

## **Vermontville Village Council**

08.09.12

Call to order: 7:02pm

Present – Garry Patrick, Mark Jorgensen, Jeanette Schultz, Ruth Wineman, Sue Villanueva, Jason Sheridan, Amy Jo Kinyon.

Also Present- Monte O'Dell, Kelly Williams, Shari Carney, Blair Miller, Jeff Seavolt, Joe and Virginia Harvey, Gary Goris, Rick Moore, Michael Hosey, Blair Miller.

Public Comment – Mike Hosey – County Commissioner, informed the council that the county commissioners passed a DCA which expanded home businesses in county from 1,000 to 2,000 square feet. Expanded trucking for personal use (semi's), after harvest farmers are allowed to use their semi's for other uses. Also, an artisan workshop (category) has been put in, now falls under agricultural and they can be treated as agricultural businesses. He is also running for commissioner this year, hasn't missed a meeting in six years.

Rick Moore – Thornapple Trail Association, showed award that was presented to Maple Valley Schools for implementing exercise signs along trail. When the students build bridges, literally and figuratively with Barry County they expand their learning.

Consent Agenda – **Motion by Sheridan/Patrick to approve consent agenda. All ayes, motion passed.**

### Committee Reports

*Water/Sewer* – Garry Patrick, meetings will be set up and are in the stages of preparing for what we need to do in the future concerning the lagoons . . . in the event that more people move in, we have to do something with the lagoons, something goes wrong with the lagoons or we have to make some repairs. We want to put together a game plan for the community. Also . . . we're getting things together for First Street project.

*Ordinance* – Jason Sheridan will get out soon to check on things.

*Health & Safety* – Sue Villanueva, meeting needs to be set up for September.

*Police* – Report in packet, 19 events during month.

*DPW Report* – Monte O'Dell,

- 1<sup>st</sup> Street Water Main Replacement – blueprints are completed, water/sewer committee needs to approve.
- Sewer S2 Grant – new account at Independent Bank, working with Bill Hadlock on a spreadsheet that will include accountability of funds.
- 355 E Main – A two-dwelling unit with a single water/sewer line has been resolved.
- Thanks to Dick Cobb who volunteered to paint fire hydrants, village supplied paint for project.
- Tax Roll – spoke with Bill Canarton, Eaton County Treasurer, in the future we are to notify him of properties that have special assessments by April 1.
- New format on water bill was put in place last month. We now have a current charge listed on each bill plus each line item. It is easier to add and understand, especially with a previous balance.

*Planning Commission* – Working on 5-year plan, will be discussing further this coming Tuesday.

*ZBA* – Jason Sheridan, Met with resident from South Main, variance granted, ZBA motioned to reimburse resident deposit minus expenses.

*Clerk* – Amy Jo Kinyon, Nominating petitions are due August 14. Four trustee positions, village president and treasurer are up for election.

*Treasurer* – Everything is up to date, balanced and audited through the end of July, the payroll balance number is not quite right. It is probably plus or minus \$1,000.

#### Unfinished Business

*SR2S Grant* – Ruth Wineman, A copy of the grant has been sent to the lawyer for an opinion and clarification. Reported that she was informed by a township resident of a long standing litigation, class action suit for people that own property that abuts to the former rail-bed. Apparently, the land that runs under rail may have fiber optic cable running under it and cannot be blacktopped. I don't have a clue if there's fiber optic cable.

Doug Kelsey – yes, it was put in by MCI. I don't know how that affects anything.

Rick Moore – that same cable goes under the trail in Hastings, talking with MCI they prefer a trail.

Blair Miller - L3 is the current contract holder on the cable.

Michael Hosey – Would suggest contact John Greenslit with Eaton County Parks.

Wineman - MDOT is waiting for us to determine whether we are going to be Act 51 or not. They couldn't answer all of our questions. Our attorney has not offered an opinion until he is able to see the full grant.

*CPA Update* – First quarter update, Kathy Sheldon – concerned that we are behind, each month we wait, the Village is getting one more month behind.

**Motion Jorgensen/Villanueva to have Kathy Sheldon to come in and reconcile the second quarter, up to \$1,500. All Ayes, motion passed.**

*CPA Letters* – Letter has been drafted to be sent to CPA firms – request for proposals annual financial audit and services.

**Motion Jorgensen/Patrick to send out RFP's due October 4, 2012 at 4pm. All ayes, motion passed.**

*Clerk Position* – Ad Hoc Committee minutes included, along with updated job description and posting that would be run in local newspapers to advertise position.

**Motion Jorgesen/Patrick to post for clerk position as stated in ad provided. All ayes, motion passed.**

*AWWA Conference* – **Motion Villanueva/Kinyon to send Monte to the conference. All ayes, motion passed.**

#### New Business

*Special permit for farm animals* – at 650 S Main for one Vietnamese Pot Bellied Pig.

Sheridan – Based on passed precedence and ordinance, application was denied.

Jeff Seavolt – Intent is to be an inside pet, willing to sign something that if a neighbor has a problem, he will be a pork chop. *No action taken.*

### Public Comment

Mark Jorgensen – Want everyone to understand that I am 100 percent for the trail, my biggest hurdle is, why is the village trying to take on care and responsibility when we don't own the property?

Tony Feighner – I'm 100 percent against the trail, that trail is nothing but an invitation to crime. I don't think it is in any way a safe trail. I don't see that as a safe route to school. I see that the Act 51 commits us, the village, to that trail . . . what about the future commitments. We have an extremely aging infrastructure . . . I don't see in any way committing village funds to this trail . . . I do not want to see village funds spent on the trail when it doesn't even come up to the village property.

Rick Moore – Thornapple Trail Association, it will be gated, it is excellent for your community, it is a slap in the face to the students to say it is a trail to nowhere, it goes to the school . . . these park systems build better communities . . . if you can do your due diligence and let us know how much you need to get this ball rolling, the trail association will step up and help as much as we can.

Blair Miller – As far as maintenance goes, maintenance is not covered by the village, you have an agreement with Eaton County Parks, taking that off the village. The county has an agreement with the Thornapple Trail Association to take care of the maintenance.

Gary Goris – For the first time in a long, long time, the village president and township supervisor have gotten together and are talking. I congratulate you for taking that step . . . there are going to be other projects that the township and village will need to work together on. Thank you Ruth for taking that step.

Ruth – We have an obligation to explore the legality of the grant since the grant has changed.

Garyr Patrick – I don't want to leave the impression that our infrastructure is dead and decaying. We have an excellent DPW Supervisor. We have replaced over half the water mains (Monte O'Dell). Each year we set aside money for sidewalks. We are moving in the right direction. I want to sing melody to Gary (Goris), his song that he was singing a few minutes ago . . . to be constructive is the most positive thing.

**Motion made by Sheridan/Schultz, to go back into regular business to take care of an item.**

**Motion made by Sheridan/Kinyon to reimburse resident remainder of payment made by resident who request ZBA appeal. All ayes, motion passed.**

**Motion made by Jorgensen/Patrick to adjourn. All ayes, motion passed. 8:41pm.**