 Regular Council Meeting – Monday, January 3, 2022

Council Present: Jason Blemaster, Cathy Feighner, Jerilou Gallagher, Jim, Mayer, Bob Sali & Rick Wilson

Also, Present: Janell Dunham, Julie Henry & John Ney

Motioned by Jim Mayer, seconded by Rick Wilson, to accept the December 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Motioned by Jason Blemaster, seconded by Jerilou Gallagher to accept the December 8, 2021, SPECIAL Meeting Minutes as proposed. Motion carried.

Motioned by Jason Blemaster, seconded by Rick WIlson to accept the agenda with ADDING E: Record Retention & F: Tennis Courts - Park. Motion carried.

Motioned by Jason Blemaster, seconded by Jim Mayer to accept the Transaction Report. Motion carried.

Motioned by Rick Wilson, seconded by Cathy Feighner, to pay the current bills. Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Helmets & shields are in and been disbursed.

The Department has 6 - brand new 800 radios and 4 – older 800 radios. John shared that the template has been submitted to the State of Michigan but have not received acceptance yet.

John reported that Dave Nelson is helping him close out a Gratiot Community Foundation Grant.

On January 11, 2022, John stated that GESA will be having their monthly meeting and he will be attending that meeting, Janell will also be in attendance.

John reported that reports are done up to Mid-November.

**DPW:**

John stated that 2 projects need to be priority attention. Meter Reading & Painting the water tower.

John indicated that when reading meter reads on December 16, 2021, that they read most, put handhelds on the charger and when he went to get handhelds to finish up the reads the next day, that they would not connect to each other. He called tech support at Badger and was told that there is nothing that they can help with as the program we have is outdated and has no support available, nor could he find any information to even try to help with the connective issue. John had to had read and enter 34 reads. It wasn’t bad this month but as the months get colder it is not feasible to be handwriting the read from one handheld, to a piece of paper and then entered into the other handheld for many reasons due to possible error and hours spent doing the work by hand. Quarterly billing was brought up and was visited to bill all residents their monthly utitility cost for January & February and the March billing will catch up if a resident proceeds the billed 4,000 gallons of water used. Jerilou Gallagher made a motion to start reading quarterly and that the bills will be adjusted at the end of the 1st quarter, seconded by Rick Wilson. Motion carried.

Julie will send out post cards informing the residents of this new protocol. The next actual meter read will be on March 15, 2022.

John will contact Dixon and let them know that the village had chosen to have just an overcoat done at this time and not a strip & full paint. He is hoping that this will get another 10 years before a full paint but at that time it definitely will need to be stripped and redone.

John let the council know that Spicers has been in contact with him pertaining to 311 W. Fulton Street & the vacant lots the village owns on Robinson Street between Gazette & the church. John also reported that he spoke with Bryon Burgtrof concerning the title work that we had concerning the easements we have and that Spicers is also helping with this information. When all is documented, the information will be sent to the attorney and have the attorney be in contact with Bryon Burgtrof’s lawyer.

Freed Tree Service gave a bid of $2,725 on removal of 4 trees in town. Jim Mayer asked if he had gotten ahold of Carmen’s Tree Service and John had not, but he will reach out and see if they will provide a bid.

Mack Dump Truck has been paid in full, just waiting on the shipping company to pick it up.

John spoke about purchasing a new lawn mower, Jim Mayer asked if he had ever gotten a quote from Martins and he had forgot to, but he will and have that to discuss at the February 7, 2022, meeting.

**COMPTROLLER:**

Julie had a couple prices for a fireproof safe for important documents, but it was discussed that a fireproof gun safe would be a better option. Julie & John will look at TSC into a Liberty Gun Safe and provide that information at the next meeting.

Julie reported that she has been having issues with the printer when trying to fax, scan and thought the cartridges were running out faster than normal. She had spoke with Janell to get her thoughts on getting a price for a color copier that would be compatible to be able to copy in black and white, scan, email, fax and color copies, Janell agreed. Julie had and shared a quote on a new copier from Xerox stating that one machine that they thought would do all they wanted was a 405CN Xerox and the cost is $1,310.00. Julie mentioned that she had replaced the cartridges in the printer 5 times in 2021 and the total for those were $558.34. With Xerox we would still continue the governmental contract through them. Jim Mayer made a motion for Julie to go ahead with purchase on a new copier, seconded by Jerilou Gallagher. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Janell shared the results with the Christmas Holiday Light Contest. Mindy Thomas and Denise & Dan Rossman were the judges. A question came up as to a time of when the judging would be done and it was just asked of our judges to do on their own time on Sunday, December 19, this will be further visited next year.

1st place went to 521 W Allor

2nd place went to 507 S Robinson

3rd place went to 207 W Fulton

GESA – Janell received an email from Dave Nelson and would like to meet with Denise Rossman, Fulton Township Supervisor, John Ney & herself before their next business meeting on January 11, 2022.

Janell spoke with the county about attaching a document about the “Special Use” on the property at 211 S. Robinson Street and found that you can put documentation on a parcel but has to meet certain criteria so she printed off the form and will be filling that information out.

Nothing has been heard back from the Gratiot County Sheriff Department concerning a ticket book for us to be able to distribute civil infraction tickets.

The village trash contract is up with Granger on March 2022. Bob Sali made a motion to continue with Granger services, seconded by Jason Blemaster. Motion carried. Julie will get ahold of her contact person at Granger to let him know of this decision.

It was brought up that there is a red car that has been sitting very close to the road at 507 W. Railroad. Julie will send letter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Spicers and John have met and discussed the utility installation at the vacant lots owned by the village and Spicers will get back to him with suggestions and a quote.

Janell brought up to the council about recorded retention here at the village. There are things from the 1950’s, 60’s and so on. Janell believes that in the banking world it is 7 years retention, but not certain that applies to a government entity. Jim Mayer spoke up and said he would ask the office at the Road Commission if they had any idea and would share his findings with Janell & Julie.

Bob Sali questioned how the council felt about removing the fence around the tennis court, but in a basketball court and possible seed the remainder of that area. Suggestion was brought up about tearing out the old base, leveling off and putting in a concrete slab. John was asked and accepted that he would get some quotes/bids about having the base removed and replaced with a slab of concrete. Also, Bob Sali indicated he was going to reach out to a couple places and organizations that would possibly help with a funding or a grant.

No further business, motion to adjourn by Bob Sali, seconded by Jason Blemaster. Motion carried.

*Posted December 13, 2021*