

**ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017  
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON**

**PRESENT: President Waldrop** Trustee: **J. Hamm, T. Smydra, E. Marks, B. Seid, D. Chastan, and J. Erickson, Village Manager**

**ABSENT: M. Mogan**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 6:00 pm the meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Waldrop.

**APPROVE AGENDA:**

**A motion was made by Hamm, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to approve the Agenda.**

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

A resident discussed his concerns of the By-Laws and diversity that a women was not appointed to the Marina Commission.

A resident discussed her concerns of the condition of Pebble Beach Drive and when it can be repaired.

A resident commented the Village Council board doesn't have any women and that not all commissioners attend all the meetings.

**Floor was closed at 6:15 p.m.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT MINUTES OF:**

**A motion was made by Seid, second by Smydra, and (CARRIED) to approve the minutes of the Village Council of October 9, 2017; Marina Commission of October 10, 2017.**

**REPORT FROM VILLAGE MANAGER – JOSEPH ERICKSON:**

1. Lansing – The Michigan Supreme Court denied the appeal of Menards Stores vs. the City of Escanaba. The Michigan Court of Appeals over turned the tax tribunal's "dark store" theory of tax assessments on big box stores. The "dark store" theory used deed restrictions and other non-market factors to determine the taxable value of a property, significantly lowering the property value. The assessed values of the property were

often cut in half. The Court of Appeals ruling restores the “value-in-use” approach to tax assessments. The Courts ruling will restore hundreds of thousands of tax dollars back to local governments. To my knowledge, Shopko stores never appealed their taxes on the “dark store” theory.

2. Updates –
  - a. Paddle Craft Landing: Paving is completed and the shoulders are dressed. The sidewalk has been saw cut. The restroom is finished. I will set up a final walk-thru/punch-list with the contractor this week.
  - b. River Street Garage – The metal roofing is installed. The metal for the fascia /soffits is on order and should be here soon.
  - c. Marina Dredging – The contractor is working away at the dredging, it is about 60 % complete. They have encountered a lot of wood debris by the mouth of the marina, slowing progress in that area. They will work for as long as they can this season. We are working with the MDNR to get an early start next spring.
3. Health Insurance Rates for 2018 – the rates for BCBS are in. We are looking at a 16.35% increase in costs. I have requested rate sheets for alternate insurance plans to compare. I also let the Union know about the rates. The contract expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>, so I will be working with the Personnel Committee during negotiations.
4. UP Managers Meeting – I attended this meeting in Ishpeming on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Some of the more interesting topics of discussion were on the proposed short term rental legislation to take away local control of any regulations; the pending “dark stores” decision of the Supreme Court; and unfunded reporting /training requirements of State agencies to receive funds, including those granted by statute, such as revenue sharing and Act 51 road funds.,
5. Lakeshore Lighting Project – Last week the Building Committee met with OHM Engineers on the Lakeshore Lighting project. The project is funded thru the Recreational Passport Grant program. The goal is to have the project plans developed an approved for a spring bidding.
6. Meetings Attended – Marina 10/10, RPI (Hancock) 10/11, UP Managers 10/ 12-13.

**A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to approve the Village Managers report as presented.**

**BUSINESS:**

**A. OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**A motion was made by Smydra, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to appoint Janice Erickson to the Old Elementary School Committee for the resident at large seat.**

**ROLL CALL:****AYES: All present at the meeting****Nays: None****Abstain: None****ABSENT: Mogan**

An introductory meeting for the Old Elementary School Advisory Committee was scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. in the Village Council Chambers.

**B. MARINA COMMISSION SEAT**

**A motion was made by Marks, second by Hamm, (CARRIED) to appoint Brenton Netz to the Marina Commission.**

**ROLL CALL:****AYES: All present at the meeting****Nays: None****Abstain: None****ABSENT: Mogan**

**A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to appoint Steve Lindstrom to the Marina Commission.**

**ROLL CALL:****AYES: Marks, Seid, Smydra, Chastan, President Waldrop****Nays: Hamm****Abstain: None****ABSENT: Mogan**

**A motion was made by Smydra, second by Hamm, (CARRIED) to appoint Brenton Netz for a 3 year term and Steve Lindstrom for remaining of the partial term to the Marina Commission.**

**ROLL CALL:****AYES: All present at the meeting****Nays: None****Abstain: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

- Councilman Smydra asked to set a date of the finalizing of the RICC Park sanding to the next Village Council agenda.
- President Waldrop discussed barricades, easement, signs and fines to be discussed at the next Village Council meeting for the Village boardwalk along the river.

**A motion was made by Smydra, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve the advertisement expenses and signage expense not to exceed \$200.00 concerning the Village boardwalk along the river. Wording of the signage will be set at a later date.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: All present at the meeting**

**Nays: None**

**Abstain: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

- Councilman Chastan asked if the Village Manager could report on the status of the new Village Attorney. Mr. Erickson reported he has used Doug Muskett from McKenzie & Talaska, P.C. of Bessemer on the Blight Ordinance hearing and he was satisfied with the results.
- Councilman Chastan suggested forming a committee to work with the Village Housing Board concerning not meeting financial responsibility and the possibility of oversight and training.

**A motion was made by Chastan, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to form an Ad Hoc committee to work with the Village Housing Board with concerns of lacking direction and training. The committee will need to include the Village President to be the chairperson, Village Council Liaison, Don Chastan and a community resident with no association with the Village Housing Commission.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Chastan, Smydra, Marks, Hamm**

**Nays: Seid and President Waldrop**

**Abstain: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

- President Waldrop and Councilman Chastan agreed to join the ad hoc Village Housing Committee.
- Halloween Trick or Treating will be on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Councilman Smydra asked the Village Manager to draft a letter concerning future dredging of our harbor since we are a Harbor of Safe refuge, a recreational harbor, and a commercial harbor, given that the harbor is critical to the Village's future prosperity.

**ADJOURN:**

**At 6:54 p.m. a motion was made by Seid, second by Hamm, (CARRIED) to adjourn the meeting.**

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**Marcia Aho-Black - Village Clerk**

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**Date approved**