

## **January 11, 2023 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Palmer at 7:00 p.m. Upon a roll call members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, and Webb were present. Clerk Smith was also present.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – Palmer added an extension of New Office Committee end date under Old Business. Bacon added quote for sound equipment under New Business. Dye added Beckett and Raeder proposal under Old Business.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Walton, support by Dye to approve the agenda as amended. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – An email from Lawrence Epple regarding Short-Term Rental controls was read aloud.

**PRESENTATIONS** –

**NEW VILLAGE ATTORNEY MIKA MEYERS** – Ross Leisman and Tim Figura were introduced by Palmer. The history of the practice was reviewed and their current practice including municipal clients was described. Questions were asked regarding the policy for copies of all communications and about the firm's bond counsel. The municipality's policy on copies will be utilized and the firm has several bond attorneys available.

**TEXTMYGOV – ZOOM PRESENTATION** – Luc Delavoye guided council members using the application via their phones via Zoom. Several questions were answered, and possible uses by the Village were reviewed.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** – None

**COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Minutes from the Water Committee, Wastewater Task Force, and Personnel Committee were reviewed. **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to authorize the Personnel Committee to offer the DPW Technician position to an applicant at \$21.36/per hour with the current benefits package. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.** Minutes of the Short-Term Rental Committee, Disaster Preparedness Committee, and Community Asset Task Force minutes were reviewed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVE 12-14-23 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – **Motion by Dye, support by Webb to approve the minutes. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW OFFICE COMMITTEE** – **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to extend this Committee end date until July 31, 2024. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**BECKETT & RAEDER SERVICE CONTRACT – Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to approve the Service Contract not to exceed \$5900. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION OF TEXTMYGOV SOFTWARE FOR 2024 –** Bacon offered some statistics from Pew Research regarding texting use by age group. Discussion included the costs to update the website vs the purchase of software of this variety. Bacon will get the answers to some questions and report back to the council at the regular meeting.

**SOUTH BAR LAKE DRAINAGE DISTRICT ASSESSMENT –** The assessment total was reviewed and payment over a 10-year annual assessment with interest or payment in full without interest was discussed

**CLARIFICATION ON SNOWPLOWING –** Discussion included the billings to date and comments from the public both pro and con. **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the Snowplowing Proposal from Harriger dated Nov. 6, 2024, of \$1800/plow plus \$375 for the New Neighborhood, plus additional charges as needed. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**SIDEWALK CLEARING –** Information included in the packet was reviewed.

**VILLAGE EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE –** Questions remain regarding insurance coverage and costs. The Personnel Committee will return with a recommendation.

**Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to extend the meeting until 9:30 p.m. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**SELECTION OF LAMBKIN LANE AND FLORENCE STREET BIDS – Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to accept the Molon bid. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**SOUND INVOICE – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the \$180 invoice to Sound Environment for a used amplifier.** There was discussion of how to protect the equipment owned by the Village. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** None.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT –** Walton noted the Record Eagle article on the Shalda Park improvements and thanked all involved.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 9:12 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

*These minutes were approved at the January 23, 2023, Regular Council meeting.*