

**Village of Eau Claire
Monday, January 16, 2017
Unapproved Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Regular Council meeting called to order 6:30 PM by Virginia Gonzalez, Village President
Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: V. Gonzalez, K. Karn, J. Rice, T. Baker, R. Stanczyk, L. Borkowski, M. Keesler, S. Foster.

Absent: None

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by K. Karn to approve the Agenda of January 16, 2017; with the exception of moving item E.1. Under Administration; prospective new Building/Zoning Inspector Rich McGrew to the top of the agenda & adding under Fire Dept. A. 4. Blight issue with old training cars out back, and omit Siren discussion A. 3. As a member of the Fire Dept was unable to attend this month's meeting & Omitt H.1. Streets, culvert on Linn & Hipps Hollow needs repair. Second by R. Stanczyk to approve the agenda with changes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion: by J. Rice to approve to the meeting minutes of the regular council meeting of 12/19/2016, second by T. Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Visitors: Rick & Megan Anstiss, Robin Reed of Merit Network, Rich McGrew, Building inspector, Spencer Hartman & Chief Charles Sherene.

Visitors Discussion: Rick & Megan Anstiss – would like to move forward with plans for a Michigan Medical Marihuana Test Facility site under the new MMFLA (Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act) & need to know where the Village stands on this matter, the new law doesn't take effect until January 2018, the licensing & legal requirements can all begin now in order to open in 2018. K. Karn to schedule a Planning Commission meeting with input from Chief Sherene on the matter.

Fire Department/Library Board Minutes: Library Board Minutes of January 10, 2017 are available in the Clerk's Office. Fire Department Incident Summary for December, 2016 are available in the Clerk's Office.

Building & Grounds: Robin Reed of Merit Network gave a short presentation about high speed internet and fiber connections in the Village. Merit Network was one of the first providers and helped to develop the World Wide Web. The fiber line would only have to be run from the corner on Linn & Main to the Village Hall. For the first time ever in its history they are offering fee installation of the fiber line with a signed contract. Depending on the band width the contract would cost the Village about \$2000.00 to \$3,000.00 for 20 megs in annual subscription fees and could cover about a 7 mile radius, but would save the Village over \$17,000.00 in installation costs. Merit only offers its products to non-profits, schools, local government, ect. Eventually in the future the Village would be able to build on this network and if it chooses to would be able sell/provide high speed internet to Village businesses and or residents at an affordable rate. Analog lines are going away and fiber is the future. The deadline is March 30, 2017 to sign a contract and get free fiber installation.

Police Department: - (0) Tickets and (8) Incidents were reported.

Finance/Treasurer's Report: January 16, 2017. Motion by K. Karn, second by T. Baker to accept the Treasurers report as presented, all ayes. None opposed.

All Funds	1,070,919.66				
Fund	Restricted	Unrestricted	Fund	Restricted	Unrestricted
General	140,000.00	834,389.66	Sanitation		(1,499.63)
Major Streets		111,794.70	Sewer	33,020.00	45,270.59
Local Streets		3,922.84	Water	63,510.00	263,658.07
Municipal Streets		110,759.94			

Payment of the Bills: Motion by J. Rice, seconded by K. Karn to approve the payment of the bills as submitted in the amount of \$14,167.56. All ayes, motion carried.

Finance: Purchase of the Dobberstein Pole Building, purchase agreement has been prepared by Village Attorney Frank DeFranseco, reviewed and signed. A check for \$1000.00 in earnest money has been sent to the Village Atty. Made out to First American Title Co. Closing to take place on or before February 28, 2017. AEP

electric has come out as an electric meter will need to be installed, waiting for cost of this; it will be the Villages expense as stated in Purchase Agreement.

Administration: Hiring of a Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator: Rich McGrew has much experience with Building, Inspecting, Mechanical & Plumbing, Assessing and Ordinance Enforcing, he has over 30 years of experience and is the current Deputy Inspector for Penn, Calvin, LaGrange, Porter Township, The Village of Cassopolis, Marcellus and Vandalia in Cass Co. he is willing to work on a as needed basis for the Village. The Village previously paid 80% of the fees from the Building Permits collected to the Building Inspector; Rich's usual fee is 90% of the permit applications fees. The current Building Permit Fee Schedule the Village is using is the State Rates from 2009. Rich currently uses the 2013 State Rates, which the Village will now officially use. Motion by K. Karn to hire Rich McGrew as the Village Building Inspector and Zoning Administrator and pay him 90% of application fees & using the 2013 State Rates for permits, second by J. Rice, all ayes, none opposed motion carried.

Employee Healthcare: BCBS was renewed with Dental Coverage and a rate increase. Currently Employees pay 20% of their healthcare costs, the amount of the employee percentage that is paid needs to reflect the employee portion for the new rates. New monthly insurance rate is \$1,766.16 Employer to pay 80% or \$652.12 per month, with employee portion of 20% or \$163.03 per month. Motion by K. Karn, second by T. Baker to use the new 20/80 rates. All ayes, none opposed, motion carried.

Copy Machine: Purchase of a new copy machine in the Village Hall is tabled indefinitely

Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2016: an error was found in the minutes under Administration; Purchase of the Dobberstein Pole Building stated the Village would purchase the building for \$54,000 and it includes splitting the closing costs of about \$2000.00. It should read: Village will purchase the Pole Building for \$53,000.00 and the Village will split the closing costs with L. Dobberstein.

Water, Sewer, Solid Waste: Rocky from SLC meter has contacted M. Keesler with the break in the weather they will try to have at least 3 meters installed so the Clerk can finish the interface and begin training in the next two weeks. The rest of the meters will begin installing in April 2017.

Parks: The small parcel of land that belonged to the old Blossom Land VFW being sold for back taxes. The Village will get first rights to it as it's a foreclosed property, (it was a portion of Deer Park, too small to build on). Steve at the E.C. Fruit Exchange would like to buy this property. The Village feels that it does not need the property; since the property is not needed it would be in the best interest of the Village to let the Fruit Exchange purchase the property as once the Village purchases property they are not allowed to sell it. The Village will know more as the sale date approaches.

Streets: No new business.

Equipment: Generator - The Village received a quote from Linear Electric Inc. in Benton Harbor a Generac dealer for a generator and installation that would be able to run the main rooms of the Village Hall and serve the Public as a shelter place in the event of emergencies. The quote including the generator, permits, natural gas hook up and new wiring came in at \$14, 872.31. This item tabled indefinitely.

Used Snowplow Truck: M. Keesler was authorized to spend up to \$7,500.00 to bid on a used snowplow from Berrien Co. Road Commission to replace the maroon truck & have a backup snowplow. The used truck ended up selling for \$20,000.00 plus a 12% buyer's premium. No truck was purchased.

All other Business Brought before the Council: During this council meeting the Building experienced a partial electrical outage. Several rooms did not have electricity and the furnace would not run. The next day it was found there was a dead leg on the electric pole directly behind the Village Hall, AEP dispatched a truck and the problem was resolved.

Motion to adjourn, K. Karn 8:00 pm.

Meeting minutes by Shawn Foster, Clerk