, why they went, what the benefit to the village was, etc. Also those contractors who perform work for the village should carry insurance, and we need to see it before they are hired.

Public Comment: Jim Abshagen spoke about the rental inspections being made and said they should be more strict and be done every time a rental is vacated, not just once every few years. Council needs to look into this. Emma Jean Stambek thanked Council for cost relief to Decatur Human Services in regard to water pipe change. Also she felt it should be noted that any application for Clerk/Treasurer does not need to be Village resident now.

Motion to Adjourn made by R. Mean, seconded A. Elwaer. All voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta J. Rex  
Treasurer/Interim Clerk