

**ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017  
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON**

**PRESENT:** President Waldrop  
**Trustee:** E. Marks, J. Hamm, B. Seid, T. Smydra, 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 Seid, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to approve the Agenda.**

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Sue Lockhart spoke about the TV interview she gave and indicated it was not against the Fire Department but rather, was intended to call attention to the Village which she said was not complying with Federal and State Law. She said the Village spends a lot of money on an auditor and the auditor informed the Village to change the way the Firemen are paid. Ms. Lockhart said the Village has not followed the rules and the firemen should not be paid in cash and have W2 forms.

Councilman Hamm replied that the Village did not give cash to the Fire Department, but that they were paid by check.

Joe Erickson, Village Manager said he has been working with the Fire Department for a solution to the problem prior to the TV story. He also indicated that he didn't want to encourage the firemen to quit—and leave the village without a Fire Dept. He also indicated that he had handed the petitions regarding the fire department earlier that day to Rep. Jack Bergman.

James Miles, Assistant Fire Chief, thanked the Council and the Village Manager for fixing the issue with the Fire Department and stated they have been working on the agreement prior to the TV ad and he was happy with the outcome. He also expressed his thanks to the community for their support.

Tom Hamilton stated he agreed with Jim Mile's comment. He accused the Village Manager of lying and said he should apologize to Sue Lockhart because she just tried to point out true facts on the audit. He also commented that he isn't done with his Rose Island objections. He accused the manager of lying about Rose Island and said "there is more to come".

Gunnard Kyllonen discussed the importance of address numbers posted on homes. It is most important for EMT's and he asked the council to consider a resolution to enforce the addresses be posted on the homes and businesses. He also talked about curb side recycling pickup through Waste Management like the program going on in Houghton County. Councilman Smydra recommended this go to the Planning Commission for review. James

Miles suggested working with the 911 coordinator.  
Items of the floor were closed at 6:18 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT MINUTES OF:**

**A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, and (CARRIED) to approve the minutes of the Village Council meeting of March 13, 2017; Marina Commission of March 14, 2017; Recreation Commission of March 15, 2017; Planning Commission of March 15, 2017 and the Village Housing Commission of February 13, 2017.**

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

1. Lansing – The Senate is considering a bill that would prohibit a local utility from excluding any type of pipe and piping materials in bid specs as long as they meet ASTM or AWWA standards. The bill is apparently aimed at increasing the use of cheaper PVC pipe in water systems. However PVC piping has limitations that need to be addressed and may not be suitable in all situations. Also more legislation can be expected on “Lead/Copper” monitoring rules for public water systems. One proposal is a full system inventory/assessment. Hopefully this can be funded similar to the SAW grants for sewers and storm drains.
2. Rec Building Grant Application – The grant application was submitted this morning. This summer MDNR will visit the area, review the application and score the project, then we will have a chance for last minutes changes before the score is final.
3. MML Conference – The conference was last week, dark stores and revenue sharing were major topics in the general sessions. One of the interesting sessions I attended was about integrated asset management. This system would combine the information from streets, water, sewer, storm drains, and private utilities into one GIS. The system can then be used to coordinate various projects for construction and maintenance. The goal is to be able to coordinate funding as well as construction.
4. Winter Let Runs – Customers on winter let run status will be notified this week to stop running their water to prevent freeze ups. This is about a month earlier than past years. About 40 customers are on let run status.
5. Small Harbors Sustainability – The economic development strategy document for the Small Harbors Sustainability project is available. Copies are available to the Council, DDA, Planning Commission and others.
6. Rec Building Lighting – Dennis is getting started on the LED lights. It was more cost efficient to replace the fixtures rather than retro fit the old ones to LEDs. Due to the wiring in the building, 2 wire vs. 3 wire, motion sensors cannot be installed. After reviewing the

costs and savings with Dennis, we have enough room in the budget to replace all of the fluorescent fixtures in the building with LEDs. For example, this will reduce the energy consumption from 160 watts to 35 watts (about 80%) in the rest rooms where the motion sensors were to be installed, and it is much brighter too.

7. Meetings Attended – Marina Comm. 3/14, Planning Comm. 3/15, Rec Comm. 3/15, MML Capital Conference - Lansing, 3/21-22.
8. I will be out of the office on vacation until April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**A motion was made by Seid, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to accept and place on file the Manager's report.**

**BUSINESS:**

**A. RE-APPOINTMENT TO COMMISSION SEATS**

**A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to authorize the re-appointment of Fred Chamberlain and James Richardson to the Marina Commission; Arnie Bolo and Sue Kempen to the Recreation Commission and James Brogan, Henry Hoefflerle and Joseph Moskwa to the Planning Commission and Brownfield Committee.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: All present at the meeting**

**Nays: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

**B. HARBORMASTER APPOINTMENT**

The Marina Commission has recommended that Don Kneisler be reappointed as Harbormaster for the 2017 season. The Marina Commission would like permission to hire up to two part time assistants as the budge may permit.

**A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to give the Marina Commission permission to hire up to two (2) part time assistants as the budge may permit.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: All present at the meeting**

**Nays: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

**C. CONTRACT WITH EQUALIZATION – TAX ROLLS**

The Ontonagon County Equalization Department is requesting for Township's data processing for the taxes for 3 year agreement (2018, 2019 and 2020), including the DDA.

**A motion was made by Hamm, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve the Ontonagon County Equalization Department 3 year Tax Township's data processing agreement for 2018, 2019 and 2020 including the DDA.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: All present at the meeting**

**Nays: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

**D. ONTONAGON VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS COMP CHANGES**

Changes to the OVFD have been agreed upon with the Personnel Committee to begin the process to put the members as employees beginning in the first quarter of the fiscal year with compensations listed.

**A motion was made by Smydra, second by Marks, (CARRIED) to approve the Ontonagon Volunteer Fire Fighters to be treated as employees beginning in the first quarter of the fiscal year with compensation. \$12.00 per hour for emergency calls, required training and OVFD business meetings; \$6.00 per month for the "Last Call" bonus; \$50.00 per year clothing reimbursement; personal vehicle mileage for emergency calls will be reimbursed at the IRS approved rate, for a maximum of \$100 per year; OVFD member shall be provided with \$5000 life insurance coverage.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: All present at the meeting**

**Nays: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

**E. SANITARY SEWER TELEVISIONING BID**

**A motion was made by Chastan, second by Marks, (CARRIED) to approve Upper Peninsula Rubber company, Inc. dba Tunnel Vision Pipeline Services for a base bid amount of \$295,372.00 with unit price alternates for the Sanitary Sewer Televisioning.**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: All present at the meeting**

**Nays: None**

**ABSENT: Mogan**

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Councilman Smydra thanked everyone who worked on moving files and furniture in the council chambers so the Village Council is now in full view of the audience. He thanked an audience member for the suggestion of moving the table and was happy we were able to do this in our small conference room.

Councilman Marks asked when MDOT was going to meet on the River Street repairs. Manager Erickson said he thought it was in May. Councilman Marks pointed out all the pot holes on River Street.

Councilman Smydra thanked Sue Lockhart from the Village Housing Commission for her courteous assistance with helping his father-in-law find with his application at the Housing Commission and securing a hospital bed.

**ADJOURN:**

**At 6:40 p.m. a motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to adjourn the meeting.**

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**Marcia Aho-Black - Village Clerk**

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**Date approved**