

**Village of Elberta Michigan
Council Meeting Minutes & Public Hearing
February 17, 2011**

A public hearing and the regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held at the Community Building, Thursday, February 17, 2011.

Present: R.Manville, S.Bower, Jenks, Stapleton, Soper, L.Manville, Thorsen, and Holmes.
Absent: none

Guests: Paul Schram, Scott Gest, Connie Manke, Arthur Melendez, Jennifer Wilkens, Emily Votruba, Ruth Nanni, Carolee Ness, Ken Bonney, Marcia Stobie, Chris Sullivan, Matt McDonagh, Kelli Stapleton and Charlie Hendershott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Holmes supported by L.Manville to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2011. Yeas - 7.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Jenks supported by Soper to approve the proposed agenda. Yeas - 7.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ruth Nanni asked about the use of snowmobiles in the Village. She thought that there was an ordinance for them. The Council will look into the enforcement of the ordinance.

Kelli Stapleton gave a presentation on the merits of changing the name of the Village to Heaven. She felt that the name "Elberta" hasn't done much for the Village. Stapleton's presentation was met with applause.

Arthur Melendez gave a report on the use of a power point display to promote the Village. It was suggested that the Village invest in a lap top computer and a digital projector for future presentations.

Emily Votruba said that the new Elberta newspaper is expected to be out next week.

Marcia Stobie reported that the recent millage that was passed for the renovation of the Maples has fallen short of the expected revenues. This is due to the drop in property values.

Connie Manke said that the preparations for the Whine in the Park event were going very well. She said that all of the work done by Ken Bonney was greatly appreciated.

Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to leave the regular meeting and go into the advertised public hearing. Yeas - 7. R.Manville explained that the public hearing is to take public comment on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011/2012. He said there were very few changes from

last years budget. R.Manville explained that the budget committee had not had a chance to meet due to the serious illness of the Village Treasurer. He hoped that the committee would be able to meet and have the budget in place for the March meeting. R.Manville said that it is necessary to have a budget in place before the start of the next fiscal year. The proposed figures for the budget are \$889,900 for expected revenues and \$889,900 for expected expenditures. R.Manville explained that these figures are based on last years budget. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to close the public hearing and return to the regular meeting. Yeas - 7.

CORRESPONDENCE:

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approve the bills for January 1 to January 31, 2011 in the amount of \$17,347.15 (accounting checks)and \$9,364.28(payload). Yeas - 7.

Department heads were heard from.

R.Manville discussed the various meetings that he had attended. He said that he would like all Council members to have business cards and have name plaques in front of them during council meetings.

AGENDA:

1.D/A Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approved the proposed budget as presented for fiscal year 2011/2012 in the amount of \$889,900 for expected revenues and \$889,900 in expected expenditures. Yeas - 7

2. D/A Signature Authorization - Conservancy Project. Matt McDonough and Chris Sullivan, representatives of the GTRLC, gave a presentation on various aspects of the Conservancy/Village project on the former Thorpe property in the Village. They said that it is the mission of the Conservancy to preserve the land. The Village Project will be maintained as a natural area. They explained that they hoped to have a staff position to help the Village in overseeing the property maintenance/improvements. McDonough said the position would be funded through grant funds from outside sources. R.Manville said he would be meeting with the Village attorney before signing any papers. Motion by Holmes supported by Soper authorizing the Village President to execute any documents associated with the Conservancy Project. Yeas - 7.

3.D/A Wind Turbines. R.Manville said that at the January meeting he had asked the Council to research wind turbine energy. He wanted to know the philosophy of each council member regarding wind energy. Stapleton said that he wasn't comfortable discussing wind energy at present. R.Manville said he had presented the issue at the January meeting to get the Council thinking about wind energy - pros and cons. Motion by Jenks supported by L.Manville to table the subject to a future date. Yeas - 7

4.D/A ELHC - Issues. R.Manville said the matter concerning the money that was thought to be owed to the Village by ELHC was tabled at the last meeting. Gest said that he had delivered a check for legal fees of \$1144 to the Village Office prior to the meeting. He said he had issues with two items on the bills. Gest felt that his actual expense had been bundled in with others. Bower said she would contact the billing department and check it out.

Gest said that he had presented the paper work to the Clerk outlining the proof that when ELHC purchased Koch they were also given Koch's "Right of First Refusal". This had been given to Koch in a terminal agreement with MDOT prior to the Village's purchase of the AA Property. Gest said that ELHC still intends to honor the Purchase Agreement with the Village in regards to the \$10,000. He proposes the \$10,000 be applied to the loan to reduce the principal. Gest said that he understands that at the time of the loan all of those involved thought that the development would be up and running and the Village would be in good financial condition. R.Manville said that he wants to make sure that the Council/Village still has and continues to have confidence in ELHC and Gest's credibility. The issue was discussed at length. Motion by Jenks supported by L.Manville to apply the \$10,000 to the principal amount of the \$60,000 loan with the stipulation that the date of the loan be extended until the tax base of the Village increases with the advent of the waterfront development. Yeas - 7.

Public Comment was heard.

R.Manville offered condolences to Council members, Ross Thorsen on the loss of his mother and Matt Stapleton on the loss of his father. R.Manville also expressed his gratitude to everyone for their support during his wife's recent illness.

Motion to adjourn was accepted.

Sharyn Bower, Village Clerk