

ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON

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

ABSENT: B. Seid

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 Hamm, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to approve the agenda.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: None

Floor was now closed at 6:03 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Marks, second by Mogan, (CARRIED) to approve the Village Council minutes of April 24, 2017 and the Recreation Commission minutes of April 19, 2017.

APPROVE THE CURRENT BILLS:

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve payment of the current bills for May 2017 in the amount of \$181,153.42.

Included in the above total is:

Previous bills paid \$31,615.64

Current Bills - \$55,647.29

Blue Cross Retiree -\$753.39

Mers – General Fund- \$20,648.36

Employee Payrolls (4/20 & 5/4) GROSS- \$ 69,985.62

Included in the Payroll is:

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

Lincoln Life - \$33.30

MERS- \$8,107.45

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: Seid

MANAGERS REPORT:

1. Lansing - Bills have been introduced in the House and Senate to override local zoning rules. The bill would mandate short term rentals as a residential use, prohibit special use or conditional use permits for rentals thus eliminating any public hearings, and dictate that this is not a commercial use of property to maintain full homestead property tax exemptions. These bills would make the local governments responsible for policing the behavior of the “guest.” If a special or conditional permit is required, the landlord is responsible or the permit can be revoked. The Village Zoning Ordinance does allow short term rentals, but specific rules with regards to rental properties must be met. These bills would exempt them from our zoning.
2. Marina – The docks have been purchased. The Hilton Marine Construction is getting the docks ready to ship and verifying the floats are water tight.
3. Mowing at Old School – Does the Council want to continue to contract this out? If the property is acquired by on taxes, the costs cannot be assessed thru a lien. The Manager will compare the cost of the DPW summer students cutting the grass.
4. Project Updates –
 - a. Rec Building Lighting – The project is about 90% complete, in the next week or so we will have a meeting with the Contractor and Engineer to determine costs to date and determine any residual funds.
 - b. Rose Island Landing – MDNR has okayed splitting the project bids. The bid for the landing, pathway and pit toilet will be let within a couple of weeks. The bid for the parking lot paving can be offered when there is a paving project in the area.
 - c. N 7th Street – Project goes out on bids this week. Bids are due on June 6th.
 - d. Lakeshore Lighting – For the next meeting I will have the project agreement and resolution ready for the Council’s approval. The project’s legal descriptions have been verified by our attorney.
5. Co. Brownfield Authority – The County Brownfield Authority will be working with WUPPDR to inventory and map brownfield sites in the County. As a part of the project, abandon/blighted residential properties that meet the MISHDA Blight Elimination Program Grant requirements will also be identified and mapped. One of the requirements is that properties must be deemed to be a public nuisance according to a local ordinance. The Village should have our building ordinances reviewed and revise for the next round of MISHDA Grants.

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to refer the MISHDA Blight Elimination Program Grant requirements to the Blight Committee.

6. Meetings Attended – Co. Brownfield – 5/3/17

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

NEW BUSINESS:

A. REQUEST FROM MASTER GARDENERS – NEW PLANTERS

The Gitchee Gumees Garden Group will be planting the flower boxes along River Street this summer. They will also maintain the flower beds at JK Paul Park, the Veterans Memorial and the corner of Ontonagon and River Streets. The cost of the flowers is about \$600.00. We have that amount budgeted and the cost is similar to what it has been in the past. The group is requesting additional funding to purchase/construct new planters for the River Street. They are requesting an additional \$1430.00 to construct 22 new planters. Councilmen Mogan and Smydra expressed the importance of the flowers to keep our town beautiful and it was suggested that if they are unable to do this in a timely manner, then it should be revisited with the Village Council so we have flowers on the main street by Memorial Day.

A motion was made by Smydra, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve the Gitchee Gumees Garden Group to construct 22 flower planters not to exceed \$1,430.00.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: Seid

B. 2017 TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTIES

The Community Development Committee reviewed the list of tax delinquent properties and made the following recommendations:

1. Properties recommended to let go to tax sale:
 - a. 110 E. River Street
 - b. 715 River Street
 - c. Lot behind Pine Street Property
2. Properties recommended to be placed in the County Land Bank
 - a. 401 Michigan Ave.

b. 567 S. 7th Street

The last property is the Old School on Greenland Road. The Committee feels that this property needs more discussion at the Council and Community level. The Council has until July 1st to make a decision on whether or not to claim this property on taxes. The Committee recommends the Council use this time to gather information about community support to acquire the facility and renovate it. There also has to be community support for funding the project, which may involve a special millage levy for bonding, operations or both.

Tom Hamilton suggested the school be used for a Community College and suggested the council contact different colleges in the area.

Councilman Smydra suggested a public meeting to discuss the options of the school.

Darla Hames suggested the school be open up to the public and advertise the meeting so the public is involved.

A public meeting was suggested for either May 24 or 25th at the Community Action building at 7:00 – the Manager will confirm the date.

Councilman Chastan pointed out the school is currently be used as a bus garage and this may not be available in the future.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions for the school property they may drop them off at the Village office.

C. RIVER STREET GARAGE ROOF BID

The bud submitted by Markell Roofing did not cover the full work, nor did they indicate such on their bid submission. Mike Gatzow of GEI was present to explain our options.

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to rebid the River Street garage roof with a pre-walk through meeting. Deadline for the roof repairs is by October 1, 2017. The rebid will be at no additional cost from GEI.

D. PENDING TABLED ITEMS

1. Housing Commission Appointment – Village attorney is waiting for information from H.U.D.'s legal department on the pending appointment.
2. Lakeshore Systems Property Lease – The lease is being reviewed by Dan Brusio of Lakeshore and our attorney.

- 3. Tree cutting/thinning – The Community Development Committee is still reviewing the options.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

President Waldrop scheduled a Blight Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Village Council Chambers.

President Waldrop stated the DDA was awarded the \$5,000 matching grant from W.U.P.D.R. to open the beach way by the Lakeshore Property.

ADJOURN:

At 7:00 pm a motion was made by Chastan, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to adjourn the meeting.

Marcia Aho-Black - Village Clerk

Date approved