

**Village of Elberta Michigan
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 21, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held at the Community Building, Thursday, July 21, 2011.

Present: K. Holmes, R. Manville, M. Stapleton, R. Thorsen, D. Jenks, Linda Manville, B. Soper.

Absent: S. Bower.

Guests: Laura Manville, Carolee Ness, Marcia Stobie, Emily Votruba, Connie Manke, Ken Bonney, Art Melendez, Jennifer Wilkins, Carl Noffsinger, Charlie Hendershott, Michele Cannaert, Karen Roberts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by L. Manville supported by Soper to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 16, 2011. Yeas - 7

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Soper supported by L. Manville to approve the proposed agenda. Yeas – 7

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stapleton stated he thought the Council meetings should begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members didn't see any problem with it. Michele Cannaert reported to the council that on August 14th through the 20th bike art will be on display along M168. The Event will be called Bikes on Parade. Also an art sculptor will be displayed. Michele said E2 will be returning this year.

Marsha Stobie informed the Council on budget issues facing the county. Candidates for County Administrator have been narrowed to three.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by L. Manville supported by Holmes to approve the bills for June 1st through June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$37,978.76, \$26,564.56 for accounts payable and \$11,414.20 for payroll. Yeas – 7

REPORTS: DEPARTMENT HEADS

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Ken Bonney presented the council with a quote from Ron Brown & Sons for repair of several streets within the Village. Council members discussed if the repairs should go out for bids. Manville didn't think it was necessary as he felt there would be nothing to gain. Council discussed renting more porta-lets for the beach and waterfront park during peak times. Everyone agreed this was a good idea.

WATER/SEWER/BLUA: K. Holmes reported on BLUA. BLUA will be raising the rates in September and are working on the budget.

PARKS & REC: L. Manville gave an overview of the Farmers Market website. L. Manville gave a big thanks to Bill & Connie for their work on the Solstice Festival. R. Manville questioned the minutes of Parks & Rec's June meeting. R. Manville asked L. Manville why there were concerns regarding how Parks & Rec. money would be managed. He stated no percentage will be taken from them for accounting duties taken over by the Treasurer. R. Manville commented on his dislike that members felt there was a problem with open & honest communication with Council members and Village staff. He didn't feel there should be any feelings of contentiousness and mistrust because the decision to transfer accounting duties to the Village Treasurer was due to serious deficiencies found in the 2010 Audit. L. Manville stated these feelings were expressed at the June Parks & Rec. meeting before they knew the changes that were going to be made at the June Council meeting. She felt the council didn't take care of business after last year's audit so Parks & Rec. didn't have a chance to correct the problems with their books. R. Manville said he warned both Council members and Park & rec. members last year about the deficiencies reported in the audit. Laura Manville said she offered to help set up bookkeeping records several times last year. Holmes stated that a good working relationship between Parks & Recs. and village staff and council members needs to go both ways.

FARMERS MARKET: Soper said Parks & Rec. would like to upgrade the propellers in the Mini Pond Park and he would have an estimate of costs for the next council meeting.

BEACH: Ross reported that the beach clean-up went well and 110 pounds of garbage had been picked up. The new signs posted at the beach had already been vandalized. Ross commented on what a great job Ken has been doing at the beach. Security cameras were discussed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Council decided to address zoning issues in agenda items.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: R. Manville brought the Council up-to-date on pending issues with Scott Gest. Fleis & Vandenbrink bill is still not resolved. Manville said he will meet with Scott again to try and get this resolved. Village is still waiting for Scott's Attorney to review the Forbearance Agreement. R. Manville reported the Art Fair was a great success this year and thanked the Chamber for doing such a great job. R. Manville recognized Bill & Connie for all their work in making the Solstice Festival the best and biggest event in Elberta. Manville gave an overview of the South Elberta Dunes Area. He will be traveling to Lansing on Thursday to finalize everything. Manville attended the Gilmore Township meeting on July 12th to let the Township Board that he feels it's very important the two boards work together going forward into the future.

