 Regular Council Meeting – Thursday, November 11, 2021

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

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

Visitors: Diane Bennett

Motioned by Rick Wilson, seconded by Jerilou Gallagher, to accept the October 4, 2021, Meeting Minutes as proposed. Motion carried.

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

Motioned by Jim Mayer, seconded by Rick Wilson to accept the Transaction Report. Motion carried.

Motioned by Cathy Feighner, seconded by Jason Blemaster, to pay the current bills. Motion carried.

**VISITORS:**

Diane Bennett attended the meeting to discuss the acceptance of the lease for M-57 Motor Sports. Rick Wilson made a motion to accept the lease as drawn up, seconded by Jim Mayer to accept the lease. Motion Carried. 6 – YEAS 0 - NAYS

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

John had the annual comp numbers. Jim Mayer made a motion to accept the amounts, seconded by Jerilou Gallagher. Motion carried. 6 – YEAS 0 – NAYS

Trina has kept all of the rescue reports up to date with the departments systema and the state of Michigan. He asked the council if they would consider providing Trina with a compensation of $25.00 a month with a 12-month total of $300.00. Jim Mayer made a motion to compensate Trina for her time, seconded by Jason Blemaster. Motion carried. 6 – YEAS 0 – NAYS

John spoke about the helmets that were received a few months back and that they were the wrong ones and instead of sending them back and getting the correct ones, he proposed buying 15 shields ($58.49 each) to put these helmets in service. He also reported that they are short one red helmet at $269.00. Jason Blemaster made a motion to purchase the shields & helmet, seconded by Rick Wilson. Motion carried. 6 – YEAS 0 – NAYS

Yearly pump tests were completed.

Hot dog roast for Halloween was successful, and the left of hot dogs, condiments & buns were donated to the school.

John said that he and Dave Nelson are in communication with the merger.

Matt Craft has signed up for the fire academy.

**DPW:**

John spoke about the sale of the dump truck for $10,000.00. The person purchasing the truck paid $9,000.00 which was due to the banks being closed for the holiday and could not get all funds at the time, however, he will be paying the remainder owed ($1,000.00) at the time of pick up.

The water tower bids were opened by Julie Henry with John Ney connected for the opening by zoom.

7 bids were received:

Worldwide $170,950.00 Seven Brothers $259,100.00

MW Cole Construction $181,600.00 L & T $209,940.00

LC United $183,000.00 Fedewa Inc. $342,400.00

John has not spoken with Dixon on the bids yet. The Village will have to pay Dixon $19,000.00 for their services. John also spoke to the council about the ARP (American Rescue Plan) that the Federal Gov has implicated for infrastructure. We have spoken to Gratiot County Commissioners about receiving so of the funds from this plan. A letter of application will have to be written and sent to the commissioners for them to decide on the disbursement of the funds. Also, in that request we will be indicating the repair of the lift station on Robinson Street and the erosion at the lagoons.

John said that Eiffert’s were here on Tuesday & Wednesday and replaced the valves. In trying to hook up the bypass it was discovered that it had not been capped, so they had to have a vac truck & septic truck for both of those days. On Wednesday, the generator at the lift station would not start so currently it is down, a company from Grand Rapids is coming to diagnosis the issue.

John reported that the lagoon dike erosion that was incompliance has been completed, and Seiler’s Excavating also done some road repair as they couldn’t get the equipment to areas needed safely. John has submitted the completion to Egle. The north side is already ½ done and has been quoted $23,000.00 for the rest of the lagoon to be restructured.

John stated that Fulton Township is getting quotes to clear ¼ mile that is overgrown and to get a path cleared in case work is needing to be done.

There are 4 trees in the village that need to be removed. No bids have been received at this time.

Bob Sali made a motion for John Ney to be the zoning administrator, seconded by Rick Wilson. Motion carried. 6 – YEAS 0 – NAYS

John asked that the council to ponder the fact of a sealed bid process if they are interested in selling the 6 lots owned by the village between Gazalle & the old church. Those lots would require some engineering work to create the ally and install utilities. John will get a quote from Spacers on what this project might cost.

John mention that when the new dump truck was purchased it needed new tires and he received a quote for $2,066.00 for 6 new tires installed. Jim Mayer made a motion to purchase tires and have installed, seconded by Jason Blemaster. Motion carried. 6 - YEAS 0 – NAYS

John approached the council about a flexible working schedule from November 16th to March 2022. He would be leaving at 3:00 pm daily. Council approved.

John asked the council if he could be reimbursed his sick time hours (54) he used due to covid. Rick Wilson made a motion to reinstate sick hours for John due to covid, seconded by Jim Mayer. Motion carried. 6 – YEAS 0 – NAYS

John reported that he would be on vacation from November 30 – December 4.

**COMPTROLLER**

Julie spoke to the council about a fireproof safe for important documents that the village is required to keep, the one in the file room now is not fireproof. Julie will bring quotes to the December 6th meeting.

Julie indicated she will be having knee surgery on December 22.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Janell provided the council with a copy of a lease that Ithaca done when they joined the GESA (Gratiot Emergency Services Authority).

**BLIGHT OBSERVANCES**

The non-compliance at 302 & 310 Fulton Street is still not taken care of. A letter from the lawyer was sent to the owner so the next step will be to precede with a civil infraction ticket. Rick Wilson made a motion for Janell Dunham, Village President to temporarily act as the civil infraction officer, seconded by Jason Blemaster. Motion carried. 5 – YEAS 1 – NAY. Janell with get in contact with Mike Morris, County Sheriff, at Gratiot County Sheriff Dept. and make arrangements for the officer to accompany her when serving the citation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discuss was brought up about having a “Christmas Light Contest”. It had been done in years past. Janell with accept prize donations through December 15. Judging will be on Sunday, December 19th and will be someone that does not live in the village limits, Sam Smith or Mindy Thomas were a couple to see if they would be available and willing to be a judge. After the December 6th meeting, when details are final, Julie will send out post cards to all residents informing them of the contest.

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

*Posted November 17, 2021*