

## **September 14, 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 7:02 p.m. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb, and Clerk Smith were present. Trustee Chase was absent and excused.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – Walton added Ad for new DPW Technician under New Business. Dye added Resolution No.9 of 2023 MEDC under Old Business. Rademacher combined attorney RFP and Proposal for Attorney Services under Old Business.

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS** – EGLE communication on free water testing was noted.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** – Palmer noted that DPW Technician Ryan Buchler has given notice that his last day with the Village will be 9-28-23.

**COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Minutes from the Short-Term Rental Committee, Disaster Preparedness Committee and the Wastewater Task Force were received. Bacon reported that the Planning Commission is wrapping up the sign ordinance and beginning to work on the Recreation Plan and the Master Plan. Emergency Coordinator Ansoorge has been notified by Dye that Paul Skinner has been replaced as the contact for the Hill Climb event.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVE 8-22-23, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** – **Motion by Rademacher, support by Bacon to approve the minutes. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED with Bacon and Palmer voting Nay.**

**APPROVE AUGUST 31, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES** – **Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED. Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the Closed Session of 8-31-23. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**RULES FOR SIGN AT SHALDA PARK** – There was consensus that a final estimate will be provided by Dye and added to the Regular meeting consent agenda.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR VILLAGE ATTORNEY SERVICES & LEGAL FILES AND CHOICE OF COUNSEL** – There was consensus that an RFP for Village Attorney be added to the Regular meeting agenda. Palmer noted that she had already signed and returned the request from Mika-Meyers regarding documents and current issues. **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to select the OMA and content of Closed Session items to Mika-Meyers. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

**SHORT TERM RENTAL COMMITTEE EXTENSION** – **Motion by Dye, support by Walton to extend the ending date of this Committee until November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

SHALDA PARK FENCE – There was discussion of possibilities to address the safety issues present on adjacent private property. There was consensus that costs for both signs and a fence will be obtained by the DPW for addition to the Regular meeting agenda. Palmer reported that the property owner had requested a letter from the Village that would indemnify them from any trespassers. She will let them know that the Village will not be writing that letter

UPDATE PURCHASING POLICY FOR REBATES – There was consensus to add to the Regular meeting agenda.

RULES OF PROCEDURE 5-6.1.3 – Changes and additions suggested by Palmer and Bacon and included the documentation were reviewed. There was consensus on the changes presented.

CONSUMERS ENERGY RESOLUTION NO.8 OF 2023 – **Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve Resolution No.8 of 2023 and the related invoice. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

RESOLUTION NO.9 OF 2023 MEDC - MEDC has requested an updated Council Resolution with the new Council. **Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to approve Resolution No. 9 of 2023 MEDC. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM – **Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to approve signing the Leelanau County Recycling Agreement. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

CONNECTOR TRAIL FROM SHALDA PARK TO LEELANAU CONSERVANCY – The documentation was reviewed regarding volunteer workday on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m. **Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the joining of the two areas by a foot trail and sponsor the signup for Village volunteers to work on the trail. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.** Dye volunteered to be the Volunteer Coordinator for the Village on this project.

END OF BEACH SIGNS – **Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to prohibit private property signs being attached to Village signs. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.** Palmer will notify the property owners that have made this request.

TRUNK OR TREAT STREET CLOSURES – Dye noted that in the future the President of EACC will make this request, rather than a Council member. **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the closing of Front St. between Union & LaRue from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on 10-31-23 and waive the Temporary Outdoor Use Permit Fee. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.** There was a consensus that the waiver of fees be added to a future Work Session.

AD for DPW Technician – **Motion by Walton, support by Webb to place an ad for the DPW Technician with MML, Leelanau Enterprise, Benzie Patriot, Record Eagle and on the Village website. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Steve Stepanek asked about the property owner and sign adjacent to Shalda Park. It was noted that the property is in the Township. Rodney Barnes commented on the language for the trail sign at Shalda Park.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT** – Rademacher commented on a grant application. Bacon commented on the measurement of Local and Major Roads. Dye commented on the sign at Shalda Park.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 8:50 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

*These minutes were approved at the September 26, 2023, Regular Council meeting.*