BUDGET: L. Manville, referring to page 27 of the 2010 audit wanted the council to know that the reduction in the General Fund Deficit was because the Marina Fund Balance in the amount of \$239,187 and the closing of the EDC checking account in the amount of \$7,732 were transferred to the General Fund Balance. She wanted the Council to be aware that this was a one time deal and they still needed to be concerned in the future. Laura Manville informed the Council that these two items did contribute in reducing the General Fund Balance but that the general fund had an excess of

revenues over expenditures of \$21,474 which is also included. She told L. Manville she would review page 27 and report back to her.

FIRE/SAFETY: Ken reported the new 1st Responders vehicle was in the 4th of July parade.

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS: Ross will order the new doors for the LSS building. Soper will contact Wheelock about the grates for water drainage.

MASTER PLAN ADVISORY: Ken said progress is being made. M. Stobie said lot sizes were being discussed.

AGENDA:

1. D/A Parks & Recreation Proposed By-Laws and Budget – The new By-Laws for Parks & Rec. were discussed. L. Manville wanted to change the office of the commission in Article 11 to be the office of the Village of Elberta. Holmes commented on the problems that arose in last month's Council meeting regarding Parks & Rec. Holmes had made a motion to transfer all accounting duties of the commission to the Village Treasurer. No one supported the motion. He was very disappointed in the Council's attitude and didn't want to see this again in the future. Motion by L. Manville supported by Holmes to adopt the new By-Laws of the Parks & Rec. Commission with the change to Article 11. Yeas – 7. Laura Manville presented the Council with the new budget for Parks & Rec. Motion by L. Manville supported by Holmes to amend the 2011 budget by \$23,150, \$19,900 for Solstice Festival and \$3,250 for Parks & Recs. Yeas – 7.
2. D/A Phragmite Eradication – Emily Votruba gave a short overview about the invasive grass and how it's threatening the ecological health of wetlands and Great Lakes coastal shorelines. Vicki Smith from Wildlife & Wetland Solutions gave a presentation on phragmite eradication. Vicki brought the council up to date on the history and the damage the invasive, non-native, variety of phragmites is causing, Funds for the eradication will come from fund raisers and Friends of Betsie Bay. Property owners will not be charged but must give their permission for the process. A DEQ permit is required to remove phragmites by cutting or mowing below the ordinary high water mark. A second permit is also required to treat phragmites using herbicides if the plants are in standing water at the time of treatment or below the ordinary high water mark. R. Manville questioned the impact the herbicides will have on fish spawning. Vicki said that there would be no impact rather would only help the fish because the roots are so dense they crowd out native plants, fish and animals. They actually reduce access to swimming, fishing and hunting. Herbicide treatment takes place during late summer to fall and at least two weeks after herbicide treatments the plants can be removed. Motion by Soper supported by Jenks to give permission for eradication on Village property. Yeas - 7
3. D/A Zoning – Carl Noffsinger Village Zoning Administrator was asked to appear at the council meeting to clear up some issues. Carl said his job is to administer the zoning ordinance. Most of the lots in the Village, as it stands, are non-conforming due to property lot sizes stated in the ordinance. Carl said last month the Council voted to break

their own rules. He stated that the Council should change the rules and not break them, and that zoning should be done for future growth within the Village. Holmes said the planning commission is working on zoning especially lot sizes. The Council decided not to take any actions.

4. D/A Certificates-Art Melendez – Art presented his designs for the Elberta Star Award and Certificate of Achievement Award. Motion by Holmes supported by Stapleton to accept the designs. Yeas - 7.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stapleton really felt that the road work for the Village should be put out for Bids. After discussion the Council decided it would be best. Motion by Holmes supported by Stapleton to put the road work out for bids.

Michele Cannaert said that a group will be removing Baby's Breath again this year. Michele wanted the Village to think about M168 and its new name. She said that M168 is the shortest trunk line in the State of Michigan and has a lot of History. She wanted to see the council to embrace this history.

L. Manville wanted to show her support about opening the Council meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carl Noffsinger thanked Bill & Connie for a great Solstice Festival again this year; He stated how proud he is of the Village.

Motion accepted to adjourn

Laura M. Manville
Deputy Clerk