

## **JUNE 8, 2023 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING**

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, Council members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb and Clerk Smith were present.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – Palmer added Appointment of Disaster Preparedness Task Force under New Business.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS** – Mary Sharry commented on the cost of streetlight pole removal.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** – Bacon noted the minutes for the RAP Grant Committee and asked what to do with information received on a new backhoe loader from Friend. It was noted that it was not included in the current budget and Friend should be present for questions from Council at a future work session.

**COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Dye reported on construction progress at Shalda Park and that newly planted trees are now being watered. Rademacher reviewed the minutes of the Wastewater Update Task Force. Bacon reported that the Planning Commission has appointed a special committee to look at the Sign Ordinance, they will be looking at the Recreation Plan, and Acton is following up on the MEDC requirements. Palmer would like to add update to the Master Plan to the next work session.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVE MINUTES OF 5-23-23** – Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the corrected minutes to include the noted changes to original minutes. Upon a voice vote, **MOTION PASSED.**

**WATER QUALITY EDUCATION FLYER** – Costs for a flyer and letter in envelope were submitted. The effectiveness of each type of mailer were discussed. There was consensus to place this on the next Regular Meeting Consent Agenda.

**WELL HOUSE VFDs** – Rademacher reviewed the 3 quotes submitted and the differences in the components described were discussed. It was noted that this was not an EGLE requirement and proof of any resulting cost savings have not been received. Warranties, brand, and sizing of components were discussed. There was consensus to place the issue on the Regular meeting agenda when Friend could answer questions.

**CONSUMERS ENERGY STREETLIGHT REMOVAL** – Bacon reviewed the quotes for pole removal vs light fixture removal. Chase asked if there was a policy for this in the future. There was discussion of the 40% energy charge if the light is shut off for 6 months. The Sheriff, the Fire Dept. and the DPW are contacted and each issues a report on whether public safety is impacted by street light removal. There was discussion of placing shields, dimming lights, or

using a different type of bulb. Applications including type of request (shielding, brightness, removal) and input from neighbors should be included in a process. Information will be available for the Regular meeting agenda.

**RULES PROCEDURE** – Palmer noted the color-coded document that she had provided at the last meeting, but it was not included in the packet. Discussion began at 3.1 Recording Responsibilities and clarification between section 3.2 Minutes was noted. Palmer noted that 3.2 will be discussed at the Regular meeting. Bacon requested that the color-coded document be included in the next packet.

**RAP 2.0 SUBGRANT COMMITTEE UPDATE** – Webb noted that the committee thoroughly reviewed the request and subgrant opportunity over 4 meetings. Their discussions included MEDC representatives and grants they might qualify for. The committee concluded that at this time the Village should pass on this opportunity based on the short time frame available for acquisition of a property appraisal, planning for possible uses, and the requirement for a signed purchase agreement. His entire report is included in the meeting packet file in the office as notes from Council. There was a discussion of appointing a committee or task force at the Regular meeting to continue to look at the issue.

**PURCHASING POLICY** – Dye reviewed the documentation she had provided. Discussion included stating rationale and reasons for not accepting the lowest bid and the amounts set that require Supervisor or Council approval and quotes. There was consensus this be placed on the Regular meeting agenda.

**SHORT TERM RENTALS** – Dye reviewed the documentation provided and recommended a committee be formed to update the 2020 report. It was noted that the “knowns” in that report have not changed, and the Village of Empire is unlike other villages in the county and the problems they have encountered. Dye will research how many short-term rentals there are in the Village today. Results will be discussed at the Regular meeting.

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

**APPOINTMENT OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SUBCOMMITTEE** – Palmer appointed Dye, Rademacher and Walton. **Motion by Bacon, support by Webb to approve the appointments. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion by Bacon, supported by Webb to address the Mass Gathering Ordinance Implementation as the next item. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**MASS GATHERING ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES** – Bacon reviewed the documentation she had provided and her 3 recommendations. It was noted that the Asparagus Festival was a big success and because it was so popular there were parking issues. These should be addressed as there are public safety concerns. There was discussion of allowing a waiver of fees. There was consensus that a legal opinion is needed for review of the current ordinance and inclusion of ordinance language that would allow for a fee waiver.

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PLAN TRUSTEE** – Palmer reviewed the resolution. Village President and President Pro-tempore are typically designated as signatories. This will be added to the Regular meeting agenda.

**CONSUMERS ENERGY FRANCHISE RENEWAL** – Bacon reviewed the documentation provided. There was consensus this be placed on the Regular meeting agenda to rescind the current Ordinance #66 and replace with the proposed franchise agreement.

**ASSET MAP TASK FORCE** – There was discussion of adding a notice and application for this Task Force to the website. The office will make this happen.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Paul Skinner commented on the changes to the local economy and aging population over the last 20 years, the need for long-term rentals and the parking situation at the Asparagus Festival.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT** – Webb felt this was a good meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 9:32 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

*These minutes were approved at the June 27, 2023, Regular Council meeting.*