

September 26, 2023 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Regular 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, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Chase was absent and excused. Treasurer Acton and Clerk Smith were present.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

PRESENTATION – Richard Neihardt of Gabridge & Co. reviewed the 2022-23 FY Audit and pointed out highlights and ways to apply the information throughout. He answered several questions and stated that this audit resulted in the highest level of opinion available as a statement regarding financials.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PRESENTATION – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the Consent Agenda including minutes of the 9/14/2023 Work Session and bills totaling \$49,322.40. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Financial reports were received and indicated that the Treasurer's Cash Balance by Fund report matches the Clerk's General Ledger Cash Summary by Fund.

COMMUNICATIONS – Palmer read an update regarding the South Bar Lake Drainage District and a letter from Glen Lake Library requesting funding contribution for maintenance of a public bathroom. Both will be included on the website as a handout. There was consensus to move the library's request to the next meeting. Bacon read the email from RRC accepting the Village's application. **Motion by Dye, support by Walton to have the President sign the Memo of Understanding from the RRC. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Written reports from DPW Superintendent Friend and Zoning Administrator Hall were received and read aloud. Friend reported on the ongoing Water inspections. Palmer reported on the recent Chamber of Commerce Hill Climb event and the notification that the Village will not be considered for the Rural Readiness grant.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dye reported that the interpretive sign for Shalda Park should be completed within a week. Several future committee meetings were announced.

OLD BUSINESS

RULES FOR SHALDA PARK – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve ordering the sign not to exceed \$150 with a brown background. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR VILLAGE ATTORNEY – Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to approve the RFP with a due date of November 1, 2023, at 5 p.m. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

PURCHASING POLICY – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to add No.6 regarding rebates to the Purchasing Policy. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

SHALDA PARK FENCE – Motion by Rademacher, support by Bacon to do nothing as the fence is on private property and not located within Village limits. Discussion included common sense, personal safety responsibility, private v public property notification, cost, aesthetics, and functionality of different types of fences. **Upon a voice vote, MOTION DEFEATED with only Rademacher in favor. Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to move this item to the work session for further discussion. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED with Walton opposed.**

APPOINT THE ASSET MAP- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CITIZEN’S TASK FORCE – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the Citizens Task force with up to 15 members to Define community boundaries; Determine what type of assets to include List the assets of groups, organizations; List the assets of individuals; List natural resource assets; Organize assets on a map. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED. Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the following members to the Task Force: Bob Chase, Linda Lewis, Steve Lewis, Trish Baker, Rod Barnes, Carla Weinheimer. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

SHALDA PARK RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to set a date of October 28, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. for a Shalda Park ribbon cutting ceremony. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Diane Oberschulte commented that a new doctor will be joining the Munson Clinic. A meet and greet has been arranged at the Heritage Days event at the Historical Museum on October 14th.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Walton noted the postcard she received from the Sleeping Bear Marathon was informative.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:22 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the October 12, 2023, Council meeting.