

VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING
Regular Council Meeting – January 15, 2024

The meeting was called to order, in the Village Council Chambers, by President Epperson at 7:00 PM.

Present: Loraine Garcia, Aaron Kuhl, Dennis Kunding, Marcus Sting, Rob Snider, Julie Epperson

Absent: None

Vacancy: One

Others: Rod and Noreen Tietz, Sami Khoury, Teresa Kain, Diane Zofchak, Megan Tietz, Joe Garcia, Betty Guenther, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Matt Bumhoffer, Charlene Hudson, Steve Repkie, Dena Kish

IV. Agenda – January 15, 2024

Motion by Snider seconded Sting by to approve the agenda for this meeting as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Sting seconded by Kunding to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023 Regular Council and January 4, 2024 Office Admin and L&W meetings as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

VII. Public Comments.

Sami Khoury, Huron County Commissioner, updated the council on recent county activity.

IX. Committee and Commission Reports

A. Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee. No Meeting.

B. Police Committee. No Meeting.

C. Office Administration Department

Trustee Kuhl's updates included the second meeting for the United Steelworkers Union contract with DPW was held with only a few issues unresolved. Capital improvement plan from the DPW and Police Superintendents for budget purposes will be requested. A number of zoning permits were finalized by the Zoning Administrator and the Administration Office.

1. Harbor Commission Appointments

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kunding to approve the Harbor Commission Board Appointments of Larry Heider and Marcus Sting for 3-year terms effective January 31, 2024.

Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: abstain; Sting: abstain; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

2a. Council Vacancy

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to accept the letter of resignation from Trustee Rodney Tietz, Sr. with regret.

Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

2b. Council Vacancy

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Snider to approve the advertisement of the open Council position on the Village of Sebewaing website, Facebook page, and door postings, with a closing of 4:00 PM on Thursday, February 15, 2024.

Kundinger: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Meeting Schedule for 2024

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve the schedule of Council Meetings to be held on the third Monday of the month at 222 North Center Street, Sebewaing, Michigan 48759 at 7:00 PM for fiscal year 2024-2025, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

In compliance with the State of Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, the following information is publicly posted and provided regarding the Village of Sebewaing Council meetings for the year 2024.

All meetings of the Village Council of the Village of Sebewaing will be held at 222 North Center Street, Sebewaing, Michigan 48759. Regular meetings of the Village Council will be held on the third Monday of each month.

2024 Meeting Dates

- January 15**
- February 19**
- March 18**
- April 15**
- May 20**
- June 17**
- July 15**
- August 19**
- September 16**
- October 21**
- November 18**
- December 16**

4. Non-union Employee Annual Raise

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Garcia to approve an annual raise of 3.0% for Village of Sebewaing Treasurer, DPW Superintendent, Clerk, Administrative Assistant, and Chief of Police effective April 1, 2024.

Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kundinger: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

D. Light & Water Department

Trustee Sting provided updates including electric and water hookups for Taco Bell have been completed. Tree cutting and trimming preparation are complete. Department of Transportation inspections of vehicles are completed for three vehicles with two remaining. Continuing Service Agreement (CSA) is ongoing for the engine plant. Working on a policy and documents for customers wanting to install solar panels, windmills, etc. that would include electrical interconnection agreements.

1. Financial Statement – November 30, 2023

Motion by Stingl seconded by Kunding to approve the Financial Statement for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending November 30, 2023 submitted by Superintendent Hudson. Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Operating Statistics – November 30, 2023

Motion by Sting seconded by Snider to approve the Operating Statistics Report for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending November 30, 2023 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Water Service Line Material Verification

Superintendent Hudson explained the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) requires 20% of water service lines be inspected for lead. Lead water lines were discontinued after 1989. There are 20-25 houses in Sebewaing that would be exempt from the sampling based on age.

Resolution by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve Resolution #11-2023-2024 for the Spicer Group contract for water service line material verification not to exceed \$20,000.

Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Epperson: yea.

RESOLUTION RESOLVED

5. Discontinue Phone Service

L&W determined it would not be cost effective to continue phone service due to needed infrastructure improvements, servicing, reporting requirements for former AT&T customer. L&W considered five companies to transfer the existing phone customers with Thumb Electric Cooperative - Air Advantage (AA) being the best option. AA currently provides the support services for L&W. There will be no additional cost to the customers.

Resolution by Sting seconded by Kunding to approve Resolution #12-2023-2024 to discontinue phone services by Light and Water and to transfer existing phone customers to Thumb Electric Cooperative - Air Advantage.

Kunding: yea; Snider: nay; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea.

RESOLUTION RESOLVED

6. Electric Expansion Tanks

There are currently two tanks for each engine. One smaller tank failed. The two tanks will be replaced with one tank for each engine. The replacement requires employees to move fluid back and forth to keep the engines running.

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the purchase of two Expansion Tanks for the Jenbacher Engines at a cost not to exceed \$8,200.00 from Ferguson.

Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Purchase Digital Electric Meters

Holland Board of Public Works is selling 400 digital form 2S meters for \$6,000. L&W currently has mechanical meters which are less accurate for determining electric usage. The cost can be recouped with more accurate readings and billings.

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the purchase of 400 used digital 2S meters from Holland Board of Public Works for \$6,000.00.

Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

8. Superintendent Contract Extension

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the addendum to the employment contract for Sebewaing Light and Water Superintendent dated January 16, 2019 to extend the term for up to 5 years with annual raises of 3.25% and annual 457(b) contribution of \$1,000.00 effective March 1, 2024, as presented.

Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

X. Unfinished Business

A. 249 North Center Street.

The signs will be changed due to the retirement of Carl Osentoski.

B. 244 North Center Street.

The bids for demolition were submitted to Huron County Economic Development Commission.

C. 8871 South Unionville Road.

Clerk is working with the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce on the lease.

XI. New Business. None

XII. Other Business

A. Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Items will be presented at the February Council Meeting.

B. Monthly Bills

Motion by Kunding seconded by Kuhl to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$146,646.96.

Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

XIII. Public Comments.

Sami Khoury discussed the public comment portion of Huron County Board of Commission meetings and invited everyone to attend the meetings.

Other comments included the employee raise amount, blight, and the DTE interconnection agreement.

XIV. Council Comments.

Trustee Snider discussed the acoustics in the Council chambers and Trustee Kunding thanked former Trustee Tietz for his service.

Motion by Sting seconded by Snider to go into closed session to discuss the DTE Interconnection Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to return to open session of the Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

4. DTE Interconnection Agreement

Motion by Sting seconded by Kunding to approve the authorization of the L&W Superintendent to enter into a new wholesale distribution service agreement with DTE, provided the final terms and conditions are consistent with the advice of counsel, as discussed in closed session today.

Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Kunding seconded by Snider to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:41 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing