

VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, August 22, 2022.

President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Sandy Swartz, Kristin von Maur, Zach Fedoruk, Village Clerk Sheri Kesterke, Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training Rachael Kuzda and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era* and several audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve adding to the agenda advertising for part-time help. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Jack Davis to approve the full agenda. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 01, 2022.

***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Jack Davis to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held August 01, 2022, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice was received that a Pre-Hearing will be held Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Video/Teleconferencing. This is regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company's request for approval to commence a renewable energy cost reconciliation proceeding for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2021.

Audience Comments: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

***Chair** President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting held August 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Pay the bills.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to pay the bills in the amount of \$90,382.67. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

The Council received the Quarterly Investment Report for April, May and June.

Approve allowing Rick Camacho to be granted his additional 1-week vacation due to his 5-year anniversary with the Village on September 1, 2022, at this time to use for his recovery if needed.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve allowing Rick Camacho to be granted his additional 1-week vacation due to his 5-year anniversary with the Village on September 1, 2022, at this time to use for his recovery if needed. Ayes, 6; Nays, 1 (Lonna Johnson). Motion carried.

Approve the renewal 3-year Reliable Contract with the Village of Berrien Springs.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the renewal 3-year Reliable Contract with the Village of Berrien Springs. Current contract expires September 1, 2022. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the annual “Resolution to Adopt The Annual Exemption Option As Set Forth In 2011 Public Act 152, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act.”

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the annual “Resolution to Adopt The Annual Exemption Option As Set Forth In 2011 Public Act 152, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act.” Roll Call Vote: Kristin von Maur/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Sandy Swartz/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve promoting David Engler to the position of Street Administrator at the wage of \$20.00 per hour.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve promoting David Engler to the position of Street Administrator at the wage of \$20.00 per hour. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the annual “Resolution for Designation Of Street Administrator” as required by MDOT.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the annual “Resolution for Designation Of Street Administrator” as required by MDOT. Roll Call Vote: Lonna Johnson/Aye; Sandy Swartz/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve the annual “Performance Resolution For Municipalities” as required by MDOT.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the annual “Performance Resolution For Municipalities” as required by MDOT. Roll Call Vote: Zach Fedoruk/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Sandy Swartz/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/ Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

Approve McGuire’s Professional Construction, Inc. to provide services for the repairs needed due to removing the alcove facing Cass Street not to exceed \$2,000.00.

***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve McGuire’s Professional Construction, Inc. to provide services for the repairs needed due to removing the alcove facing Cass Street not to exceed \$2,000.00. They will run the project at time and material. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plant 2006) in the amount of \$40,193.57 for interest.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the invoice from the Michigan Finance Authority regarding Project Number 5168-01 (Wastewater Treatment Plant 2006) in the amount of \$40,193.57 for interest. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Chair: Kristin von Maur

***Chair** Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held August 22, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Approve the Place-Based Code Amendments from Oronoko Charter Township.

It was determined that the Village does not need an additional Public Hearing regarding the Place-Based Code Amendments from Oronoko Charter Township as the joint Place Based Code Commission has already done so.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the Place-Based Code Amendments from Oronoko Charter Township. Roll Call Vote: Sheila Snyder/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Jack Davis/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Nay; Sandy Swartz/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Nay; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion Carried.

Rental Registrations through the BSOT Fire Department.

A Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21st at 6:00 for residents to ask any questions. Chief Myers and Rental Inspector Justin Turner to be in attendance. To be held in the community room at the Fire Department.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Jack Davis to approve the Rental Registration information letter to be mailed to all parcels within the Village limits by August 31st. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the proposed 2023 Calendar Dates For Activities from Kelly Ewalt.

***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the proposed 2023 Calendar Dates For Activities from Kelly Ewalt. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Village Hall lobby/security upgrades quote from McGuire’s Professional Construction, Inc.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the quote from McGuire’s Professional Construction, Inc. for Village Hall lobby/security upgrades in the amount of \$54,077.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

FIRE –Village President Pro-Tem Jack Davis and Trustee Lonna Johnson are the Village Representatives.

*Future Fire Board Meeting dates in 2022 are: September 28 and November 16, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

*Fire Board member Jack Davis stated the Fire Truck Millage passed and there is a pancake breakfast Labor Day weekend.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Chair Sandy Swartz

*Chair Sandy Swartz gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held August 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Approve the quote from Watson’s Tree Service for \$13,450.00 for removals and trimming of trees on Village property and right-of-way.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sandy Swartz to approve the quote from Watson’s Tree Service for \$13,450.00 for removals and trimming of trees on Village property and right-of-way. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve trimming dead wood in the Grove Park of up to \$9,000.00.

***Moved** by Sandy Swartz seconded by Jack Davis to approve trimming dead wood in the Grove Park in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00 from Watson’s Tree Service. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve the quote from Chorba Asphalt in the amount of \$1,800.00 to cleanout and repave the 3 areas dug up from water leaks.

***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the quote from Chorba Asphalt in the amount of \$1,800.00 to cleanout and repave the 3 areas dug up from water leaks. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve to repair the road on the corner of South Mechanic and Madison and install a curb in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve to repair the road on the corner of South Mechanic and Madison and install a curb in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 from Chorba Asphalt. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Approve quote from Dornbos Signs for 40 hydrant signs and 40 steel posts not to exceed \$1,000.00.

***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Jack Davis to approve quote from Dornbos Signs for 40 hydrant signs and 40 steel posts not to exceed \$1,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE –Sandy Swartz, Chair

* Chair Sandy Swartz gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

*Council received the July 2022 Revenue/Expense Report.

LIBRARY BOARD– Sandy Swartz

*Minutes were received from the June 23, 2022 Berrien Springs Community Library Board.

MEDIC 1 – Clerk Sheri Kesterke

*The next Medic 1 Board Meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2022.

RECREATION BOARD – Jack Davis

*Minutes were received from the March 16, 2022 GBSRD Board Meeting.

*The July 19, 2022 Board Meeting Agenda was received.

POLICE COMMITTEE – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

*The final Police Board Meeting for 2022 is scheduled for October 27, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE: Chair Sheila Snyder

Nothing new to report.

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE: Chair Kelly Ewalt/Sheila Snyder& Zach Fedoruk

*Committee Member Sheila Snyder gave a synopsis of the Social Media Committee Meeting held Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: Chair Jack Davis

Nothing new to report.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **REMINDER:** A Council Workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. This workshop is held to continue the discussion to plan for “Council Project Wishes”, and to discuss Focus Group topics and who the participants should be regarding the 5-year Park and Recreation Plan.
2. The next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 06, 2022, due to Labor Day Holiday, Monday September 5, 2022.
3. The Village Hall will be closed Labor Day, Monday, September 05, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Advertise in the paper and on the website several part-time help positions.

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Sheila Snyder to approve advertising in the paper and on the website several part-time help positions. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Audience Comments:

*Jason Ramtahal of 113 E. Madison – asked who is responsible for the fire hydrants? He was informed residents take care of the area around them when they can such, as shoveling snow and mowing. The fire department and water department maintain them.

Council Comments: Village Clerk Sheri Kesterke informed the Council on what will appear on the November Ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC
Deputy Clerk/Clerk in Training

Barry Gravitt
Village President