

VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING

Regular Council Meeting – February 19, 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, Kyle Dutcher, Scott Adam, Joe Garcia, Carolyn Repkie, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Theresa Kain, Natalie Durkee, Matt Bumhoffer, Charlene Hudson, Steve Repkie, Dena Kish

IV. Agenda – February 19, 2024

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

MOTION CARRIED

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Snider seconded by Kunding to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2024 Regular Council, January 29, 2024 Budget Committee, and February 5, 2024 DPW, Office Administration, Police, and Light & Water Committee minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

VII. Public Comments.

A resident requested the Scheiwe Bell Tower to have the volume turned down. Per DPW Superintendent, the volume is at the lowest setting. The issue was deferred to the DPW committee.

IX. Committee and Commission Reports

A. Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee

Trustee Kunding stated there are seven streets considered for asphalt this summer. Storm and drop sewers have been cleaned from recent storms. Lagoon fence and signs were repaired as needed. DPW staff cleaned the DPW yard; performed maintenance/repairs on the 1997 Ford F350, JCB loader, 2014 International Harvester, street sweeper, the air compressor; and repaired village office lighting.

244 N. Center Street demolition grant requires the VoS to own the property prior to March 31, 2024. Various costs to the VoS would be approximately \$24,000. The grant reimbursement would be \$337,000 for the removal of the building.

1. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Mileage Certification

A portion of Henning Street was eliminated by council on September 23, 1976 for the building expansion of the former Lapeer Metal Stamping building. MDOT's review of satellite photos did not match the Act 51 reporting map. MDOT requested the Act 51 map be updated.

Resolution by Kunding seconded by Kuhl to approve the Resolution #13-2023-2024 for the decertification/vacation of Henning Street between Sharpsteen Street and Union Street of a total length of 125 feet for the Village of Sebewaing 2024 Act 51 reporting map to Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).

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

RESOLUTION RESOLVED

2a. Grounds Use Application - Country Market & Music Festival

Motion by Kunding seconded by Sting to approve the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce - Country Market & Music Festival to be held August 24, 2024 from 8:00am – 4:00pm for the use of North Center Street (East Main Street to Union Street) and the use of Muellerweiss Park at 14 W Sebewaing Street.

MOTION CARRIED

2b. Grounds Use Application - Easter Egg Hunt

Motion by Kunding seconded by Snider to approve the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce - Easter Egg Hunt to be held March 30, 2024 at 127 S Third Street Main Park -North Ball Diamond and All-Purpose Building.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Annual Lagoon Treatment Contract

Motion by Kunding seconded by Kuhl to approve the contract with PLM Lake and Land Management Corp (PLM) for a professional aquatic plant management program for the control of weeds and/or algae for ponds 4 & 5 at the Village of Sebewaing Waste Water Treatment Facility during the 2024 season not to exceed \$6,500.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4. Annual Sanitary Sewer Lining Contract

Motion by Kunding seconded by Sting to approve the contract with Monchilov Sewer Service, LLC for the Village of Sebewaing annual sanitary sewer Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) lining on West Sebewaing Street, West Hickory Street and alley for deterioration/maintenance as determined from the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant not to exceed \$54,000.

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

MOTION CARRIED

5. Storm Sewer Lining

Motion by Kunding seconded by Kuhl to approve the contract with Monchilov Sewer Service, LLC for storm sewer CIPP lining not to exceed \$155,000.

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

MOTION CARRIED

6. Catch Basin Replacement

Motion by Kunding seconded by Sting to approve the replacement of catch basins by Kemp Tiling Company, Inc., as needed, not to exceed \$12,500.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Office Administration Department

Trustee Kuhl's updates included Capital Improvement Plan, updated by Office Admin and DPW, and the first draft of the 2024-2025 budget have been updated and submitted to the Budget Committee.

1. Union Voluntary Recognition Agreement

The former union, United Steelworkers, submitted a disinterest letter. The new unions, Police Officers Labor Council and Governmental Employees Labor Council have been selected by the Police and DPW employees for representation.

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kundinger to approve the Voluntary Recognition Agreements for the Police Officers Labor Council for the Police Department employees and Governmental Employees Labor Council for the Department of Public Works employees and to allow the Village Clerk to sign the agreement.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2. Audit Engagement

The three-year agreement with Smith & Klaczkiewicz, PC (S&K) has expired. S&K has notified the VoS they will not be renewing the contract.

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Garcia to approve the 2024 – 2027 Audit Engagement from Weinlander Fitzhugh Certified Public Accountants & Advisors and to allow the Village Clerk to sign the agreement.

