

VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING

Regular Council Meeting – October 21, 2024

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

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

Absent: None

Others: Rod and Noreen Tietz, Sami Khoury, Wayne Volz, Drew and Becky Gokey family, Ray and Kim Gokey, Jim Shaw, Charlene Hudson, Steve Repkie, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Dena Kish

IV. Agenda – September 6, 2024

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

MOTION CARRIED

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 Regular Council, October 7, 2024 DPW and Office Administration, and October 10, 2024 Police and Light & Water Committee minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

VI. Visitors, Guests and Requests.

A. Promotion of Police Sergeant Gokey. Chief Repkie recognized the promotion of Andrew Gokey to Sergeant.

VIII. Public Comments. Sami Khoury, Huron County Commissioner, updated the Council on county activities. A resident was against the purchase of the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria and having a 4th police vehicle for the officers to use for commenting to and from work.

IX. Committee and Commission Reports

A. Department of Public Works (DPW). Trustee Kundinger provided updates. Removed failing sidewalks by 126 E. Main Street. Kemp Tiling Company will be installing the lead for a new sewer customer at 979 Gremel Road. Removed the unstable roof on the Pheasant Wall at the Main Park and sealed the top of the bricks. New electric service was installed at the All-Purpose Building and small pavilion. Split rail cedar fencing has been installed in the South Park. South Park storage shed was removed. Concrete slab poured for the moving of the Horseshoe Shed. Horseshoe Shed was cleaned out and power disconnected. Excess dirt from the playscape excavation was hauled to 249 N. Center Street. The Army Corp of Engineers are 65% complete with the steel seawall plans.

1. Traffic Order #372

Motion by Kundinger seconded by Adam to approve traffic control order #372 for two handicap parking signs in the alley by the Main Park.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. Office Administration Department. Trustee Kuhl stated ordinance revisions discussed, Employee Handbook is being reviewed by the attorney, Trustee Handbook updated, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Spark Grant payment, and potential street additions.

1. Short-term Disability Insurance Coverage Increase

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Snider to approve the increase in Short-term Disability Insurance Coverage for Village of Sebewaing and Sebewaing Light and Water employees from \$400/week to \$500/week due to the increase in wages over the past few years, effective November 1, 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Police Department. Trustee Snider reported residents are concerned about blighted properties. Updated on the Police Department remodeling, and resignation of a full-time police officer. Chief Repkie's request to appoint a part-time police officer to full-time was changed to post the vacancy. The golf cart ordinance was discussed. The Police Chief's request to receive compensation time for hours worked exceeding 40 hours/week is not needed for the salaried position because he is able to leave a shift early at his discretion.

1. Purchase of a 2009 Ford Crown Victoria Police Vehicle for a Back-up. Discussion on purchasing a 4th police vehicle included the cost of insurance and upkeep, reliability of a 15-year-old vehicle, and benefits of keeping the 2015 Ford Explorer.

2. Sale of the 2015 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle

Motion by Snider seconded by Adam to rescind the motion made on September 16, 2024 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: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Adam: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Full-time Police Officer Vacancy Posting

Motion by Snider seconded by Sting to approve the posting of the Full-time Police Officer position with applications and resumes delivered to the Administration Office by 4:00 November 1, 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4. Police Department Rules and Procedure Manual. The Michigan Association of Chief of Police are requesting a manual for accreditation. Trustees were encouraged to view the confidential manual held at the Police Department.

D. Light and Water Department. Trustee Sting reported on the monthly activity. Letters sent to phone customers for the transfer to Thumb Electric Company/Air Advantage. Transfer will be between November 11 to 15, 2024.

1. Financial Statement – August 31, 2024

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

2. Operating Statistics – August 31, 2024

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

MOTION CARRIED

3. Purchase of New Pickup

The pickup will replace an existing pickup that is having multiple issues. The MiDeal price is being matched.

Motion by Sting seconded by Kundinger to approve the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 crew cab pickup truck from Moore Shoreline Chevrolet Inc. at the MiDeal cost not to exceed \$50,000 including the trade in of the 2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup truck.

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

MOTION CARRIED

4. Purchase of a Catalytic Converter

Pine Street engines use the same catalytic converter; however, only purchasing one at this time. Clarke Energy will perform the replacement for warranty purposes.

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the purchase of a catalytic converter at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 from Clarke Energy.

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

MOTION CARRIED

X. Unfinished Business

A. 249 North Center Street. No updates.

B. Police Vehicle Purchase

Motion by Snider seconded by Kundinger to approve the purchase of a used police vehicle no older than a 2019, mileage not to exceed 50,000 miles, preferred body style of a body on frame Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) or pickup, to be rated as a police patrol vehicle or special service vehicle, the vehicle to be brokered through a local dealership, and at a cost not to exceed \$54,000 including outfitting.

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

MOTION CARRIED

XI. New Business. None

XII. Other Business

A. Downtown Development Authority (DDA). October 8, 2024. The DDA paid for the servicing of the black walnut tree in Muellerweiss Park which was dying from root suffocation with DDA captured tax dollars.

1. DDA Board – Property Owner

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kunding to approve the reappointment of Christina Eberlein to fill the term of the DDA Board – Property Owner position term expiring October 2028, effective immediately. MOTION CARRIED

2. DDA Board – Business Owner

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the reappointment of Doug Deming to fill the term of the DDA Board – Business Owner position term expiring October 2028, effective immediately. MOTION CARRIED

B. Harbor Commission – September 26, 2024. Trustee Snider stated Sebewaing Harbor Marina LLC has withdrawn from their lease to operate the marina. The Harbor Commission is now in charge of operating the marina. Three commission members attended a conference where they were able to discuss grants and improvements with the DNR.

C. Planning Commission. No meeting.

D. Monthly Bills

Motion by Kunding seconded by Snider to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$183,723.04. Kunding: yea; Snider: yea; Sting: yea; Adam: yea; Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea. MOTION CARRIED

XIII. Public Comments. A resident received information concerning how Sebewaing receives power through the interconnection and will receive a review of his incoming power due to short, intermittent outages.

XIV. Council Comments.

A. Resignation of full-time police officer.

Motion by Snider seconded by Garcia to go into closed session to discuss employee resignation. MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Snider seconded by Garcia to return to open session of the Council Meeting. MOTION CARRIED

XVI. Adjournment

Motion by Kunding seconded by Garcia to adjourn the regular council meeting at 9:07 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing