

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Electronic Public Meeting – Due to COVID-19 Virus

****NOTE – All votes were done by Roll Call Vote**

Present: President Freese, Trustees: Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Darrell Schummer, Stokes. *Darrell Schummer was sworn-in prior to the February 16, 2021 meeting. All Board members identified as calling in remotely via ZOOM from Newberry, MI.

Absent: Hardenbrook.

Also Present: Village Manager/Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Clerk – Schummer, Newberry News - Sterling McGinn.

Call to Order: President Freese called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to approved the agenda as presented. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Minutes: Moved by Puckett, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021, Regular Village Council Electronic Session as written. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Village President’s Announcements: None

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- A.) **Village of Newberry monthly Bills:** Moved by Stokes, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the January 16 – February 12, 2021 bills, in the amount of \$47,556.38. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- B.) **Water & Light monthly bills:** Moved by Puckett, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to pay the Electric and Water Fund bills for January 16 – February 5, 2021, with a total amount of \$106,635.98. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- C.) **Request for Disbursement of Funds:**
Stormwater/Asset Management/Wastewater (SAW) Grant Program, pay when paid: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to pay Request #29 – 11-02-20 to 12-31-20
 - 1.) C2AE invoice #70743 for \$56,484.27
 - 2.) C2AE invoice #70879 for \$21,439.07
 - 3.) Baker Tilly invoice #BTMA7857 for \$8,000.00
 - 4.) Baker Tilly invoice #BTMA5890 for \$12,000.00
 - 5.) Jensen Equipment invoice #QJ-52825for a total of \$111,854.02. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- D.) **Christmas Lights Fund** – as of 1/31/21 - \$15,391.21.
- E.) **Treasurer’s Report:**
 - a.) January 2021 – N. Moulton submitted a written report. Council accepted the report as presented.

Petitions and Communications: FOIA Requests

- a.) Michael Schnorr regarding Village employee and attorney information. Open.
- b.) Ken Deloian SmartProcure – Village staff contact information. Closed.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions: None.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) 2019 Audit: The Village Finance Manager, Gary Moulton, gave an update regarding the 2019 Audit. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to direct the Village Manager and Finance Manager to contact alternate accountants for a cost estimate for finalizing the 2019 audit. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- 2.) Great Lakes Televising: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Puckett, **CARRIED**, to authorize the Village to partner with Great Lakes Televising for 2021 and not to exceed \$10,000.00. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- 3.) Committee Assignments: For Council review.
- 4.) Generator Update: Watkins gave the update. She advised the Village is still waiting for Fairbanks to come and do an evaluation of the engine block to determine whether or not the engine block was damaged when the crankshaft broke out of it's housing.
- 5.) TORC DEQ Grant Update: The grant is now closed out.
- 6.) Phase out of allowing unpaid utility debt carry over: The Village Manager has decided, after hearing public input, to put a hold on reinitiating this unwritten policy.
- 7.) Public Comment Follow-Up from Previous Meeting: None needed.

New Business:

- 1.) 2021 Water Rate Changes: Village Manager Watkins discussed why there may be a need for a rate change. She also gave an explanation of the process of the rate study by Rural Water.
 - a.) Water Rate Change Timeline: A timeline was presented to the Board for review.
- 2.) FOIA Rules and Procedures Updates: Moved by Puckett, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to accept the changes made to the *Village of Newberry FOIA Procedures and Guidelines*, to also include the elimination of 5L. Discussion followed. Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board: Regular electronic meeting minutes for February 9, 2021, were provided. Stokes gave a verbal report.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: Meeting minutes for December 28, 2020 meeting were provided. Watkins gave a verbal report.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Ordinance Committee: January 7, 2021 meeting minutes provided. Stokes gave a verbal report.

Reports of Village Officers & Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: Written report submitted by Fire Chief Wendt.
- B.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant & DPW: Written report submitted by Superintendent Blakely.
- C.) Working Superintendent of Water & Light: Written report submitted by Working Superintendent Kucinkas. Watkins gave a verbal report. Discussion followed.
- D.) Village Manager: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report.

Public Comment: None

Comments by Council Members: Comment heard from Hendrickson, Cameron, Stokes, Puckett, Schummer and Freese.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Puckett, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.
Ayes: Freese, Cameron, Hendrickson, Puckett, Schummer, Stokes. Absent: Hardenbrook.

These minutes are unofficial until voted on at the next meeting.

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Catherine Freese, Village President