

**ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON**

PRESENT: President Waldrop; Trustees: E. Marks, J. Hamm, M. Mogan, B. Seid, D. Chastan T. Smydra, and Manager, J. Erickson.

ABSENT: none

CALL TO ORDER:

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

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Marks, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve the agenda.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

Kim Langdon had 3 questions: 1. How many meetings has the Council had about blight and what was discussed? 2. What is happening about code enforcement? and 3. Does the Village currently have a building inspector? President Waldrop commented that we are working to get an inspector for both the Village and the County which is our priority right now. He also commented on the State eliminating the building inspector in the U.P. which is creating difficulties. The Village has the citations in place for the code enforcement. The County has organized a Brownfield Commission and is working on the land bank. Councilman Seid suggested we move forward on blight issues for this summer. Mr. Langdon suggested we work with Ironwood and share a code enforcement officer. President Waldrop stated this is difficult due to the size of each town and that they have different challenges. Councilman Mogan stated on a positive note that Joe Erickson, Village Manager, on his own initiative, got certification for the Community Redevelopment which is necessary for the Brownfield and blight removal.

Gunnard Kyllonen discussed the damaged and blighted building on the main street along the 300 block and suggested the Council contact the owners to make the necessary repairs. He commented that the first impression of our main street needs to be improved with all the old, broken down buildings.

Floor was now closed at 6:18 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Seid, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to approve the Village Council minutes of March 27, 2017.

APPROVE THE CURRENT BILLS:

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve payment of the current bills for April 2017 in the amount of \$198,937.04.

Included in the above total is:

Previous bills paid \$85,207.88

Current Bills - \$27,152.18

Blue Cross Retiree -\$753.39

Mers – General Fund- \$19,242.50

Employee Payrolls (3/23 & 4/6) GROSS- \$ 66,581.09

Included in the Payroll is:

Blue Cross –employee April 2017 - \$14,779.16

Lincoln Life - \$33.30

MERS- \$4,065.65

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

MANAGERS REPORT:

1. Lansing – Revenue Sharing – HB 4232 has been introduced that would increase statutory revenue sharing by \$12.4 million. This would be the first increase in statutory revenue sharing in three years. The past couple of years the State has cut the statutory revenue sharing to offset increases in the constitutional revenue sharing.
2. Project Updates:
 - a. Rose Island Paddle craft Landing – Project is about ready to go for bid. Just working on having a discussion with our Grant rep. (phone tag)
 - b. Rec Building Lighting – with ice gone the high bay lights are being installed.
 - c. N 7th Street – repaving and culvert replacement are being readied for bids. Bid should be due in early May.
 - d. River Street Garage Roof - Out on bids, bids due April 20th.
 - e. Marina Dredging – Project bid and awarded to Hilton Marine Construction, contracts to be signed, start date is June 15th.
 - f. SAW Grant – Video of system bid awarded, work scheduled for late summer.
 - g. Water System Telemetry Project – work in progress.
 - h. M64 Bridge Lights – Info on light specs to MDOT for review.
 - i. Lakeshore Drive Lights – finalize property info and grant agreement with DNR.
 - j. Houghton St. Sidewalks – need to work up final specs for paving and tree removal/replacement.
 - k. Penn. & Minn. Aves. Culverts – permits in hand. Need to coordinate equipment needs with DPW and scheduling.
 - l. Fire Hall Generator – prepare bid specs.
 - m. Fire Hall Windows – prepare bid specs.

- n. Truck for Water Dept. – Request made to Harbortown Auto to find a used truck.
3. MEDC Certified Grant Administrator – this is a new requirement from MEDC. A certified grant administrator is required to obtain Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for any projects the Village or DDA may apply for including blight elimination grant. The Village can contract with WUPPDR for a CGA.

A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to accept and place on file the Manager’s Report.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

President Waldrop discussed a lease agreement between Lake Shore Systems, Inc. and the Village of Ontonagon involving the use of approximately 3 acres of unimproved, vacant property along Lake Superior.

A motion was made by Mogan, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to authorize Ted Baird, Village Attorney, to review the property lease between Lake Shore Systems, Inc. and the Village of Ontonagon on the use of approximately 3 acres of unimproved, vacant property along Lake Superior.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

President Waldrop and Councilman Smydra thanked Alan Ralph and Dan Sullivan for all their time and effort to make this a successful project for our community. They will need community volunteers to help clean up the area in the future. Councilman Mogan thanked Lake Shore Systems, Inc. for their community involvement and commented what a great company to have in our Village.

A motion was made by Marks, second by Mogan, (CARRIED) to survey the Village property on Rose Island.

A motion was made by Marks, second by Mogan, (CARRIED) to amend the motion to survey the Village property on Rose Island not to exceed \$1,000.00.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

Councilman Smydra asked to schedule a meeting with councilman Mogan, Joe Erickson and himself to discuss the new contract with the Hockey Association.

Councilman Hamm addressed a public comment that was made at the last Village Council meeting. He feels the name calling and personal attacks were done in poor taste and not called for. He stated he is confident with the Village Manager's work performance and that the Village Manager has his full support. President Waldrop also stated he supports the Village Manager and he commented that when the public is making a statement or complaint, they needs to be responsible, civil and good citizens. Councilman Smydra stated that we all need to be respectful of others. He also indicated that President Waldrop has the ability to gavel down anyone he feels is out of order. Councilman Mogan added that he feels we would not be able to move ahead without the guidance of the manager and feels Joe Erickson is well qualified for his position, and have more than doubled the grant monies. Councilman Smydra added that we have received more than a million dollars in grant funds this past year or so. Councilman Marks commented that we need to work together and support each other to accomplish a lot.

ADJOURN:

At 6:44 pm a motion was made by Seid, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to adjourn the meeting.

Marcia Aho-Black - Village Clerk

Date approved