

VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING
Regular Council Meeting – November 18, 2024

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

Present: Loraine Garcia, Dennis Kunding, Aaron Kuhl, Marcus Sting, Julie Epperson

Absent: Scott Adam, Rob Snider

Others: Rod and Noreen Tietz, Justin and Megan Tietz, Olivia Tietz, Calli Tietz, Wayne Volz, Jim Shaw, Benjamin Siago Marcus Deering, Trent Houthoofd, Gayle Genow, Charlene Hudson, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Dena Kish

IV. Agenda – November 18, 2024

Motion by Kunding seconded by Garcia to approve the agenda for this meeting, as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

V. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 Regular Council, November 7, 2024 DPW, Office Administration, Police and Light & Water Committee minutes as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

VI. Visitors, Guests and Requests.

A. APM Mosquito Control. Ben Siago, General Manager, APM Mosquito Control, discussed the mosquito abatement for Sebewaing Township and plans for utilizing a drone in 2025.

B. Rod and Noreen Tietz. A certificate in appreciation was presented for their contribution to the community for bottle deposit donation.

C. Alexa Houthoofd. Ms. Houthoofd was recognized for her work restoring the Pheasant Wall in the Main Park.

X. Committee and Commission Reports

A. Department of Public Works (DPW). Trustee Kunding provided updates. Sidewalk by 126 E Main Street has been replaced. Sidewalk on East Street was removed due to sanitary sewer lead installation. Horseshoe shed moved to the South Ball Diamond. Split rail cedar fence installed at the South Park. Playscape construction: curbing repoured, fence installed, playground equipment being assembled, underground electric wire has been cut twice and repaired by L&W, and a light pole, which was broke during construction, is being fixed or replaced by the contractor. New flagpole installed at the Village Office.

1. Sale of Salt Spreader

Motion by Kunding seconded by Garcia to approve the sale of the old salt spreader through an online auction like GovDeals.com.

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

B. Office Administration Department. Trustee Kuhl stated the Employee Handbook is being reviewed by the attorney. The Trustee Policy and Procedure Handbook was updated and reviewed.

1. Employee Health Insurance

a. Act 152 – Opt Out of the Health Insurance Hard Cap

Trustee Kuhl read the resolution. The Village has been over the Hard Cap since 2023 due to health insurance premiums increasing higher than the Hard Cap increases.

Resolved by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve Resolution #02-2024-2025 to opt out of Public Act 152 of 2011 Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act for calendar year 2025.

Garcia: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kundinger: yea; Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Adam: absent; Epperson: yea.
RESOLUTION RESOLVED

b. Employer Insurance Benefits

Discussion included the increase in health insurance costs outpacing the Hard Cap. Going forward, a discussion concerning employees paying a portion of the health insurance will be needed.

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kundinger to approve the Health Alliance Plan (HAP), Delta Dental, and VSP (vision) insurance policies for 2025 through Valley United Insurance Agency without employees paying a portion of the premiums, as presented.

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

2. MDOT Annual Construction Permit

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to authorize Julie Epperson, Village President, to sign the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) annual permit for the Administrative Rules Regulating Driveways, Banners and Parades.

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

3. Fire Warden

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kundinger to confirm the appointment Matthew Bumhoffer as the Fire Warden, effective November 19, 2024.
MOTION CARRIED

4. President Pro Tempore

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Garcia to appoint Marcus Sting as the President Pro Tempore to act in the absence of the Village President, Julie Epperson, effective November 18, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED

5. Budget Amendments 2024-2025

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to amend the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget to increase DDA revenues and expenses by \$13,500, as presented.

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

C. Police Department. Trustee Sting reported the interviews for the full-time police vacancy will be scheduled. An update was given on the purchase of a police vehicle. Blighted properties were discussed. Renovations of the Police Department continue as time allows. Background checks were started on a potential part-time officer.

D. Light and Water Department. Trustee Sting reported on the monthly activity. Waiting on an updated quote for a new computer. Discussed the internet and water rate studies. Rebuilt distribution line on Beach Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets; Upgraded conductor, added transformer and primary to boost voltage. New electrical service on N. Miller Street. L&W employees repaired fire hydrants on Pine, Albert, Sharpsteen Streets, and at Luke's Supermarket. Phone customers will be transferred Thumb Electric Company/Air Advantage November 11-15, 2024.

1. Financial Statement – September 30, 2024

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the Financial Statement for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending September 30, 2024 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

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

2. Operating Statistics – September 30, 2024

Motion by Sting seconded by Garcia to approve the Operating Statistics Report for Sebewaing Light & Water Department ending September 30, 2024 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

MOTION CARRIED

3. BS&A Cloud Platform

Discussion included the cost savings for offsetting credit and debit card usage, increased security, and automatic backup of records.

Motion by Sting seconded by Kunding to approve the transfer of Light & Water Department from BS&A software from a .net server to a cloud server with an upgrade implementation fee of \$22,500, an initial annual fee of \$10,445, and hardware for total estimated cost not to exceed \$39,000.

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

XII. New Business.

A. Council Vacancy

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to approve the advertisement for the open Council position on the Village of Sebewaing website, Facebook page, and door postings, with a closing of 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 12, 2024.

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

B. Keeping of Dogs and Cats

The resident was unable to attend and the issue was tabled.

XIII. Other Business

B. Harbor Commission –October 22, 2024 and November 12, 2024. Trustee Sting reported the Harbor Commission will be operating the Marina and delegating some of the responsibilities. Paid outstanding bills and winterized buildings. There were duck hunters and fisherman using the harbor. The state of Michigan is providing a computer system for managing the harbor and reserving boat slips. Winter storage is being provided at the annex. Working towards engineering grants for the next fiscal year.

D. Monthly Bills

Motion by Kundingler seconded by Garcia to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$637,372.14.

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

XIV. Public Comments. A resident volunteered to take the pictures for the Christmas lighting competition. Discussed providing the borrowing a bike program at the Village parks, paddle boats at the marina, and free movies for the children during the colder months.

XV. Council Comments. Trustee Garcia was thanked for her service and invited to return in the future.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Garcia seconded by Kundingler to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:22 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing