

MEETING MINUTES

December 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 p.m.
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 Ab* Kenton Eavey P Joe Farrington P
Patty Priest P Bernard Russell P

*Note: Trustee Darling joined the meeting later at 6:30 p.m.

Additional Personnel:

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

A quorum was declared.

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

Public Hearing – Water and Sewer Rate Increases. **Opened.** President Charles asked former Council member/Finance Committee Chairperson Houserman to discuss proposed changes to Village water/sewer rates. Normally rate studies have been conducted with assistance from Mike Engels of the Michigan Rural Water Association (MRWA), with the last previous study done and rate changes made in May, 2019. An updated study had been scheduled for October 26, 2020 but, due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns, was canceled. A remote study/teleconference meeting was considered, but Mike Engels was uncomfortable with doing it that way and instead recommended that the Village just consider increasing the rates by roughly 2-3% for inflation if there had not been significant changes in the number of units (REUs) served or costs beyond normal inflation. That being the case, and given that it had been 18 months since the last rate study/rates change with the next tentative rate study meeting not scheduled until February, 2022, a 3% across the board increase was being recommended. After some questions and discussion, the **Public Hearing was Closed** by President Charles.

President’s Report: President Charles

At President Charles’ recommendation, a motion was made by Trustee Farrington, seconded by Trustee Priest, to approve appointment of Trustee Kenton Eavey as Village President Pro Tem.

Motion was carried by voice vote.

President Charles, noting that there had been no candidates running during the November 3rd election for one now vacant Trustee seat on the Village Council and noting that former Trustee Jon Houserman had indicated a willingness to again serve in that position, asked for his appointment to fill the vacancy. A motion was made by Trustee Eavey, seconded by Trustee Farrington, to appoint Jon Houserman to the vacant Trustee position. **Motion was carried by voice vote.** Trustee Houserman was subsequently sworn in by Ann Schueller, Village Clerk.

Public Comments: A resident provided some comments for consideration.

Guest Speakers: None.

APPROVED December Meeting Minutes

Approval of the Previous Month's Regular Meeting Minutes: Due COVID-19 restrictions and considerations, the November 16, 2020 regular meeting had been canceled. A motion was offered by Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Farrington to approve the October 19, 2020 regular meeting minutes. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as made.**

Approval of Current Accounts Payable: Noting that the accounts payable, because the November meeting had been canceled, included two months of activity and after providing comments regarding several items, a motion was made by Trustee Houserman, seconded by Trustee Priest to approve the Accounts Payable Distribution Report (10/13/20 - 12/13/20) totaling \$103,389.29. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:

Following comments and discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Houserman, seconded by Trustee Farrington, to approve and accept the Revenue & Expenditure Report and Balance Sheet for the period ending November 30, 2020. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

DPW Report: Superintendent Randall

Superintendent Randall stated that DPW had been busy with installation of the downtown Christmas lights and displays, tree trimming, backhoe repair issues, COVID-19/CARES grant documentation, and other DPW workload. He also mentioned that the Fire Department had recently been reviewed and received an ISO (insurance service organization) rating of 4, down from the previous 5 rating, and a significant improvement for a small department that should reduce insurance costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Streets, Water/Sewer & Fire Committee: Chairperson Darling

Chairperson Darling noted that the SAW grant project was continuing, with an end date extension from 12/31/20 to now 3/31/21. He also mentioned that a new EGLE grant application was being submitted, and he provided an update on the Water Arrearage grant program. Chairperson Darling noted that, while the Village does not currently have any known PFAS water contamination issues, the Village should be supportive of the Michigan Rural Water Association's pending class action suit against PFAS manufacturers. Motion by Trustee Darling, seconded by Trustee Farrington, to support MRWA's litigation efforts to the extent appropriate. **Motion carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Finance Committee: Chairperson Houserman

Chairperson Houserman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Darling, to approve Village Resolution No 2020-06, adopting a 3% increase in Village water/sewer rates for users within the Village. **Motion was carried by Roll Call vote:** Kenton Eavey – yes; Bernard Russell – yes; Patty Priest – yes; Jon Houserman – yes; Max Darling – yes; Joe Farrington – no; Fred Charles – yes. Chairperson Houserman, noting that the Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS) had recently requested an adoption agreement addendum update (effective January 1, 2021) for the Village's Defined Contribution Plan, made a motion for its approval which was seconded by Trustee Darling. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as written.**

Noting all of the Village Office staffing changes and transition issues over the past six months, Chairperson Houserman presented a \$2,300 proposed Letter of Engagement with Maner & Costerisan, Certified Public Accountants to perform a pre-audit/fiscal review of the Village's current FY 20-21 operations and staff training assistance, with a motion for its approval that was seconded by Trustee Eavey. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Chairperson Houserman also provided an update on the \$5,416 COVID-19/CARES grant documentation being worked on by Treasurer Checkley.

APPROVED December Meeting Minutes

Ordinance Committee: Chairperson Russell

Council members were advised that there is a court scheduling conference set for January 5, 2021 regarding pending ordinance issues involving the former Chrysler Trim Plant.

Personnel Committee: Chairperson Farrington

Chairperson Farrington noted their outstanding performance and made a motion, seconded by Trustee Eavey, to approve a \$200 December wage supplement for all five current full-time and part-time employees. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Chairperson Farrington also presented a proposed listing of 2021 regular Village Council meeting dates and Holiday Closings Schedule, with a motion for their approval that was seconded by Trustee Houserman. **Motion was carried by voice vote, as presented.**

Grants, Parks & Recreation Committee: Chairperson Vacant.

No report.

DDA: Chairperson Irey – Absent.

Noted that there had been a November DDA Board meeting. No additional report available.

Events Committee: Chairperson Priest

Chairperson Priest stated that, with the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and issues, most fundraising and planning activity for 2021 events are currently on hold and it may be another difficult year.

Chairperson Priest noted that an Events Committee used storage trailer was available, at a cost of \$3,800, and requested purchase approval. Motion by Trustee Houserman, seconded by Trustee, to approve \$3,800 for acquisition of the storage trailer. **Motion was carried by voice vote as presented, with Trustee Darling abstaining.**

Unfinished Business: None.

Correspondence:

A letter had been received from Granger Waste Services, noting that April 24, 2021 had been designated for the Village's Spring 2021 Community Clean Up – this date was acceptable and staff were authorized to follow up for the Granger reservation.

A letter had also been received from the Village of Clinton, asking for a \$2,000 commitment of financial support for participation in legal action on new lead and copper rules – no action taken.

New Business: None.

Other Comments:

Trustee Houserman expressed "Thanks" to the new Village Clerk and Village Treasurer, for all of their efforts and good progress that had been made during the past 4-5 months in learning their new jobs and with the Village Office transition.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was offered by Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Houserman to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. **Motion was carried by voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted by:
Ann Schueller, Village Clerk