

**Village of Eau Claire  
Monday, February 20, 2022**

**Unapproved Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Regular Council meeting called to order 5:30 PM by President John Glassman.

**Members Present:** John Glassman, Virginia Gonzalez, Ken Karn Sr., Kathy Zeilke, Julie Pierce, Clerk Shawn Foster, Chief Charles Sherene.

**Absent:** Treasurer Lisa Borkowski, PWS Mike Kessler.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by Karn, to approve the agenda and move visitor Scott Hall from Fleis & Vandenbrink to the top of the agenda, second by Gonzalez to approve the agenda, all ayes and motion carried.

**Recognition of Visitors:** Ken Karn Jr. was just attending the meeting.

**Visitor Discussion:** Scott Hall was here to see if the Village wishes to proceed with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) project plan. This is a low interest loan for Lagoon stabilization. Since Eau Claire is a “overburdened” community we should score high on the application, also there is a chance that some of the principle of the loan will be forgiven in the future. The Village needs to do this to stay in compliance with the State of Michigan. The cost to bring the Lagoons up to compliance could be around 1.5 million with a 1.8% interest. The Project Plan will cost \$14,500.00. this is the next step to qualify for the loan, in doing the study there is no obligation to take the loan. Piping, concrete and berms need repairs as well as sludge removal. Some engineering costs could be reimbursed. Motion by Karn to accept the Lagoon Project Plan, and move \$15,000.00 from ARPA Funds to the Sewer Plant Maintenance Fund Second by Pierce. All ayes.

**Approval of the Board Minutes:** Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2023, Motion by Gonzalez, second by Zeilke to approve the meeting minutes, All Ayes, Motion carried.

**Board Minutes:** Fireboard Minutes of January 2023 available in the Clerk’s office, incident summary not available.

**Library Board Minutes:** Meeting minutes of February 13, 2023 available in the Clerk’s office.

**Building:** The front entry door is in need of a new threshold/weather stripping plate, PWS to fix it. Cleaning staff would like to be a regular W-2 employee, the council said they will remain a 1099.

**Finance/Treasurer’s Report: Departmental Balance Report 12/01/2022 – 12/31/2022**

All Funds	1,292,249.13				
Fund		Unrestricted	Fund	Restricted	Unrestricted
General	574,307.08	574,307.08	Sanitation		2,659.45
Major Streets		364,029.24	Sewer	82,320.00	48,792.55
Local Streets		25,467.19	Water	173,160.00	43,515.44
Municipal Streets		233,755.19	ARPA	62,698.79	

The Departmental Balance Report for January 2023 was not available.

**Administration:** An in-person meeting was held at EGLE (Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy) in Kalamazoo on February 16, 2023 regarding all the Wastewater Violations. EGLE will work with the Village to bring us back into compliance, they will issue an Administrative Consent Order. The village will have to follow this and possibly pay a civil fine. The village should receive the order by the end of March 2023 this all ties in with the Lagoon Stabilization Project Plans.

**Payment of the Bills:** Motion by Gonzalez, Second by Zeilke to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$24,463.51 All ayes; motion carried. The preauthorized bills amounted to \$3,064.84. All Ayes, Motion carried.

**Employee Wage Report:** Total Gross Wages from January 1 – 31, 2023 were \$23,262.03 with a total 974.33 hours worked for all regular Village employees.

**Utilities Report:** Current amount due for Water/Sewer/Sanitation from 01/11/23 – 02/10/23 is \$23,022.29.

**Police Department:** Report 01/16/2023 – 02/20/2023. 2 tickets and 2 Incidents. Officer Hernandez needs a new vest and the new squad car needs new tires also a new AED is needed, a new battery for the taser is also needed. Clerk to contact Par Plan to see about getting a grant for any of these items and making sure they are in the new budget if grants not available. The Par Plan requires a Resolution to be passed, R2023-1 Motion by Zeilke, second by Gonzalez, roll call vote:

5 Yeas, 0 Nays and none absent.

**Village Hall Office hours:** tabled

**Clerk Pay Raise:** tabled

**Farm Lease:** Motion by Zeilke, Second by Karn to roll over the 5-year lease to the existing lessor, all ayes, motion carried.

**Hazard Mitigation Resolution** for Berrien County Emergency Management, Motion by Gonzalez, Second by Pierce. Roll Call Vote

5 Yeas, 0 nays and 0 absent R2023-2.

**BCBIT update:** There is not enough money from the County to do all of Berrien Co. looking for alternatives.

**Parks.** Several Trees need to be taken down and some need to be trimmed. The creek banks need to be weed whipped this summer and kept mowed.

**Water/sewer/solid waste:** The Village has received more violation letters dating back years. After the in-person meeting EGLE stated that the statute of limitations can only go back 7 years. This will be part of the Administrative Consent Order, so the Village can be in compliance with the state. There are still several residential meters that need to be programed and a couple of Commercial Meters need to be replaced.

**Planning Commission:** Needs two members.

**Streets: Act 51 monies:** received from the state for streets, every 10 years the Village must spend \$10,000 on none motorized street improvements, such as replacing sidewalks, bike paths, signs, the council is working on a list, and will ask the Planning Commission to work on this, work must be completed by 2024.

**ROW permits:** ROW permits tabled, Planning Commission to review them.

**Equipment:** No new business.

**Sanitation:** Effective April 1, 2023 the Village contracted rates will increase by 3%. Sanitation rates to remain the same.

**Budget Public Hearing:** A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM To pass the 2023 -2024 operating budget.

Motion to adjourn: 7:50 PM.

Unapproved Meeting minutes by: Shawn Foster, Clerk