

MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2020

VILLAGE OF LYONS

212 Water Street, P.O. Box 175
Lyons, Michigan 48851
989.855.2125 FAX: 989.855.2813

The regular Village Council meeting was called to order by President Charles at 6:00 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America flag was recited.

The formulation of the roll was taken:

Roll Call:

Fred Charles P Max Darling P Kenton Eavey P Joe Farrington P
Jon Houserman P Cassandra Keller P Bernard Russell P

Additional Personnel:

Ann Schueller Ab Kelli Checkley P Lyndon Randall P Josh Dickover P
Alison Irey P Patty Priest P

A quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was offered by Trustee Darling, seconded by Trustee Keller to approve the agenda as written. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as made.**

President's Report: President Charles
Nothing new to report, other than items which will be covered later in the meeting.

Public Comments: A resident provided some comments for consideration.

Guest Speakers: Gordon Love/Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C.

With the Village wishing to consider a change of law firms to provide access to broader legal counsel expertise and representation, Mr. Love's firm had been asked to and provided a proposal for village attorney legal services. The firm has considerable experience in municipal and other public sector law, and some of the Council members had worked with the firm's attorneys in the past with very satisfactory results. Mr. Love noted that his firm currently represents Ionia County, as well as several other counties and municipalities in Michigan. Following the presentation, Trustee Eavey made a motion, seconded by Trustee Houserman, to approve the proposal and make Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. the Village of Lyons' new law firm for legal representation. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Approval of the Previous Month's (August 17, 2020) Regular Meeting Minutes: A motion was offered by Trustee Keller, seconded by Trustee Eavey to approve the August 17, 2020 regular meeting minutes. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as written.**

Approval of Current Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Trustee Houserman, seconded by Trustee Farrington to approve the Accounts Payable Distribution Report (8/15/20 - 9/11/20) totaling \$87,132.16. It was noted that over \$60,000 of the accounts payable represented engineering costs related to the SAW Grant project. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:

Trustee Houserman noted some format edits (i.e., headings) on the Revenue & Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet, as well as that work is still needed with the new office staff on recording

approved September Meeting Minutes

accounting transactions including revenue items, to catch everything up-to-date. A motion was made by Trustee Houserman, seconded by Trustee Darling, to approve and accept the Revenue & Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet for the period ending August 31, 2020. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

DPW Report: Superintendent Randall

Superintendent Randall stated that DPW had been busy with mowing, guard rail post replacements, a lift station pump issue, and other workload. Next week DPW will be working on stump grinding and new sidewalk preparation. DPW will begin flushing fire hydrants the week of October 5.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Streets, Water/Sewer & Fire Committee: Chairperson Darling

Chairperson Darling noted that activity involving the new State Water Assistance initiative seems to be going slow, but that Treasurer Checkley had been very helpful in completing and submitting required information to EightCap.

Finance Committee: Chairperson Houserman

Chairperson Houserman shared information on updated FY 2020 and FY 2021 road funding distribution estimates from MDOT, which reflect only minimal reductions from the previous estimate and still manageable within the Village's FY 20-21 budget. Trustee Houserman advised that Mike Engels/Michigan Rural Water Association will be assisting the Village in doing an updated water/sewer rates study at the end of October, and he will be working with DPW and Office staff in preparation for it. Trustee Houserman also noted that there had been a recent meeting with MML/Meadowbrook Insurance to update the Village's property and other insurance coverages.

Ordinance Committee: Chairperson Russell

Proposed changes were discussed in Village Ordinance 9-1-2020, Article II (Stopping, Standing and Parking), Section 18-25, which included revised penalties for noncompliance with street parking restrictions during wintry months from November through March. Trustee Eavey offered a motion to adopt the amended ordinance, seconded by Trustee Russell. **Motion was carried by ROLL CALL vote:** Bernie Russell – Yes; Kenton Eavey – Yes; Max Darling – Yes; Jon Houserman – Yes; Cassondra Keller – Yes; Joe Farrington – Yes; and, Fred Charles – Yes. There was also discussion that the Committee members have been involved in developing a list of junk/non-operating vehicles in the Village for ordinance violations, and that notification letters are expected to be sent out sometime after September 30.

Personnel Committee: Chairperson Farrington

Chairperson Farrington noted that the Village's employee Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance plan renewal had been received from Kirgis Agency. With just a 6.48% premium increase for the next year and based upon the affected employees' satisfaction with the plan, Trustee Houserman made a motion to approved the plan renewal, seconded by Trustee Farrington. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Grants, Parks & Recreation Committee: Chairperson Keller

Chairperson Keller stated that there was nothing new to report.

DDA: Chairperson Irey

Chairperson Irey stated that the DDA Board had met earlier this month. Electrical work has been completed for Christmas lighting downtown, with just Consumers hook-ups needed yet, which Trustee Darling anticipates will be done in October.

approved September Meeting Minutes

Events Committee: Chairperson Priest

Chairperson Priest requested Village Council authorization/assistance/approval to find and purchase a good used storage trailer that can be used to store and transport all of the Events Committee's materials, which are presently stored in several different locations due to the lack of a single sufficient storage location. The trailer would be locked and located by the Village DPW garage. It could then be readily moved to whatever location(s) needed for various Village events. A motion was made by Trustee Darling, seconded by Trustee Farrington, to authorize up to \$5,000 be budgeted under Parks and Recreation for acquisition of an Events Committee storage trailer.

Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.

Unfinished Business: Trustee Eavey stated that work will begin soon on the Village Office entryway security renovation project.

Correspondence:

Library Board 6/16/20 Meeting Minutes.

New Business:

President Charles and Trustee Eavey said that they had recently met with Charles Babcock/Lyons Township Supervisor, who was seeking additional township parking spaces near the Township Hall. Some possible locations are being considered.

Other Comments:

Trustee Farrington mentioned some tree limbs on Irish Street that appear to be dead and need removal – DPW to follow-up.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was offered by Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Keller to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. **Motion was carried by voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jon Houserman, on behalf of Ann Schueller, Village Clerk