

**Vermontville Village
Council Meeting Minutes
Village Office, February 13, 2014**

- I. Call to Order: 7:00 pm
- II. Roll Call – Present: Councilmen Sheridan, Jorgensen, Patrick; Councilwomen Villanueva, Hosey; President Wineman. Absent: Councilman Viele. Also in attendance: Residents Kevin Root, Ann Samann, JoeAnn Nehmer, and Kay Marsh, Paradigm Design’s Dave Hendershott and Bill Hadlock, Treasurer Kathy Joppie, and Clerk Marisa Derusha.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Public Comments – Resident Kevin Root would like the village to block off the alley from W. Main Street to First Street for motorcyclists during the Maple Syrup Festival. President Wineman referred the issue to the Buildings and Grounds committee.

Councilman Viele entered at 7:08 pm.

- V. Public Hearing on State Revolving Fund Project Plan for improvements to the Vermontville waste water collection and treatment system.
 - A. Paradigm Design’s Dave Hendershott gave a presentation on necessary improvements Vermontville wastewater collection and treatment system. The village applied for and received an S2 Grant to fund studies to the system that are necessary for applying for the State of Michigan State Revolving Fund Loan (SRF). The SRF loan is a low interest loan with rates between 2 and 2.5% over 20 years. The state requires input from residents as part of the application process.
 - B. The system was constructed in 1972 in response to the Clean Water Act of 1970. It is now over 40 years old and has remained largely unchanged. It has been well run and maintained. Many studies have been done that show that the system is a very cost effective and simple form of water treatment. In 1993, the EPA published a pamphlet about Vermontville and the benefit of the system.
 - C. In April 2010, the MDEQ called a meeting with the village to discuss operation of the waste water system and compliance with regulations. Due to MDEQ concerns, the Village contracted with Paradigm Design to prepare a study, evaluate current operation of the treatment facility and compliance with current permits. The village currently has a surface water discharge permit that allows discharge of treated wastewater to an unnamed tributary east of the lagoons.
 - D. Paradigm determined that the current system discharges to both surface water and groundwater. Because the Village does not have a groundwater discharge permit, they do not comply with State and Federal regulations. The village has 3 options to comply with regulations:

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- i. Convert to a surface water discharge and comply with current permit.
 - ii. Convert to a groundwater discharge and obtain a new permit.
 - iii. Apply for a groundwater permit and maintain dual permits.

- E. The Village applied for a S2 Grant to fund the study in December 2011. They were notified that they had received the grant in July 2012.

- F. The State requires 3 things in order to receive the SRF loan.
 - i. Project plan – study of the entire system which recommends options for meeting water quality requirements over a 20 year period.
 - ii. Plans and specifications
 - iii. A revenue system

- G. During preparation of the Project Plan it was determined that the collection system was experiencing excessive inflow. The village obtained a second S2 grant for the Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) as required by the Project Plan. The results of the SSES confirmed that the Village suffers from excessive clear water inflow. Clear water inflow is:
 - i. Inflow - water entering a sanitary sewer system by direction connection from a storm sewer, roof drains, basement sump pumps and manholes.
 - ii. Infiltration – the entrance of ground water into a sanitary sewer system through breaks, cracks or defective pipe joints.

Councilwoman Hosey left at 7:28 pm.

- H. Project Plan Requirements:
 - i. Project Background
 - ii. Need for project
 - iii. Analysis of alternative
 - iv. The selected alternatives
 - v. Evaluation of environmental impacts
 - vi. Mitigation of environmental impacts
 - vii. Public participation

Clear water connections create issues with hydraulic capacity of the sewer system (red lights at the lift stations)

- I. Waste water lagoons

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- i. Convert to surface water discharge – requires construction of outfall to creek and will need to add tertiary treatment system (filter). It requires electricity and storage tanks, flow meter and piping. Estimated cost of \$450,000.
 - ii. Groundwater discharge – would require additional property for seepage beds or for spray irrigation because existing seepage beds are not adequate. Estimated cost of \$750,000.
- J. Required system improvements – The flow meter going to the lagoons has reached the end of its useful service life. The unit can't be serviced because they no longer make parts for it. Lift station No. 1 has reached its useful service life. It has a pneumatic system which requires constant maintenance. Estimated cost of \$80,000 to replace meter and lift station.
- K. Clear water removal - The Village has 2 options:
 - i. Upgrade the collection and pump stations to be able to accommodate the inflow. Significant improvements with an estimated cost of \$2,200,000.
 - ii. Initiate a clear water removal program where the village or homeowners disconnect the clear water sources. Estimated cost of \$460,000. This work is not eligible for SRF funding because it will be done on private property.

Resident Ann Samann questioned whether homeowners disconnecting would buy time to do the other work. Dave Hendershott replied that the DEQ would like to see progress in bringing the permit into compliance. The village SRF application will sit on a waiting list for funding so waiting may happen naturally.

Councilman Patrick stated that the DEQ thought the lagoons were leaking sludge and they are not. Resident Ann Samann asked for the percentage of homes that are connected. They think around 50% of homes in the village have clear water connected to the sewer system. They are hopeful that residents will allow them to inspect. Rain gutters, footing drains, sump pumps are all ways that homes may be adding to the excessive inflow of clear water. With footing drains, there is no way to tell from the basement or from the street using a camera. They have to use smoke testing.

