**New Buffalo Borough Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2010**

**Call to order**

President Ted Engle called the meeting of the New Buffalo Borough Council to order at 7:32 p.m. on September 13, 2010 in the New Buffalo United Methodist Church.

**Roll call**

**Present were council members:** Ted Engle, Dale Peterson, Dave Lesher, Paul Kreiger, John Johnson, and Secretary Patty Bierma.

**The following persons were also present:** Cheryl O’Neil, Janice Crouse, Helen Freet, Karen Ersoz, Sally Lesher, Louetta Geist, Jess Horn, Corey Wiltsie, Jodi Johnson, Dave Sweetland, Ron Senior, Bob Womer, Ted Crouse, Dan Balthaser, Rosemary Hippman, Carol Holler, Christian Holler, Scott May, and Michelle Shutt.

**Reading of last month’s minutes**

The minutes from August 2nd were read, upon motion of Dale Peterson, seconded by John Johnson, the minutes for August 2nd were approved.

The minutes from the Special Meeting on March 15th, 2010, were presented as amended. Stating Ordinance 2010-2 (To Establish Fee Rates per Residence) instead of previously stated Resolution. These minutes were adopted to amend prior minutes, on motion of Dale Peterson, seconded by John Johnson. Paul Krieger abstained. Motion was approved.

**Correspondence**

Scott May asked council if we had a sheet that stated all the true house numbers that the 911 service gave each residence, Ted stated he did not believe that we did, but Scott can check with Bill Bunt when he arrives for tonight’s meeting.

Karen Ersoz wanted to know if anything will be done about the sinkhole in town near her property. Ted Engle looked at the sinkhole and showed the Engineers. This will be addressed at the end of the project.

Ted Engle stated that Bill Bunt, the solicitor for the Borough will be at the meeting later to answer any questions, but to please keep the questions limited to the Sewer Project only.

Helen Freet asked council why there is a lateral on the property that we own that is not in New Buffalo Borough. Ted explained that it will not be hooked up but if Watts Township should hook up to this system someday, we will already have this ready and at that time it will not cost the Borough anything.

Paul Kreiger asked council if he could have a free lateral hookup on his property for his garage as he can split his property if he should want to in the future, and because there are four properties that have two laterals. Ted Engle stated that he and Ron Senior walked his property and asked him before the project began if he wanted two and at that time he said no. It was explained that all property owners will pay per month for each lateral that is on their property, regardless if it is currently being used or not. Paul then declined to have another one on his property. Bill Bunt explained that the Borough did not set any ruling that each tax parcel could not have more than one lateral, he did reiterate that however many you have, you (as the homeowner) are responsible for payment for each one. There will be no laterals on vacant lots.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Upon motion of Paul Kreiger, seconded by Dave Lesher, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

**Sewage Project**

At this time Ron feels that the project is approximately seven days behind schedule. The next phase is hooking up the laterals on each property to the plant.

Ted Engle and Patty Bierma will meet with Jim Kello and Dave Sweetland to go over bills and funding for grants. Motion to approve Ted Engle signing paperwork for Direct Deposit for the CDBG grant by, Paul Kreiger, and seconded by Dale Peterson.

While meeting was commencing, Bill Bunt looked over all copies of the Temporary Lateral Construction Easement Agreements that were brought in for him to review and/or to sign.

Motion was approved by all for Borough to pay requisitions as the monies are available from the grant sources.

Dale Peterson asked that when the project was approved by DEP, the two houses in Watts Township were on the project, will we be fined for not hooking them up? Paul Kreiger asked if we are able to annex that property. Bill Bunt stated that it is highly unlikely that we can annex, as it is very costly to do so. He also stated that we have no legal obligation to hook up.

Bill Bunt stated that Ted Engle asked him if he would form the Borough’s Sewer Authority. He stated that he does not feel comfortable with that job but he would be happy to take it over once it is started. He feels we need an attorney with that specific experience to implement the Authority. Ted Engle will ask Joe Pierce what he would charge us to do this and Bill Bunt said he would talk to Joe Pierce to negotiate this for the Borough. Dale Peterson asked if we could somehow pay the cost of this out of grant monies. Bill Bunt felt we could.

**PCCOG**

Dan Balthaser stated that there is a meeting on Thursday, September 16th concerning signage requirements. He is planning on going and suggested a council member also go. Paul Kreiger stated he may be able to go.

**Street Committee**

Paul Kreiger stated there is not much going on but would still like to see that the Borough chips and tars Front Street.

**Refuse Coordinator**

Dale Peterson stated the contract will expire the first of the year with Cocolamus Creek Disposal for trash pick up. At that time he will see what service we will use.

**Ordinances/Ordinance Violations**

Ted Engle stated that the Borough will be issuing fines the end of October beginning of November for all violations of Ordinances.

**Rentals**

Ron Senior will ask Gutelius Excavating to remove their trailer on property so that Borough can rent the house.

**Bills**

Upon motion of Dale Peterson, seconded by Dave Lesher, the bill list was approved to pay minus invoice number 35894 for $3900.00 from SEC. This invoice was for the Grantmanship part of the project. Council will hold 8.92% back until project is complete and we receive total amounts of grant monies.

**Adjourn**

Upon motion of Paul Kreiger, seconded by Dale Peterson, council adjourned at 9:20p.m.

Respectfully resubmitted by, Patricia A Raudensky Bierma, Secretary/Treasurer