

Village of Elberta Michigan
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 18, 2011

The regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held at the Community Building, Thursday, August 18, 2011.

Present: R.Manville, Bower, Jenks, L.Manville, Holmes, Thorsen, Soper, and Stapleton.

Absent: none

Guests: Emily Votruba, Paul Houseman, Ruth Nanni, Carolee Ness, Ken Bonney, Steve Laske, Joyce Gattrell, Art Melendez, Jennifer Wilkens, Jon Drury, John Drury, Connie Manke, Carol Navarro, Marcia Stobie and Scott Gest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Holmes supported by Stapleton to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2011, regular meeting and the August 5, 2011, special meeting. Yeas - 7.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Holmes discussed the need to enforce the Junk Ordinance. He also discussed the need to adopt a grass ordinance or add yard upkeep to the Junk Ordinance. Holmes said there are several areas of the Village where the grass isn't mowed and the yards are not kept up. He said that it wasn't fair to others who keep their yards in good condition. R.Manville said the issue could be discussed at the September meeting. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approve the proposed agenda. Yeas - 7.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Carolee Ness discussed the need to address the parking problem on Acre Street and the corner of Acre and M-22. She said that cars park on both sides of Acre between M-22 and Washington. Ness also said that cars are parked almost to the corner on M-22 and Acre. She said there is no visibility for making turns out on to M-22 from Acre. Holmes said that the same is true by the Post Office. It was discussed that the restaurant owner be approached about putting a sign up asking patrons to use the parking area behind the restaurant on Washington. The DPW will put up no parking signs on Acre.

Carol Navarro of the Benzie Conservation District gave a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer. She discussed the damage that can be done by the Ash Borer to the Ash tree as well as a variety of other trees. Navarro said that it is the mission of her group to prepare communities and help them manage the advent of the Ash Borer and the means to protect their trees. She said an inventory of the Ash trees in the Village would be available to the Village. The Council felt that an inventory would be welcomed. They thanked Navarro for her presentation.

Scott Gest discussed the Forbearance Agreement between the Village And ELHC, created by the Village Attorney. The agreement concerns the \$10,000 proposed to be applied to the loan principal owed by the Village to ELHC. Gest said that the agreement which was dated in March of 2011 was not agreeable to Gest's attorney.

He will e-mail a copy of an amended agreement to Bower so both agreements can be reviewed before the September meeting.

Gest also discussed the bill with F&V. He said originally the bill was suppose to be \$4,000. Gest said that F&V had not fulfilled the work that had been promised to ELHC. He had requested that a detailed report as to hours, etc. be provided to him. It has not been given to him as of this date. Gest doesn't feel the bill is justified. R.Manville said that the Village is paying F&V \$1,000 per month and still owes a balance of \$3,000.

Marcia Stobie said that a new County Administrator as been selected. She also said that there have been many department cuts. Stobie said the Building Department fees have been raised by 10%.

Jon Drury complained about the excessive speed on M-168 through his neighborhood. He understood that the road is still under the jurisdiction of MDOT. Drury asked when the Village would receive the road into their system. It is thought that next year the Village will take over M-168. Drury hopes that the Village will be able to do something to help alleviate the speeding problem.

Correspondence: Bower discussed with the Council the June minutes that were not put on the Village's website. She presented confirmations that the minutes had been submitted and received but Geer failed to put them on the system The Council is not pleased with the website and Geer's management of it. Bower will investigate the legalities of going with someone else. This will be put on the September agenda.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

R. Manville discussed the audit report. He pointed out the report as submitted by the Village Treasurer was correct. It showed that in addition to the selling of the dockos and the turning over of the EDC funds there was still an additional \$21,474 in excess revenues over expenditures. R.Manville said that the Village is continuing to work on the deficit plan. He said he has several ideas to present later in the Fall to help in the reduction.

Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approve the bills for July 1 through July 31, 2011 in the amount of \$40,037.84 -Accounts payable - \$31,569.24 and payroll \$8,468.60. Yeas - 7.