The DEQ fears that sewer lines were become so full that it will back up into homes. Resident Kay Marsh stated that there have not been many new homes in the village and asked why it is a problem now. Dave Hendershott replied that the problem has been going on for a while.

JoeAnn Nehmer asked why the process has taken so long since we received the grant in 2012. It takes time to do the studies to see if the lagoon is leaking. The normal timeline is 3 years. The village is not in a big hurry.

How does the village feel about storm water? According to Councilman Patrick, the DEQ's biggest issue is the clear water. An ordinance is on the books but it is not enforced. Most people have no idea if they are hooked up. The village office's sump pump was hooked up and it was fixed by switching to a dry well. Councilman Jorgensen

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stated that the red light turns on at the lift station on East Main Street whenever it rains.

Is it the council's consensus to enforce the ordinance? Councilman Patrick said yes. The council is discussing ways to help homeowners. One way the village could help homeowners would be to buy a truck load of pipes and sell to homeowners at cost. There is a loan available for homeowners but it comes with strings. All homeowners would have to use the same contractor.

JoeAnn Nehmer asked how much the village's portion of the study costs. 10% is about \$11,000. Grant is about \$100,000.

Moved into regular meeting at 8:33 pm.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER ITEM 5, CONSENT AGENDA, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE VILAGE COUNCIL AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION IN THE FORM LISTED BELOW. THERE WILL NOT BE SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS. IF DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

- A. Minutes - January 9, 2014, Personnel Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission
- B. Bills for Approval - January 9, 2014 to February 13, 2014
- C. Revenue and Expenditure Report for the Twelve Months Ended January 31, 2014

Motion by Councilman Jorgensen to accept the consent agenda as presented with change to January 9 Minutes to state "Minutes." Councilwoman Villanueva seconded. Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

VII. Treasurer Report

- A. Kathy Joppie stated that 3 out the 4 bank accounts slated for closure have been closed. One check in the amount of \$1.22 has been outstanding for 3 years in the sewer consumer deposits. It will be turned over to the Michigan Department of Treasury.
- B. Treasurer Joppie gave a summary of the Independent Bank service analysis fees that have been refunded. We have received all but \$31.18 out of \$718.43 total fees charged.

Motion by Councilman Jorgensen to evenly distribute the remaining \$31.18 as an expense to the accounts and not pursue the refund with the bank. Councilwoman Villanueva seconded. Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Jorgensen to accept treasurer's report as presented. Councilman Patrick seconded. Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

VIII. Reports from Council Committees

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- A. Insurance/Legal/Finance – no report given.
- B. Water/Sewer – no report given.
- C. Grants – no report given.
- D. Ordinance – Councilman Sheridan stated it is time for residents to start clearing the sidewalks. Councilwoman Villanueva has heard complaints of people parking on sidewalks. We will send a letter.
- E. Streets, Drains and Sidewalks – Councilman Patrick commended the village DPW employees for clearing snow from the sidewalks.
- F. Fire – no report given.
- G. Buildings & Grounds – Councilman Jorgensen will set up a meeting to discuss Kevin Root's request for motorcycle parking in the alley by the village garage. The ball field on 1st Street and Maple Street is used and motorcycle parking in years when the ground is not too wet.
- H. Technology – President Wineman reported that the deputy clerk's new computer is set up and installed by our IT tech Nathan Derusha. Councilman Jorgensen asked whether we still receive lease payments from the cable company. We will look for the contract and payment history.
- I. Health & Safety – Councilwoman Villanueva will schedule a meeting to discuss Kevin Root's request to block off the alley for motorcycle parking.
- J. Personnel - The personnel committee had a meeting on January 21 at 1 pm.
 - a. Councilman Patrick made a motion to accept the personnel committee's recommendation to increase Deputy Clerk/Water Billing Clerk's wages to \$11.00 per hour based on 1.5% COLA and a \$0.68 raise at 30 hours per week. Councilman Viele seconded. Vote taken. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - b. Personnel committee is reviewing the employee handbook sent to us by our risk control representative.
- IX. DPW Report – President Ruth Wineman stated that the village is out of sand. The county's sand supply is very low and they have more on order. We have had requests from village residents to sand the gravel roads. The village also has a low supply of salt.
- X. Report from Planning and Zoning Boards – no report given.
- XI. President Report

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- A. The clerk will be attending the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Institute March 9 – 14, in Mt. Pleasant. It takes 3 years to become a certified clerk. The institute fee and lodging are in the budget.
- B. Fireworks at the Maple Syrup Festival – Due to numerous issues the village has just received the fireworks application packet from the State of Michigan. President Wineman and Eugene Fisher met with Royce Demond to discuss the fireworks. The \$2 million liability insurance is in the works. It was March 25 last year when we received the policy.

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

XVI. Public Comment

- c. Resident JoeAnn Nehmer asked if the village would sponsor a spring cleanup. Councilman Jorgensen stated that the spring cleanup several years ago cost the village thousands of dollars. The Buildings and Grounds committee will discuss. She also asked if the village would provide free leaf pickup.
- d. Councilman Patrick asked whether it was against the rules to have two council members on the planning commission. President Wineman looked at the state guidelines and can't find anything. The planning commission is still one member short. They placed an ad in the newspaper in the past and received no responses. JoeAnn Nehmer stated that she sent an email to apply for the position.

XVII. Councilwoman Villanueva made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Sheridan. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marisa Derusha

Clerk