

**VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING**  
**Regular Council Meeting – December 18, 2023**

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: Rod Tietz

Others: Noreen Tietz, Sami Khoury, Teresa Kain, Brian Kain, Carolyn Repkie, Danielle Repkie, Jim Shaw, Elena Roberts, Betty Guenther, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Matt Bumhoffer, Charlene Hudson, Steve Repkie, Dena Kish

**IV. Agenda – December 18, 2023**

Motion by Kunding seconded by Snider to approve the agenda for this meeting as amended.  
MOTION CARRIED

**V. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 Regular Council and December 4, 2023 Departmental Committee Workshop meetings as presented.  
MOTION CARRIED

**VII. Public Comments.**

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

**IX. Departmental Committee Workshop**

**C. Light & Water Department**

Trustee Kuhl provided updates including temporary bridge lighting was installed at a minimum height of 14 feet at the crest of the bridge. Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) requires 20% of the homes built prior to 1986 be tested for the existence of lead water pipes by 2025.

**1. Financial Statement – October 31, 2023**

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

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

**2. Operating Statistics – October 31, 2023**

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

### **3. Phone Service**

L&W has 27 business and 89 residential phones, which operate through the internet. AT&T will no longer service this area as of December 31, 2023. The Federal regulatory requirements have increased and may result in increased costs for reporting, servicing, and infrastructure. L&W requests additional time to investigate alternative solutions before installing new phones.

#### **a. Discontinue New Phone Service**

Resolved by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve Resolution #09-2023-2024 to discontinue new phone service effective December 19, 2023.

Kuhl: yea; Kunding: nay; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Tietz: absent; Garcia: yea; Epperson: yea.  
RESOLUTION RESOLVED

#### **b. Phone Service Internal Wiring**

Resolved by Kuhl seconded by Kunding to approve Resolution #10-2023-2024 for customer's responsibility for phone service internal wiring.

Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Tietz: absent; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea.  
RESOLUTION RESOLVED

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

Trustee Kunding reported a Ninth Street drainage issue was partially corrected but sidewalk sloping still needs to be addressed. Recommended approving the truck route as presented which will protect the bridge lights by not allowing trucks to cross the bridge on North Center Street. Leaf pick-up for 2023 is completed and washout at a catch basin on West Main and First Streets was repaired. Sewer Pump One and its three valves at the Main Lift Station has been completely rebuilt by DPW.

### **C. Police Committee**

Trustee Garcia stated Part-time Police Officer Danks has accepted a position with Midland County Sheriff Department and there are new active gunman training requirements.

### **D. Office Administration Department**

Trustee Kuhl reported the United Steelworkers Union contract renewal discussions are ongoing. There are two Harbor Commission member terms expiring on 1/31/2024.

### **1. Pay Raises**

#### **a. Hourly Raise**

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve the wage increase for the Clerk and Administrative Assistant to \$27.61 and \$19.15 per hour respectively to represent the union annual wage percentage increase above the annual \$1.00 per hour.

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

**b. Retroactive Pay**

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Garcia to approve the retroactive pay for at least 2,080 hours worked per year for the Clerk and Administrative Assistant of \$1,954.32 and \$1,569.11 respectively representing the union annual wage percentage increase above the annual \$1.00 per hour.

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

**X. Unfinished Business**

**A. 249 North Center Street.** No updates

**B. 244 North Center Street.** No updates

**XI. New Business**

**A. 8771 South Unionville Road**

The property was purchased through a delinquent property tax sale by the Village of Sebewaing. On August 16, 2021, the Council approved placing a "Welcome to Sebewaing" boat on the property by the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce with the understanding the Chamber would maintain the boat. Electrical service was installed on the property for lighting.

Motion by Snider seconded by Kuhl 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.

MOTION CARRIED

**B. Workshop**

Discussion concerning the new Departmental Committee Workshop versus the previous committees.

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to rescind the motion to create a workshop that was approved on September 18, 2023, and return to the longstanding committee structure for each of the departments, which are the DPW, the Police, the Administration, and the Light & Water committees, respectively, and to follow the Village Ordinances subsection §31.25 regarding creation authority and membership of council committees.

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

**XII. Other Business**

**D. Monthly Bills**

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$131,316.50.

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

**XIII. Public Comments.** Comments included the "Welcome to Sebewaing" boat at 8771 South Unionville Road, lack of enforcement of the truck route and blighted properties, DNR Spark grant, and creation of a snow hill by DPW.

**XIV. Council Comments.** General comments were made by various trustees.

**XVI. Adjournment**

Motion by Snider seconded by Garcia to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:49 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson  
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish  
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing