

Village of Eau Claire
Monday, November 15, 2021
Unapproved Regular Council Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Jeff Rice, Brittany Tanke, Lisa Borkowski Treasurer, PW Supervisor Mike Keesler, Chief of Police Charles Sherene.

Absent: Tom Baker, Clerk Shawn Foster

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Gonzalez. Second by Tanke, All Ayes Motion carried.

Recognition of Visitors: Michael Overly of MERS (Michigan Employee Retirement System.)

Visitor Discussion: Overly gave a presentation of the Village Retirement Plan, currently only one employee is active and there are several past employees receiving retirement benefits.

Approval of the Board Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2021, Motion by Rice, Second by Tanke, All Ayes, Motion carried.

Board Minutes: Fireboard Minutes for October 20, 2021 & Incident Summary of September 2021 available in the Clerk's office.

Library Board Minutes: Meeting minutes of November 8, 2021 available in the Clerk's office.

Building: no new business

Finance/Treasurer's Report: Departmental Balance Report 10/01/2021 – 10/31/2021

All Funds	1,257,397.82				
Fund	Restricted	Unrestricted	Fund	Restricted	Unrestricted
General		309,233.86	Sanitation		966.41
Major Streets		310,365.33	Sewer	74,460.00	45,392.58
Local Streets		21,972.18	Water	158,873	26,137.86
Municipal Streets		213,554.48			

Motion to accept the Departmental Balance Report for October 2021 by Rice, second by Tanke, all ayes, motion carried.

Payment of the Bills: Motion by Rice, second by Gonzalez to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$10,949.36 All ayes; motion carried.

Employee Wage Report: Total Gross Wages from October 1 – 31, 2021 were \$14,052.22 with a total of 710.05 hours worked for all regular Village Employees and Council Members.

Utilities Report: is still not 100% accurate.

Budget Meeting: To be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 5 pm.

Police Department: 7 tickets and 13 incidents from 10/18 through 11/15 2021

Administrative: MERS: on the advice of the Village Auditor the Village should close the MERS account, it will eventually make the percentages go down and reduce some fees. The Village wishes to close this Plan and still make the payments until the debt is paid off. This will not affect current or past employees; they will still receive their retirement benefits. Future full-time employees will have to have a 401 plan of some kind. Motion by Gonzalez, Second by Tanke to close the account, all ayes and motion carried. Clerk to make arrangements to close the account.

Annexation: The Village President attended the Pipestone Township meeting regarding the annexation of the AEP Substation into the Village, the Township does not have a problem with it. The Village will now proceed with the annexation and the Public Hearing by the Berrien Co. Board of Commissioners.

Christmas & New Years Holidays: Since Christmas and New Years both fall on a Saturday this year, these holidays will be observed on the following Monday.

ROW Permits: Right of Way Permits for utility companies working in the Village. The Village currently does not have ROW permits, if a utility company or cable company does work in the Village, they should have to pull a permit for their work. The village will charge for them and then there will be a written record of where everything is underground, when a ROW permit is taken out by a company, they have to provide liability insurance, if anything is damaged, they will be responsible.

Berrien County Emergency Management Services: The Clerk had a zoom meeting with our local Emergency Coordinator for the County and FEMA, the Village must submit a Hazard Mitigation Projects Plan.

ARPA Monies: American Rescue Plan Act. The first check in the amount of \$31,243.50 has been received and put into a separate account at the bank. This money can only be used on infrastructure, like sewers. The Village has to the end of 2024 to obligate the money and then it must be spent by 2026. The total award amount is \$62,487.00.

Village Christmas Decorations: The lighted hanging decorations on the poles in town are very old and in poor condition; The Village Secretary and Clerk will look into how much new one's cost and the possibility of getting LED ones to save on electricity.

Parks/Community Development: The cement pads were finished for the Veterans benches; the benches will be put out in the spring.

Elizabeth Park Pavilion: It was recently discovered that there is a large hole in the roof of the Pavilion, a branch went through it during one of our wind storms. Clerk to contact Village Insurance Co. to see what the deductible would be to replace the roof.

Water/sewer/solid waste: All the meters that needed to be reprogramed are done except one.

Groundwater Monitoring: Going forward the Village must test these wells located by the lagoons to make sure there is no seepage occurring. Fortunately, all the Groundwater wells exist they were installed in 2005. PWS will contact our lab, this will be an additional cost.

Streets: No new business

Planning Commission: No new business, but one more member is needed.

Equipment: No new business

Sanitation: No new business

Motion to adjourn: 7:18 PM by Rice, Second by Gonzalez.

Unapproved Meeting minutes by: Shawn Foster, Clerk