

**VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING**  
**Regular Council Meeting – March 20, 2023**

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

Present: Loraine Garcia, Brandy Gunsell, Aaron Kuhl, Dennis Kundinger, Rob Snider, Marcus Sting, Julie Epperson

Absent: None

Others: Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Dena Kish, Gayle Genow, Matthew Bumhoffer, Charlene Hudson, Steven Repkie. There were additional Village of Sebewaing and Sebewaing Township residents.

**IV. Agenda – March 20, 2023**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Snider to approve the agenda as amended to add under VIII Committee Reports C. Police Committee – March 6, 2023 2. Discussion of How to Honor Officer Eisengruber, for the March 20, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. MOTION CARRIED

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2023, Regular Council Meeting, March 2, 2023 Budget Committee Meeting, and March 6, 2023 DPW, Police, Administration, and Light & Water Committee Meetings, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**VI. Public Comment.** Various community members spoke of Police Officer Chris Eisengruber concerning his impact on their lives and generally in support of a posthumous promotion to Assistant Police Chief.

**VII. Public Hearing**

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to recess the open the budget tax millage public hearing and reconvene at the conclusion of said hearing with a properly carried motion.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Kundinger to open the Public Hearing for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget and 2023 Tax Millage at 7:19 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

President Epperson conducted the Public Hearing for the purpose of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget and 2023 Tax Millage. The publicized public notice was read. President Epperson requested comments from the public. Clerk Kish explained differences from the previous budget including the inception of the Senior Meal Site Fund and the DNR Spark Grant. Council recommended leaving the General Operating Mill at 11.9159 and the Street Mills at 3.862 for a total of 15.7779 mills.

Motion by Sting seconded by Chisholm to close the Public Hearing at 7:22 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

**VII. Community Recognition.** The Sebewaing Area Historical Society maintains the Charles Liken House with carriage barn at 325 North Center Street and the Old Township Hall at 92 South Center Street. The Historical Society participates in all of the community events and has free admission on weekends during warmer weather. A certificate of appreciation was given to representatives Betty Guenther and Carol Truemner.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee**

Trustee Kuhl updates the DPW will repair the sod damaged from plowing due to the ground not being frozen. Sewer rate study by Spicer Group came back excellent with no rate increase for the next five years. Spicer Group recommended replacing/financing the 1998 Vactor truck when the lagoon loan is paid off. Recommending to hire a DPW seasonal employee. USA Pride softball will decide on the North Park ball diamond dugout at their March meeting. The old state championship road signs are still available for sale. "No overnight parking in Village Park" letters were mailed to residents by the Main Park.

#### **1. DPW Hoist**

The hoist will be safer than the DPW employees using ramps and creepers to complete oil changes, tire rotation, and vehicle maintenance. Annual vehicle lift inspection conducted by a "qualified automotive lift inspector" is required by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI).

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Kunding to approve the purchase of a hoist from Forward Lift not to exceed \$6,500.00 for the DPW Garage.

Garcia: yea; Gunsell: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: nay; Sting: yea; Epperson: yea.  
MOTION CARRIED

#### **2. Handicap Parking Space**

Motion by Snider seconded by Kuhl to approve the addition of a designated handicap parking space in the municipal parking lot on West Sebewaing Street (behind Sebewaing Post Office) parcel #3239-008-456-00.

Gunsell: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Epperson: yea.  
MOTION CARRIED

#### **3. DPW Full Time Employee Raise**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Kuhl to approve a pay scale raise for Trent Houthoofd, full-time DPW laborer, to \$4.00 below the DPW Laborer hourly rate or \$18.35/hour as stated in the United Steel Workers Local Union 15157-07 contract, effective April 1, 2023, and annual increases every April 1 based on performance, due to Trent obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) at his cost.

Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Gunsell: yea; Epperson: yea.  
MOTION CARRIED

## **B. Office Administration Committee**

Trustee Gunsell updates included a discussion on the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance for numbering on golf carts operated within the VoS because of being used in an unsafe and illegal fashion. Rental Properties Ordinance for landlords to become more responsible for who and how they are renting out the properties. No additional contribution to the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) for the Police Department due to increased gasoline cost and changes in payroll for 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Annual Clean Up Day (Scrap Tire Grant) will be June 3, 2023. No changes to the Trustee Policy and Procedure Handbook. The Fit for Duty Policy was adopted July 19, 2021 will be submitted to the Union.

## **C. Police Committee**

Trustee Gunsell provided the updates including the 2012 Chevy Tahoe (School Resource Officer) Vehicle engine replacement is scheduled for March 17, 2023. Committee agreed to get credentials for an additional part-time officer. Discussion on the enforceability of the existing truck route and Solicitation Permit background checks.

### **1. Police Chief Pay Raise**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Sting to approve Police Chief salary to be \$66,122 effective April 1, 2023.

Kundinger: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Gunsell: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea.  
MOTION CARRIED

### **2. Honor Police Officer Eisengruber**

Discussion included the process of items being brought to the council through committee meetings and added to the agenda by the Village President or three council members. This way items can be researched for fiscal liability and legalities. Honoring Chris Eisengruber can be done with a promotion, renaming a Village Park or the proposed dog park, planting a tree, dedicating and a bench are some ideas brought to the Council.

Motion by Sting seconded by Kundinger to approve the posthumous, promotion of full-time Police Officer Chris Eisengruber, to Assistant Police Chief, in title only, with no pay raise, effective March 20, 2023.

Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Gunsell: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kundinger: yea; Snider: yea; Epperson: yea.  
MOTION CARRIED

## **D. Light and Water Committee**

Trustee Snider provided updates including cut down eight trees in the electric lines and continued trimming around power lines, M25/Bay Street pole replacement, and mutual aid during the March 4, 2023 storms for Consumer Energy. Credit card fee implementation letter sent with March billing statements. Water rate increase will go into effect 4/1/2023 (3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 5-year schedule).

### **1. Financial Statement – January 31, 2023**

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

Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Garcia: yea; Gunsell: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kundinger: yea; Epperson: yea.  
MOTION CARRIED

## **2. Operating Statistics – January 31, 2023**

Motion by Snider seconded by Kunding to approve the Operating Statistics Report for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending January 31, 2023 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

MOTION CARRIED

## **F. Budget Committee**

Trustee Gunsell provided the update including a draft 2023-2024 budgets.

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. 249 North Center Street. No updates

B. 244 North Center Street. No updates

C. Food Truck. No updates

## **X. New Business**

### **A. 2022-2023 Budget Amendments**

#### **1. Zoning Budget**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Kuhl to approve the amendment to the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget to increase the Zoning Budget by \$4,500.00 effective immediately.

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

MOTION CARRIED

#### **2. Parks and Recreation Budget**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Snider to approve the amendment to the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget to increase the Parks and Recreation Budget by \$5,000.00 effective immediately.

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

MOTION CARRIED

### **B. Schedule of Council Meetings for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year**

Motion by Snider seconded by Garcia to approve the schedule of Council Meetings to be held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM for fiscal year 2023-2024.

MOTION CARRIED

### **C. 2023 Tax Millage Rate**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Snider to approve the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year millage rate of 15.7779 Mills; which includes 11.9159 Mills for Village General Operating and 3.8620 Mills for Village Streets.

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

MOTION CARRIED

### **D. 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Kunding to approve the adoption of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget for the Village of Sebewaing and Sebewaing Light and Water as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**D. Monthly Bills**

Motion by Gunsell seconded by Snider to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$108,040.93.

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

MOTION CARRIED

**VXII. Public Comment.** Members of the public thanked the Council for the decision to promote Chris Eisengruber, solving a problem in a respectable public way, and requested comments in the community be uplifting.

**XIII. Correspondence.** Read four emails concerning the promotion of Police Officer Eisengruber.

**XIV. Council Comment.** Council members thanked everyone for coming, sharing their memories of Assistant Police Chief Eisengruber, letting the Council know their wishes, and invited them to future meetings.

Motion by Snider seconded by Gunsell to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:34 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson  
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish  
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing