

**Village of Elberta Michigan
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held at the Community Building, Thursday, December 12, 2011.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the meeting.

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

Absent: Jenks and Stapleton

Guests: Laura Manville, Emily Votruba, Carolee Ness, Ken Bonney, Art Melendez, Jennifer Wilkens, Jon Drury, Connie Manke, Christine Walkons, Charlie Hendershott, Dave Bower, Scott Gest, Marcia Stobie and Bob Johnson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Holmes supported by L.Manville to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2011, public hearing and regular meeting. Yeas - 5.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approve the proposed agenda. Yeas - 5.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Johnson, Mayor of Frankfort, said that he is on Frankfort's tree committee. He discussed the tree nursery that has been set up on BLUA property. Johnson asked that someone representing the Village be appointed to the tree committee. He said the committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. at City Hall.

Marcia Stobie, County commissioner, reported on various matters happening at the County level. She discussed the Commission on Aging and their asking for a millage renewal possibly an increase. Stobie also talked about the County's stand on future energy needs. She also said that selling the Maples was being looked into.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

The receipt report showed a total of \$21,659.16. Motion by Holmes supported by Soper to approve the bills for November in the amount of \$25,728.95 (including \$1,201.03 in P&R) in accounting and \$8,845.72 in payroll for a total of \$34,574.67. Yeas - 5.

Department heads were heard from.

Ken Bonney said the Christmas lights were up. He said that he had fixed a water leak on the south end of the Village. Bonney said that the new doors for the LSS had been painted. He said that he and Thorsen would install them as soon as they had a chance. Soper said that he would put in the grills in the spring.

Water/Sewer/BLUA: Holmes said that the pumpage from Elberta had increased. He wasn't sure why.

P&R: L.Manville said that Meg Louwsma had presented a proposed budget for the Farmer's Market for the upcoming season. She also discussed several proposed projects. L.Manville said that the Solstice committee was working on a budget to be presented to the Council in January.

President's Report: R.Manville thanked P&R and specifically P&R president, Art Melendez, for the success of the Christmas tree sale. He also thanked Smitty's for the donation of their time and equipment in putting up the Village's Christmas decorations. R.Manville said there will be a public hearing before the January regular meeting to receive public comment on management of the conservancy property. He then asked that the Village Treasurer address several issues.

Laura Manville said that at the November meeting a revised Deficit Elimination Plan (DEP) had been presented to the Council. The Council wasn't comfortable with the revision and had tabled it until the December meeting. She said that subsequently she had again called the Department of Treasury. Laura Manville said that she had had a long discussion with Frederick Headen, Director of the Bureau of Local Government Services, concerning the DEP that was submitted in August. Headen felt that the Village was doing a great job and was making progress toward eliminating their deficit. Headen stated in a letter dated December 2, 2011, that the present plan doesn't eliminate the debt within the five year maximum duration and therefore the plan cannot be certified. Headen, however, encouraged the Village to adhere to its plan in an effort to reduce the deficit. He said the Village's deficit condition will be reevaluated after the audit for the fiscal year ending February 29, 2012, to see if the Village has met its deficit projection. Headen said that at that time the Village will be required to submit a revised plan which can extend out through 2017 if necessary.

Laura Manville then discussed Senate Bill SB-7 which concerns employee health benefits. She said that she had researched the bill at length. Laura Manville said that at the November meeting, Council member, L.Manville had approved the October 20, 2011 minutes but with corrections - she said there were discrepancies under the budget committee report. L.Manville submitted the revisions. They were included on a separate sheet with the November minutes. Laura Manville offered clarification of the October 20, minutes (the budget committee Portion) and revisions that were submitted. She said compliance with the new law must begin with the renewal date (Village renewal date is September, 2012) and the Council must decide at the August meeting whether to implement the hard cap set by the State or implement the 80/20 rule. It was stated in the revisions that the annual total for 3 employees was \$15,901.44. Dental premiums are not included in the calculations. HRA Adm fees are included as are HRA employee claims. Annual premium total for employees is \$14,833.80. The Hard Cap in SB-7 is \$16,500. The revision said

that employee HRA reimbursements paid by the Village as of October was \$4,364. Laura Manville said that total is based on reimbursements from April 2009 to present. She said that calculated HRA reimbursements are per year. HRA reimbursements in 2010 were \$113. The revision said that the premium and HRA reimbursement total is then at a total of \$20,265.44. Laura Manville said that the total including HRA cost and reimbursement and excluding dental premium was \$14,833.80 for 2010. 2011 cannot be calculated until new rates come out in August 2012. The revision said the \$20,265.44 was in excess of limits suggested by the State. Laura Manville said that in actuality the annual figure is under the State cap by \$1,666.20. (State cap is \$16,500). The revision said that the Council should examine all of this closely as they budget for fiscal year 2012/13. Laura Manville said it should be noted that the Village employees have contributed greatly in helping to reduce the Village deficit. In 3 years the employees saved the Village \$25,057 in health care premiums. It was a voluntary action and the Village employees should be commended.

The Council thanked Laura Manville for her presentation and all the hard work that went into it.

Budget Committee: Laura Manville said the budget committee meetings will start in January to get ready for the February budget meeting.

Master Plan: There will be an advertized public hearing for the MP on January 3, 2012.

AGENDA:

1.D/A Annual Appointments. The annual appointments were discussed. R.Manville proposed to keep the appointments the same as last year except with two changes. He proposed that he take over as P&R liaison and L.Manville take his place on the Master Plan Committee. Soper feels there is a conflict of interest with R.Manville being on the Employee Relations Committee as his wife is an employee. Holmes said that the Village President needs to be on the employee relations committee. L.Manville agreed with Soper. Motion by Holmes supported by Thorsen to reappoint the same appointees as last year except R.Manville on P&R and L.Manville on the Master Plan committee. Soper said he would agree but would like to see the Employee Relations appointments be revisited at the January meeting. Yeas - 4, Nays - 1 L.Manville.

2.D/A Interlocal Agreement - Recycling. Bower said that operation of the Benzie County Recycling Program require that Interlocal Agreements be kept on file at the County Clerk's office and updated as necessary. She said there were no changes to the original agreement except that Wexford County has been added as a landfill source for Benzie County waste. Motion by Holmes supported by Soper to authorize R.Manville to sign the agreement. Yeas - 5.

Public Comment was heard.

Motion to adjourn was accepted.

Sharyn Bower, Village Clerk