Department heads were heard from.

Ken Bonney discussed the many activities conducted in the Village in the last month: sidewalk replaced in front of the church, two trailers removed from the Village, dilapidated house torn down, repair work on many Village streets completed, tree project also completed for this year. Holmes discussed that only the DPW should have a key to the roundhouse area as it is a very dangerous place and is a liability to the Village for unauthorized people to be there. (Holmes received several calls concerning individuals on the site. It appears that a stage that was stored there was be removed.) Jenks asked why the middle of Lincoln had not been paved. Bonney said that it would have been cost prohibitive as the center would have had to be ground down and the manholes revamped. What was done to Lincoln is called wedging and will shore up the edges of the road. He said that regrind will be put along the edges of the road.

P&R: L.Manville said that the E2 Labor Day event is going along well. She said that P&R would like to close off Sheridan between M-168 and Washington for the event. Michelle Cannaert said that she has borrowed special shovels from the Conservancy to

dig up the Baby's Breath. It was reported that the drinking fountain in the Waterfront Park is not working. L.Manville said P&R is working to get Shakespeare in the Park back to Elberta.

Beach: Thorsen discussed the problem with vehicles driving on the beach. The Council discussed this at length. A meeting including all of those concerned will be set up at a future date.

Presidents Report: R.Manville discussed an unauthorized event that had recently taken place at the performance pavilion. He emphasized the need to contact the Village Office to set up a date and pay for the use. Council members suggested signage pointing out the requirements should be put up.

R.Manville said that he had gone to Lansing and signed the agreement on the Conservancy/Thorpe Dune Project. He said there will be a grand opening at a future date.

Fire/Safety: Jenks reminded everyone that permits are needed for fire pits.

Municipal Buildings: Thorsen reported that the doors for the LSS had been ordered.

AGENDA:

1.D/A Amended Deficit Elimination Plan - Resolution.

R.Manville pointed out that due to the improvements that were made in reducing the deficit it was necessary to amend the original plan. Motion by Holmes supported by L.Manville to adopt a resolution approving of an amended Deficit Elimination Plan for the General Fund and the Rubbish Fund. Yeas - 7.

Public Comment.

Steve Laske asked if there was going to be anything more done to Lincoln Avenue. The wedging of the road was explained to him. Laske also expressed concern over the junk cars in the Village. He was told that a number of them had been removed from property on Crapo.

Michele Canaert said that many people had complimented the metal sculpture in the duck's head. She asked that the yellow parking marks be repainted adjoining her store. Canaert thanked Bonney for removing the garbage in front of her business in a timely manner.

Jennifer Wilkens asked the Council to change the status of the ordinance concerning no dogs in the park. R.Manville said that in the past the problem with the dogs in the Village has been a nightmare but has improved since passing the Dog Ordinance. Wilkens said that the goose droppings in the park was a big problem. R.Manville said that the geese can't be controlled but that the dog situation can. The dog situation pro and con was discussed at length. The need for a dog park was discussed. It was agreed that dog owners should be responsible. It was pointed out that there were several other parks in the Village that didn't outlaw dogs. State law requires that all dogs be on a leash. Wilkens said that P&R would like to purchase 5 mutt mitt dispensers for the parks. She said the estimated cost for 5 dispensers and disposal bags (150) is \$225. plus shipping and handling. It was suggested that the dispensers be purchased and two be placed in the beach area for a test run. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to purchase 5 dispensers. Yeas - 7.

Ruth Nanni expressed her concern with the water run-off that she gets in front yard. This was discussed at length with the Council. Bonney said that hopefully the wedging of the edge of the street will help her problem.

Scott Gest said that the original plans for the redesign of the duck's head called for the "Village of Elberta" be lettered on the front of the structure. He hopes that once the street is turned over to the Village that the lettering can be put on.

Motion to adjourn was accepted.

Sharyn Bower, Village Clerk