

VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING

Regular Council Meeting – September 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order, in the Village Council Chambers, by President Epperson at 7:01 PM.

Present: Scott Adam, Loraine Garcia, Aaron Kuhl, Rob Snider, Marcus Sting, Julie Epperson

Absent: Dennis Kunding

Others: Noreen Tietz, Rodney Tietz Sr., Wayne Volz, Megan Tietz, Carolyn Repkie, Sami Khoury, Nancy Layher, Joe Garcia, Alicia Truemner, Dale Truemner, Jo Jubar, Charlene Hudson, Steve Repkie, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Dena Kish

IV. Agenda – September 6, 2024

Motion by Sting seconded by Snider to approve the agenda for this meeting, as amended to add Trick or Treat Hours under XII New Business. MOTION CARRIED

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Snider seconded by Adam to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2024 Regular Council and September 5, 2024 DPW, Office Administration, Police, and Light & Water Committee minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED

VI. Visitors, Guests and Requests.

A. Samantha Cain, CPA, Weinlander Fitzhugh. The 2023-2024 fiscal audit for the Village of Sebewaing, including Sebewaing Light & Water Department, was discussed.

B. 26 N Beck St. Residents expressed concerns about R-1 Single-Family Residential zoning violation were discussed. A meeting between Village and property owner's lawyers has been scheduled.

VII. Correspondence. There were two emails concerning R-1 Single-Family Residential zoning violation and one from Tuscola County Recycling.

VIII. Public Comments. Sami Khoury, Huron County Commissioner, updated the Council on county activities.

IX. Committee and Commission Reports

A. Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee. Trustee Garcia provided updates including painted stop lines at the railroad crossings as required by MCL 462.311, trees trimmed on Atkins Street and above some sidewalks, asphalt millings were spread and leveled along First Street, and the Stecker/Hoch/Tytschkowski family reunion donated a tree for the park.

Park Street. Working on naming the one-way alley along the Main Park to change it from a general funded street to a tax funded street.

1. Grounds Use Applications

a. New Salem Outdoor Service and Church Picnic - 2025

Motion by Garcia seconded by Snider to approve the Grounds Use Application for the New Salem Outdoor Service and Church Picnic to be held August 10, 2025 at the Main Park Ball Diamond at 123 Third Street.

MOTION CARRIED

b. Lions Club White Cane Drive

Motion by Garcia seconded by Sting to approve the Grounds Use Application for the Sebewaing Lions White Cane Drive to be held September 27, 2024 and September 28, 2024 in the Village of Sebewaing.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Purchase of John Deere Gator

Motion by Garcia seconded by Kuhl to approve the purchase of a 2011 John Deere Gator from the Sebewaing Harbor Commission at a cost of \$6,500.00.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Office Administration Department.

Trustee Garacia updated the council on the Administration Committee meeting. The Employee Handbook was sent to Department Heads for review. The first payment request for the Spark Grant was submitted. Additional information was reviewed for the expansion of Brunswick Street.

1. Non-Sufficient Funds Fee

Motion by Garcia seconded by Sting to approve the increase in Non-Sufficient Funds Fee from \$25.00 to \$35.00 and update the Village of Sebewaing Fee Schedule to reflect the change, effective September 17, 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED

2. Audit for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2024

Motion by Garcia seconded by Kuhl to accept the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Audit and Financial Statement as presented by Weinlander Fitzhugh Certified Public Accounts and Advisors.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Police Department. Trustee Snider reported on the monthly activity. Interior painting is done and flooring will be next. No update on blight enforcement. The committee questioned the Henning Street blight issue, which is worsening.

1. Sale of the 2015 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to approve the sale of the 2015 Ford Explorer through an auction website like GovDeals.com with a minimum bid of \$5,000 within two months of the purchase of the newer police vehicle.

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

MOTION CARRIED

A tax payer questioned buying a used vehicle from an out-of-state dealer. She feels a new vehicle should be purchased from the dealership in the Village who is a taxpayer. She is concerned about having 4 police vehicles for three full-time police officers. The last vehicle purchased was ten years old with a lot of miles and the engine had to be replaced within a year.

D. Light and Water Department. Trustee Sting reported on the monthly activity. The draft letter to customers concerning the phone transfer was reviewed. Stack testing started today. Reviewed draft letter regarding operating scenarios for generation, historical load profiles, outages, and operational charges. Unused diesel fuel in the storage tanks will be removed. The water service material indoor verification is underway. Researching generators for Well 1 and the L&W office.

1. Financial Statement – July 31, 2024

Motion by Sting seconded by Snider to approve the Financial Statement for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending July 31, 2024 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

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

2. Operating Statistics – July 31, 2024

Motion by Sting seconded by Garacia to approve the Operating Statistics Report for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending July 31, 2024 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Ready to Serve – Utility Transfer Policy

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the Ready to Serve – Utility Transfer Policy, as presented, to replace the June 17, 2024 approved Ready to Serve – Mid Month Utility Transfer Policy.

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

4. Power System Engineering, Inc. (PSE) System Study

Motion by Sting seconded by Adam to approve the system study for generation and distribution assessment by Power System Engineering, Inc. for a cost not to exceed \$21,700.

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

X. Unfinished Business

A. 249 North Center Street. No updates.

B. Police Vehicle Purchase. The purchase of a replacement vehicle for the 2015 Ford Explorer will go back to Police Committee to review parameters. The Police Committee forwarded the purchase of a 2008 Crown Victoria for council review; however, Chief Repkie withdrew the request as the vehicle is not ready.

C. Full-time Police Officer Promotion

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to approve the promotion of Officer Andrew Gokey to the job classification of Police Sergeant effective September 17, 2024. MOTION CARRIED

XI. New Business.

A. Trick or Treat Hours

Motion by Sting seconded by Snider to approve Trick or Treat for the Village of Sebewaing to be held annually from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM every October 31st unless changed by a majority council vote. MOTION CARRIED

XII. Other Business

A. Harbor Commission - August 13, 2024. Trustee Snider stated unused equipment will be sold at auction. Looking at quotes for dock replacement. Reviewed insurance coverage and lighting. Met with the State of Michigan representatives at the marina and received some good information. Suggested using local dive teams to look at the underside of the docks to determine the condition. Four commissioners will be attending a conference to get information concerning grants.

D. Monthly Bills

Motion by Snider seconded by Kuhl to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$628,665.96.

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

XIII. Public Comments. A resident questioned the September power outage and the effect at Michigan Sugar Company. The outage was due to DTE interconnection issues. L&W is always in contact with MI Sugar during outages. The engines are very computerized and sensitive to protect itself. The old engines were more mechanical and would run with issues. The goal is to minimize the amount and length of outages.

XIV. Council Comments. The Village has collected 90% of the property taxes which were due today. The three properties, who have made improvements from the Downtown Development Authority Façade Grant program, are visible improvements to residents and visitors of the community.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Garcia to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:57 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing