

**ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON**

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

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.

APPROVE AGENDA:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – TODS ORDINANCE

At 6:01 pm a motion was made by Smydra, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to enter a Public Hearing to discuss the TODS Ordinance as presented.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

The Village Manager reviewed the TODS Ordinance 2017-2. The ordinance will allow the placement of Pure Michigan Tourist Oriented Direction Signs (TODS) along the State Highways within the Village Limits. The language of this Ordinance is adopted from a sample ordinance provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation. The Pure Michigan TODS signs are placed within the State highway right-of-ways. No comments from the public were made in writing prior to the meeting. No Comments from the public were made at the meeting.

At 6:03 pm a motion was made by Hamm, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to close the Public Hearing. No decisions were made during the discussion.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR: None

Items of the floor were closed at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT MINUTES OF:

A motion was made by Marks, second by Mogan, and (CARRIED) to approve the minutes of the Marina Commission of July 11, 2017; the Planning Commission of July 19, 2017 and the Village Housing Commission of June 12, 2017.

REPORT FROM VILLAGE MANAGER – JOSEPH ERICKSON:

1. Lansing – The Governor signed the State Budget last week. The Village will see a revenue sharing increase of \$2688 for 2018.
2. Updates –
 - a. Paddle craft landing: Site work began last week. Erosion control measures were installed and the site cleared. Site is at a rough grade, once the pit toilet is installed the final grade would can be completed.
 - b. N 7th Street: The culvert is replaced. The roadway was pulverized and shaped. Paving should be completed this week.
 - c. Minn. & Penn. Culverts - Work began today on replacing the culverts.
 - d. River Street Garage – the trusses have been ordered. The plan is to get started in mid-August.
3. 2018-2023 Village & Township Rec Plan – The committee completed the Recreational Resource Inventory, the Plan Goals, the Needs Assessment and the Action Plan for the revised rec plan. The plan will now go the WUPPDR to complete the Community profile, demographics and other background sections of the plan. The Rec Commission is on track to have the plan completed by January.
4. Village Attorney – I received phone call from Douglas Muskett, he is an attorney with McKenzie & Talaska in Bessemer. He had heard we were looking for an attorney. He's a young attorney, is interested in municipal/civil law and willing to take on the challenge. I have two items that need an attorney right now and would like to hire Mr. Muskett for these to see how he works out.

A motion was made by Mogan, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to authorize the hire of Mr. Douglas Muskett as the Village Attorney on a temporary basis.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

5. MDOT River Street Project – The contractor is proposing a 3 block shut down and detours on River Street. Half of River St. will be blocked off for about two days while the repair work is completed. Then the other half will be done. Michigan Street will be the primary detour route, just like during Labor Day. With the street closure they should be able to complete the work in a week. I will get announcements out as soon as the work schedule is set.
6. Lakeland Boating Magazine is out with a nice article about the Ontonagon Area as their Port-of-Call feature.
7. Meetings Attended – Marina Comm. 7/11, WUPPDR – RPI 7/12, Planning Comm. 7/19, Rec Comm. 7/19, Labor Day Committee 7/14

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

BUSINESS:

A. ADOPT TODS ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to adopt the Tourist Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) ordinance 2017-2 as presented.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

B. BLIGHT ORDINANCE 2017-3 (1st READING)

The preamble of the ordinance reads as follows:

An Ordinance to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight or potential blight within the Village of Ontonagon, and to provide for orderly application of the rules, regulations, penalties and rights of the village to address, mitigate, and eliminate areas of blight in order to protect the health and safety of the Village Constituents.

This ordinance is to address blighted conditions of real property such as buildings and structures within the Village. This ordinance will replace the Dangerous Building ordinance and Housing Standards ordinance. The intent of the Ordinance is to address the blighted and abandon buildings in order to bring them up to standards for their intended purpose or to order the removal or abatement of the blighted structure.

The ordinance provides for a Hearing Board to assist in the blight mitigation process by determining the need for time extensions and mitigation proposals.

The Blight Ordinance 2017-3 was tabled at this time. The Blight Committee will meet on Friday, July 28th at 4:00 p.m. to review.

C. REQUEST TO ABANDON RIGHT-OF-WAYS

On June 15th the Village received a request from Mr. Bruce Seid, Mr. Robert Seid and Mr. Howard Walters, to abandon the undeveloped street and alley right-of-ways adjacent to and crossing their properties. The attached map shows the proposed undeveloped street and alley ways to be abandoned and the properties owned by each of the petitioners. A 30 day notice of the proposed abandonment was sent to all utility providers within in Village (SEMCO, UPPCO, Charter, and OTC).

The Ontonagon Telephone Company, the only known utility on any of these right-of-ways, requests that a 10 foot easement be reserved for their facilities along the east-west alleyway.

Village Manager Erickson indicated "Due to the terrain and location of these right-of-ways, it is unlikely that the Village would ever need to develop them. Therefore I would recommend the following:

1. That the 20 foot ally to the north of Block 7 of the Fairview Park Addition be abandon and conveyed to Mr. Bruce Seid, with the exception of a 10 foot easement for the Ontonagon Telephone Company and their successors.
2. That the West half of Second Street, south of Payne Street in the Fairview Park Addition be abandon and conveyed to Mr. Bruce Seid, with the exception of a 10 foot easement across Second Street for the Ontonagon Telephone Company and their successors.
3. That the East half of Second Street, south of Payne Street in the Fairview Park Addition be abandon and conveyed to Mr. Robert Seid, with the exception of a 10 foot easement across Second Street for the Ontonagon Telephone Company and their successors.
4. That the 12 foot ally between Lots 1,2,3,10,11,12 and the east ¼ of lots 4 & 9 in Block 6 of the Fairview Park Addition be abandon and conveyed to Mr. Howard Walters, with the exception of a 10 foot easement for the Ontonagon Telephone Company and their successors.
5. That the 12 foot ally between Lots 5,6,7,8 and the west ¾ of lots 4 & 9 in Block 6 of the Fairview Park Addition be abandon and conveyed to Mr. Robert Seid, with the exception of a 10 foot easement for the Ontonagon Telephone Company and their successors."

A motion was made by Mogan, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve the abandoned alley right-of-way request as described above.

ROLL CALL:**AYES: All present at the meeting****Nays: None****Abstain: Seid****ABSENT: None****9. OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS****A. OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Councilman Mogan inquired whether the land could be separated (bus garage) and does the athletic field go back to the family who donated it. Manager Erickson stated that clause had been removed from the deed. He also stated the Ontonagon County Clerk informed him they will be waiving the bond due to the building being sold to a Government body. Councilman Mogan read the bond statement at the meeting.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

President Waldrop informed the council:

- The updated Lakeshore lease has been signed.
- The DDA is looking at fence lines.
- New fencing will be installed – the old fence needs to be removed and area cleaned up of brush and dead trees.
- At the August 2, 2017 DDA meeting, they will be voting on the signage and work bees scheduled.

Councilman Mogan asked if MDOT approved the lights to be changed on the bridge to LED lights. The Manager will get with MDOT.

Councilman Hamm asked if the DPW could remove any tree branches that are over hanging on the streets. Manager Erickson asked Councilman Hamm to get him a list of the streets and he would see that it was taken care of.

Councilman Mogan asked if the Recreation Commission send out letters to the Houghton Street residents about the tree removal project. Councilman Smydra informed him this has not been done because at the last meeting, there was not a quorum and there was not consensus yet on which trees would be removed.

ADJOURN:

At 6:41 p.m. a motion was made by Seid, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to adjourn the meeting.

Marcia Aho-Black - Village Clerk

Date approved