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

MOTION CARRIED

3. Budget Amendments

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve the budget amendment, as presented, for the DNR Spark Grant to remove revenues and expenses from the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year for accounting purposes due to the Playscape replacement not being built during the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4. Schedule Public Hearing for 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget & 2024 Tax Millage Rate

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to schedule the Public Hearing for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget and 2024 Tax Millage Rate on March 18, 2024 at 7:15 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Police Department

Trustee Snider updated the council on the activity including active gunman training update. Upgraded emergency lighting lightbar installation. Discussion on purchasing a 4th vehicle and keeping the Ford as a backup. Police procedures has been updated. The Police Chief requested an increase in the Police Department budget.

1. Employee Handbook Change

An extensive discussion was held on the possible removal of two paragraphs concerning police officer's use of radios and handguns from the Employee Handbook was held.

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to approve no disciplinary action on Employee Handbook (adopted 2/17/2014), Employee Guidelines section, Equipment segment:

¶ 3: Officers will use police radios in a proper way obeying all FCC laws. They will check in and out of the patrol car at all times with the Central Dispatch; and

¶ 4: Each officer must know the proper way of handling his/her sidearm. This includes handgun training. The handgun will be carried in a holster while on duty. Only certified officers are allowed to carry their handgun while off duty. This is the State of Michigan law. All guns will be kept in proper working order and cleaned regularly;

until the entire Employee Handbook can be fully reviewed and updated by department heads and committees, and be approved by council, effective immediately.

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. Light & Water Department

Trustee Sting provided updates including internet had 10 installs/reinstalls. Tree removals are completed for the season. A broken pole on a street light was replaced by the VFW building. Working on water service line verifications. Discussed the DTE interconnection agreement, safety program, residential based solar/wind standard, and state grant funding application for grid resilience.

1. Financial Statement – December 31, 2023

Motion by Sting seconded by Snider to approve the Financial Statement for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending December 31, 2023 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2. Operating Statistics – December 31, 2023

Motion by Sting seconded by Garcia to approve the Operating Statistics Report for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending December 31, 2023 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Expansion Storage Tanks Replacement & Installation

Motion by Sting seconded by Kundinger to approve the replacement and installation of hot water loop expansion tanks at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.

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

MOTION CARRIED

G. Budget Committee.

Trustee Snider stated the Police Chief addressed the committee about increasing the Police Department budget. The L&W budgeted wages and benefits are split by 10% to internet, 20% to water, and 70% to electric. A potential price increase was used to balance the Internet Fund budget. The Water Fund pays employees overtime for well checks on the weekends and holidays. The water service line verification project will increase costs. Michigan Public Power Association (MPPA) will review the Electric Fund budget.

The Village of Sebewaing first draft of the budget was reviewed and includes and anticipated increase in property taxes and SPARK grant funding. The Zoning Department was created for 2021 and still being adjusted. The Capital Improvement Plan was updated.

X. Unfinished Business

A. 249 North Center Street. No updates.

B. 244 North Center Street. No updates

C. 8871 South Unionville Road.

Trustee Snider discussed the motion for the draft lease on the "Welcome to Sebewaing" boat. The Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce has some concerns on the lease and has not provided their recommendations. The December 18, 2023 motion does not allow for the lease to be reviewed prior to approval for the Village President to sign the lease.

Motion by Snider seconded by Kuhl to rescind the December 18, 2023 motion to approve the Village President to sign a 25-year lease with the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce for the use of 8771 South Unionville Road, Village of Sebewaing Property ID#3239-017-021-00, to maintain the "Welcome to Sebewaing" boat and to assume responsibility for all utilities including electricity, subject to review prior to signing.

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. Trustee Appointment

Trustee Snider recommended Scott Adam due to his work on the Planning Commission.

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to appoint Scott Adam to fill the remainder of the vacant trustee term which ends November 2024 effective February 20, 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED

XI. New Business. None

XII. Other Business

A. Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

President Epperson discussed the funding received by the DDA from the property tax capture and plans for a grant for businesses in the DDA.

1. DDA Board Appointment

a. Business Owner

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kundinger to approve the recommendation from the DDA Board for the appointment of Jeff Parsons to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board – Business Owner position term expiring October 2027, effective immediately.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Resident

Motion by Kundinger seconded by Sting to approve the recommendation from the DDA board for the appointment of Emma Schantz to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board – Resident position term expiring October 2027, effective immediately.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Village of Sebewaing DDA Façade Grant Application

Motion by Kundingler seconded by Kuhl to approve the recommendation from the DDA board to accept the Village of Sebewaing DDA Façade Grant Application, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Monthly Bills

Motion by Kundingler seconded by Sting to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$126,605.96.

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

MOTION CARRIED

XIII. Public Comments. None

XIV. Council Comments.

Discussed the letter of opinion from the Village attorney concerning §31.25 Committees and trustee's authority to engage legal services.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Kundingler seconded by Kuhl to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:52 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing

- *Italic represents amendments*