

**VERMONTVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
March 5, 2009**

1. Call to order at 7:00pm

2. Roll call- Sue Villanueva, Jeanette Schultz, Mark Jorgensen, Garry Patrick, Jason Sheridan , **Abe French** *he was left off minutes draft*) and Doug Kelsey. Also present were Kay Marsh, Shirley Harmon, Monte O'Dell, Mary and Vern Trowbridge, Roger Trowbridge, Richard Dunham and Sandra Hosey.

3. Pledge to flag

4. Public Comment

Roger Trowbridge- Community Center of Hope , was present to give information on a **Regional Learning Center**, which they are working on starting. The main focus would be 13 to 18 year olds. They currently have a Community Tutoring Program which has had 23 volunteers and 54 students per week. It has already shown great improvements in the grades of the kids.

Sandy Hosey gave information on the grant writing which she and a Mrs. Owens are doing for the RLC, thru the 21st Century Grant of Michigan (Department of Education). The group needs letters of support from the local governments and churches and groups to include into the grant. The grant could also include money for wages for the librarians to keep the library open longer hours for tutoring. They are also looking into the purchase of the Michigan Magnetics building, for conversion into the RLC.

Monte stated that the village sewer bonds are paid off and Vern Trowbridge was there to possibly do a story on, since he and Kay were among the original signers. But the newspaper was not able to make the meeting, so will do another time.

Special Event-15minute film on "Liquid Assets" (infrastructure) the council watch the film on the importance of our infrastructure and the aging of it and the need for updates being made.

5. Consent Agenda Items

ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER ITEM 5, CONSENT AGENDA, ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE BY THE VILLAGE 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 – Regular mtg. 2-5-09
- B. Treasurer's report for February
- C. Bills for approval- 2-6-09 thru 3-5-09

Patrick moved to approve the consent agenda items, seconded by French, all ayes.

6. Reports from Council Committees

Streets Drains & Sidewalks - the rail at the Legion ramp will have to meet more requirements that the committee thought and would like the Legion in on the process and possible costs. Sheridan will talk to the Legion and report back.

Also, on the storm water drain at 688 South Main was reported on. Monte looked into the cost and it could be approximately \$3,000.00 ~~without a contractor and \$5,000.00 with contractor~~ with a contractor. It is 161 feet of digging and possibly a 12inch pipe with a bigger basin needed.

Villanueva moved to proceed with the project, no support, motion withdrawn. Jorgensen thinks the council should go down to look at the ditch when it has rained with Monte or himself to answer questions. Patrick questioned if we try to fix and it doesn't work are we liable for making it possibly worse.

Ordinance Committee- will go around soon.

Fire Board-none

Building and Grounds-none

Water/Sewer-none

7. DPW Report

The Façade Grant is still a go all the participating owners are ready. We should be putting out for bids soon.

Monte reported that 117 tons of salt was used on the village streets for the year of 2008.

Monte would like to recommend that the council not go forward with the work of the Stimulus money because it has turned out that the money is not a grant but a loan of 70/30 match.

Sheridan moved to stop the work of Wilcox which was started last month (\$15,000 from general) but to

spend a little money to be ready for future monies, seconded by Patrick. French asked if we have projects prioritized (1, 2, 3) he was told no. Patrick moved to amend the motion by adding to refer back to Water/Sewer committee to prioritize the projects, seconded by French, all ayes. Vote on the original motion plus the amendment called, all ayes.

Engineering RFPs- form committee to go over the RFP-W/S chairman, S,D&S chairman, Treasurer and DPW Supervisor to meet Monday 3-9th at 7pm. Jorgensen questioned if changing engineers would affect our digital inventory of infrastructure records, told it shouldn't.

8. Report from Planning and Zoning Boards

None

9. Ordinance Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator

Building referrals -1

Ordinance violations

10. President-Clerk-Treasurer Report

Clerk reported to the council about the reassessment increase to the taxes for the vil lage (about 700,000 dollars).

11. Unfinished Business

Leaf and Brush Notice-Jorgensen moved to approve the policy, seconded by Schultz, all ayes.

Auditor choice at next meeting

Town Clock is on hold for right now because of the economy.

Tax Tribunal-Kelsey explained what is happening - Jeff Winans agreed to recommend to the Township Board to pay back half of the 2005 taxes of 171 S. Main property, but that the Township has not agreed to it. Villanueva moved that if the Township does not agree to pay back one half of the taxes then to continue to the Tax Tribunal and ask for a full refund, seconded by Jorgensen, all ayes.

12. New Business

Mail-was read and a request from the Maple Valley Wrestlers for the use of First street ballfield and bathroom was received.

Jorgensen moved to approve the request with reminder if any damages it is their responsibility, seconded by Villanueva, all ayes.

Jorgensen moved to approve sending letter of recommendation for the Regional Learning Center, seconded by French, all ayes.

Clerk presented sheet of bills dated for March 6th for approval, Jorgensen moved to approve, seconded by French discussion ensued on policy as to when bills are received and the payment of such bills. Vote-ayes-Villanueva, Jorgensen. one abstained – Sheridan. Nays- Schultz, Patrick and French. Kelsey voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill for the old negatives, found in the basement, to be scanned and pictures made was presented and whether to go ahead with more (about 17 pictures were d one already). Patrick moved for the village to look into purchasing the computer program to do it, seconded by French. After discussion motion withdrawn. Jorgensen moved to approve the bill of 52.50 but to get negatives back and see if Historical Society can get grant to do the pictures, seconded by Villanueva, 6 ayes and 1 nay.

Motion by Patrick to do away with the policy on bill payment, no second, motion died for lack of support.

13. Public Comment

Mary Trowbridge asked why the Tornado warnings w ere so late last summer (after they went by) and she was referred to the Fire Chief.

Villanueva asked about the Syrup Festival and was told Gene Fisher comes to the April meeting for that.

Patrick would like to revisit the policies at the next meeting. Clerk to gather and put in mailboxes.

14. Adjournment

Jorgensen moved to adjourn, seconded by Villaneuva, all ayes.

Adjourned at 9:12pm

Shirley Harmon
3/6/2009 11:48 AM