

**Village of Elberta Michigan  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 15, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held at the Community Building, Thursday, September 15, 2011. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Absent: S. Bower.

Guests: Laura Manville, Carolee Ness, Marcia Stobie, Emily Votruba, Connie Manke, Ken Bonney, Art Melendez, Jennifer Wilkins, Charlie Hendershott, James Baker, William O'Dwyer, Kelli Stapleton, Scott Gest, Kris Dykstra, Sarah Lucas, Dan Kelly, Chris Sullivan, Gary Richardson, John Vinkemulder, Joyce Kirbach, George Kirbach, Jordan Bates, Audrey Parker, Jon Drury,

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Holmes supported by L. Manville to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2011. Yeas - 7

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by L. Manville supported by Jenks to approve the proposed agenda with additions. #6, Jenks would like meeting recorded. #7, Sign in sheet for visitors. #8 Employee Health Care Package. Yeas - 7

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Laura M. stated she had circulated a sign in sheet for the meeting and in the future one will be available. Emily Votruba offered her recording of the meeting and would send it to the office for anyone interested. Laura M. said she would get the information on the Employee Health Care as soon as she could. Carolee Ness thanked Reg and everyone who was involved in the new no parking signs along Acre Street and the no parking strips along M-22. There have been issues with parking due to The Lighthouse Café.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Motion by Holmes supported by Jenks to approve the bills for the month of August 2011 in the amount of \$1,068,624.11. \$1,058,963.22 for accounts payable and \$9,660.89 for payroll. Yeas - 7

**REPORTS: DEPARTMENT HEADS**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Ken Bonney stated the drinking fountain at the Waterfront Park was broke and that the parts were on order and would be fixed. Ken informed the council that

he had purchased paint for the propellers at the Mini Pond Park and Jennifer Wilkins had offered to paint them. Ken gave an overall of general maintenance within the Village. Name signs for the Village parks was discussed and Ken said he would have bids for the new signs at next month's council meeting.

**WATER/SEWER/BLUA:** K. Holmes reported on BLUA. Holmes stated BLUA was still looking for a new operator due to lack of response from the job posting.

**PARKS & REC:** L. Manville gave an overview of the proposed new cookbook. When they are finished the cookbooks will be available for sale at different locations within the Village. Park & Rec. will elect officers at their October meeting. E2 didn't have a good turnout this year and Park & Rec. will revisit E2 and decide what they need to do to make it better for next year. L. Manville said there was much discussion about the closing of their post office box but didn't get any resolution to the problem. L. Manville said as Village liaison she didn't feel she should have any involvement in the finances since they had been transferred to the Village Treasurer.

**FARMERS MARKET:** Ken stated the portable restroom at the Mini Pond Park had been vandalized. Holmes said on Sunday he was at the park for a picnic and the restroom was dirty. The council asked questions about the agreement with Williams & Bay. Laura M. and K. Bonney informed the council on the agreement. The council requested a copy of the agreement with Williams & Bay for the next council meeting.

**BEACH:** E. Vortruba said the Friends of Betsie Bay would be cleaning the beach one more time this year. K. Bonney said the old boardwalk was already pulled and the new one would be pulled just before the first snow fall.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** R. Manville gave a report on his meeting with Josh Mills, City of Frankfort's Superintendent, concerning their dog park issues. R. Manville said the dog park would be discussed in agenda items. Reg Manville said according to State Statute the Village Clerk & Treasurer are the only ones who can hold money for the Village. since they are bonded by the Village insurance company. All Village mail will be opened in the Village office and distributed according to Depts. K. Holmes said the finger pointing needs to be stopped with the Parks & Rec. He expressed how unhappy he was after reading their minutes from their September meeting. R. Manville said he would rather be thrown out of office for upholding the law than stay in office and ignore it (a quote from Teddy Roosevelt). Reg stated he will not lead the Village down the path that leads to a failed audit in the spring.

**FIRE/SAFETY:** Holmes reported after the Quarterly meeting everything is going good.

**MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS:** Thorsen & Soper met at the Life Saving Station to measure the new grating for the LSS deck. Ken reported the doors on the LSS deck were damaged due to wind and were repaired by Ken and repainted in order to blend the repair for LSS rentals.

**MASTER PLAN ADVISORY:** Will be addressed in agenda items.

**AGENDA:**

D/A Master Plan Review Release – Lucas informed the council on the review process.

1. Reviewed by the Planning Commission. 2. Council accepts draft and puts the plan out for public review. 3. Public review for 63 days. 4. Resolution to approval of Master Plan. Sara said the committee looked at the Village as whole. Assets and how to preserve them for the future. Current zoning and the different zones. R. Manville thanked Lucas and the committee for an outstanding job. Motion by L. Manville supported by Jenks to put the Master Plan draft out for public review. Yeas – 7.
2. D/A Management Plan Contract – A motion was made by D. Jenks supported by L. Manville to adopt a resolution for a contract between the Village and NWMCOG for professional services to create a management plan for the Elberta Dunes South Natural Area and to authorize Reg Manville to sign the contract Yeas – 7
3. D/A Dog Park Proposal – The proposed Dog Park at Anderson Park was discussed at length. Audrey Parker informed the council that the cost for the installation of the fence was about 4-5 thousand, which would be at no cost to the Village. Phase 11 would include moving the basketball court down to the Waterfront Park and would cost around \$10 to \$15 thousand. Holmes said he felt the Village should talk to the surrounding property owners to see how they felt about a dog park. Bonney said there wasn't any problem with the EPA regarding the location due to a Village pump house located on the property. There were many supporters for the dog park in attendance. Motion by Jenks supported by L. Manville to table the dog park proposal draft until next meeting. Yeas – 7
4. D/A Lawn Maintenance – The council talked about a new lawn maintenance ordinance. The council wanted the new ordinance to include property between the sidewalk and the road. The Village has had many complaints from residents due to un-mowed lawns. Motion by Jenks supported by L. Manville to table the ordinance until next months meeting until revisions could be made. Yeas - 7.
5. D/A Forbearance Agreement – ELHC – After some discussion Jenks believed the agreement to be fair and appreciated the history included in the agreement. Motion to accept forbearance Agreement made by Holmes supported by Jenks. Yeas - 7

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

L. Manville wanted information concerning the current employee health care package. LM said she would get it together for her.

Marsh Stobie said the county was still looking for a County Administrator due to candidate issues that couldn't be worked out. Stobie stated that on Tuesday action would be taken on the budget. Stobie said the county was considering trying to override the Headlee Rollback on the February election. Marsha wanted the council to make sure before they went ahead with the dog park that some questions were answered. Who will maintain it, enforce the rules, and what type of landscaping would there be? She also suggested a donation be made by users of the park.

Emily Vortruba said the phragmites spraying was hopefully going to take place on Sept. 27, 2011. Vortruba wanted the lawn ordinance to be ready before the next council meeting for public review. Council said the ordinance would be ready for public review one week prior to meeting. Vortruba ask many questions regarding the wording of the ordinance. She felt the wording didn't define what a lawn is. What happens if a person planted native species in their yard and not grass? Dan Kelly voiced his opinion on yards. He said more and more people have lawns that aren't grass and this should be addressed in the ordinance.

Motion accepted to adjourn

Laura M. Manville  
Deputy Clerk