

VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING

Regular Council Meeting – December 16, 2024

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

Present: Scott Adam, Dennis Kunding, Aaron Kuhl, Marcus Sting, Julie Epperson

Absent: Rob Snider

Others: Rod and Noreen Tietz, Sami Khoury, Carolyn Repkie, Steve Repkie, Charlene Hudson, Linda Engelhardt, Justin Fritz, Dena Kish

IV. Agenda – December 16, 2024

Motion by Kunding seconded by Adam 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 November 18, 2024 Regular Council, December 2, 2024 DPW, Office Administration, Police and Light & Water Committee minutes, as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

VIII. Public Comment

Sami Khoury, Huron County Commissioner updated the council on current activities within the county.

X. Committee and Commission Reports

A. Department of Public Works (DPW). Trustee Kunding provided updates. Leaf pick up extended into December due to many trees hanging onto leaves. DPW tore apart and readjusted Pump 3 at the Main Lift Station. Planning on new asphalt to small pavilion, behind home plate fence, and to the concession stand with leftover Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Spark Grant money.

1. Memorial Donation Policy

Motion by Kunding seconded by Sting to approve the Memorial Donation Policy, as presented. Adam: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Epperson: yea.
MOTION CARRIED

2. Sale of Cub Cadet Zero Turn Mower

Motion by Kunding seconded by Kuhl to approve the sale of the Cub Cadet zero turn mower through an online auction site. Kuhl: yea; Kunding: yea; Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Adam: yea; Epperson: yea.
MOTION CARRIED

B. Office Administration Department. Trustee Kuhl stated the Employee Handbook updates were received from the attorney. According to the new auditor, the value of using Village vehicles for commuting is reportable to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). A policy needs to be written and approved prior to reporting to the IRS. A meeting was scheduled with two residents to work out an easement agreement for Brunswick Street.

1. Workshop vs Committee Meetings

Discussion held on replacing the DPW, Office Administration, Police and Light & Water Committee meetings with the Departmental Workshop Committee Meeting. Concerns were voiced with the trustees being able to attend the longer meeting and lack of flexibility in rescheduling an individual committee meeting. The workshop allowed trustees to obtain more in-depth knowledge from each Department. Item died due to lack of motion.

2. Sign Permit Application

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Kunderinger to approve the Sign Permit Application Form, which will increase the fee to \$50.00, as presented.

Kunderinger: yea; Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Adam: yea; Kuhl: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Vacation Carryover

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve the carryover of 40 hours of vacation time for Justin Fritz to be used by March 31, 2025.

Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Adam: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunderinger: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

C. Police Department. Trustee Sting reported discussion was held on the part-time officer vacancy. Two potential used patrol vehicles were discussed with questions on the remaining warranty. The Police station has water damage which will be inspected by trustee Sting for remodeling options. Update provided on blighted properties.

1. Full-time Police Officer Vacancy

Trustee Sting provided comments from the interview with an applicant.

Motion by Sting seconded by Adam to approve the hiring of Steven Triner as a Full-time Police Officer, at an hourly rate of \$26.34 based on current experience and training, subject to fit for duty physical and background check, with benefits as described in the Village of Sebawaing Employee Handbook with additions and as recapped in the Full-Time Union Benefits document.

Adam: yea; Kuhl: yea; Kunderinger: yea; Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

D. Light and Water Department. Trustee Sting reported on the monthly activity. Discussed internet and water rate study results. New redundancy plan in motion for re-router of fiber path in the event of a line care failure. Power System Engineering (PSE) is reviewing the Bayside Best Bean solar application. 624 Stack testing with Clark Energy and Barr Engineering was scheduled for December 10, 2024. Safety classes for harness, hazard communication, first aid/CPR and fire extinguisher in process. The new Remote Terminal Unit (RTU), an electronic device to connect sensors and other field devices to a SCADA system, was delivered and templates are being developed. Succession Planning for Plant Supervisor started.

1. Financial Statement – October 31, 2024

Motion by Sting seconded by Kunderinger to approve the Financial Statement for Sebawaing Light & Water Department ending October 31, 2024 submitted by Superintendent Hudson.

Kuhl: yea; Kunderinger: yea; Snider: absent; Sting: yea; Adam: yea; Epperson: yea.

MOTION CARRIED

2. Operating Statistics – October 31, 2024

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

MOTION CARRIED

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Council Vacancy

Discussion was held on the two applicants.

Motion by Kunding seconded by Sting to approve the appointment of Chase Suber to fill the term of Village of Sebewaing Trustee until the next Village election in November 2026, effective Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Keeping of Dogs and Cats

Motion by Sting seconded by Kunding to deny a resident's request for a variance to keep three (3) dogs at 623 N. Center Street per Village of Sebewaing Ordinance §91.05 Keeping of Dogs and Cats and said variance shall be valid for the time period this property is owned and occupied by the current resident, and the current three dogs are living and residing at this address.

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

MOTION CARRIED

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. BS&A Cloud Server - VoS

The BS&A computer system will be eliminating the .net in the future. The VoS would be responsible for a server if they stayed on the .net program. This would be the lowest cost to transfer.

Motion by Kuhl seconded by Sting to approve the transfer of Village of Sebewaing from BS&A software .net server to a cloud server with an upgrade implementation fee of \$15,570, an initial annual fee of \$9,405, for total cost not to exceed \$24,975.

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

MOTION CARRIED

B. DPW Union Contract: On-Call Week

Motion by Sting seconded by Kunding to approve the correction to Section 6: On-Call Week of the union contract with the Government Employees Labor Council.

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

MOTION CARRIED

C. Meeting Schedule for 2025

Motion by Kunding seconded by Kuhl to approve the 2025 schedule of Council Meetings to be held on the third Monday of the month at 222 North Center Street, Sebewaing, Michigan 48759 at 7:00 PM, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

XIII. COMMISSION REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

B. Harbor Commission – October 22, 2024 and November 12, 2024. Trustee Sting reported the Harbor Commission had fuel delivered. Contacting boat owners to remove a boat from the parking lot. Marina Improvement Plan is a 15-year plan with the first step being civil engineering through a Michigan DNR grant. The 2025 season rates will remain as previously set and contract for operation of the marina were discussed. Ongoing talks with the DNR requirements by Harbor Commission for the marina.

D. Monthly Bills

Motion by Kundinger seconded by Kuhl to approve the bills for the month in the amount of \$217,110.25.

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

MOTION CARRIED

XV. Council Comments. Discussion on social media posts concerning Light and Water Department and DPW.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Sting seconded by Kuhl to adjourn the regular council meeting at 8:11 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Julie Epperson
President, Village of Sebewaing

Dena Kish
Clerk, Village of Sebewaing