

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

NOTE – THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA “ZOOM MEETINGS” DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Mayor Joanne Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Lowell (Bud) Hardesty, Barbara Hunter, Alan Robbins, Tamitha Sorgi, Keith Riedel, Ken Demeter, Allan Michelson – Solicitor, Jim Brandenburg – Zoning Inspector, Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer; visitors Mark & Lisa Krosse, Mark Reuter, Bill Glasenapp, Ed Nagy, Alison Weimer, Carolyn Buhler, Nathan Eppink, Leonard Olenik, Harold Waite, Bill Heck, Barb McGrath, Joan Armbruster, Bill Thombs, Leslie Burns, John Sandora, Elizabeth Vereb, Marianne Boucek, Howard Wolff and Deputy Harhay.

Mayor Dodaro asked Nathan Eppink, Director – Medina County Park District, to proceed with his announcements to those present – Mr. Eppink stated that there is a lot of excitement about what is going on with our Lake, Chippewa Lake – he commented that last year the Park District purchased the old Amusement Park for \$2.1 million and made the first of two payments at the time of closing and that in this year’s State Capital Budget the state has earmarked \$750,000 that the Park District can apply against the balance due on the Amusement Park thus resulting in no need to finance any portion of this purchase and that the property will be owned free and clear with the final payment in Mid-May of 2021 – Mr. Eppink stated that with the H2Ohio Program designed to improve the water quality and with particular attention on the west basin of Lake Erie including Chippewa Lake, because the state recognizes that this lake is the largest glacial lake in the State of Ohio and thus, will be included in H2Ohio efforts and use of monies to assist in the control of algae blooms in the lake – in addition the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has pledged \$1.52 million to pay invoices on the Park District’s behalf on water quality efforts and secondarily for flood relief efforts beginning this year and concluding by the end of 2023 – Mr. Eppink reviewed the three projects in this effort that will include adding new channels for water flow and control, clean-up of debris and buildings at the old Amusement Park and the creation of new wetlands with most of the work on the east side of the lake that includes inlet trails and consideration for making the west side of the lake into a nature preserve – several questions raised by those in attendance were addressed by Mr. Eppink ranging from water level control, mosquitos, water skiing, pontoon boats, replanting of native plants, improved filtration with wetlands present, etc. – Mr. Eppink did confirm that there are no plans to dredge the lake due to cost considerations and the need to locate dumping sites for the dredged material – Mr. Eppink did offer an email address for anyone having any questions and they should be sent to parks@medinacountyparks.com – Mayor Dodaro thanked Nate for the presentation and the information provided to Council and those in attendance

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read and agreed with the revised January 11th Organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes delivered to Council this past Saturday and if there were any corrections, questions or comments – none were offered

Gary confirmed that Alan made the motion to accept the January 11th Minutes, and that it was seconded by Keith. Roll-call vote; Bud –aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken - aye.

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the February Bill’s for Approval that were sent out this past Saturday and asked if there were any changes, questions or comments – Gary confirmed that no changes were made and the total payments amount to \$13,542.87

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Gary confirmed that Keith made a motion to approve the February Bill's for payment in the amount of \$13,542.87 and that it was seconded by Barb. Roll-call vote; Bud –aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken - aye.

Council Reports:

Safety

Alan reporting:

1. read the Sheriff's Monthly Report and Activities Report with 80 out of 80 hours requested having been worked in January and thanked Deputy Harhay for all the hours worked in 2020 and asked if there was anything new to report for January – Deputy Harhay stated that all was quiet for the month – Alan asked if there were any questions from Council or the visitors and Bill Glasenapp asked about Deputy activity near his home and Alan responded that it was actually on Rockridge and not on his street
2. reported that Chief Winkler had another commitment tonight and was unable to attend so Alan read the Fire Department reports and discussed the Organizational Chart with open slots that will be discussed and worked on for filling these openings; confirmed that the siren worked this past Saturday at noon after Medina County EMA (MCEMA), now occupying Station 2, did some work on the siren – Mayor Dodaro remarked how the Village had asked the Township, who we pay over \$100,000 per year into the Fire District Tax Levy, to repair this siren over the past two (2) years with no success and in one (1) month MCEMA got it working – Alan reported that MCEMA needs all sirens to be 2-way units while the siren at Station 2 is only 1-way and that they will be looking to correct this – Alan expressed his thanks to Director Christine Fazio of the MCEMA for getting this corrected so quickly

Zoning

Bud reporting:

1. Jim read the Zoning Report and asked Allan to update all on 523 Lee Lore Lane – Allan reported that the defendant did appear in court and asked for more time to consult with an attorney and now has a February 19th arraignment date – Mayor Dodaro asked how much time Jim gave the owner of 271 Rustic Rook to correct the violations and Jim believed that he gave them 20 days
2. Jim asked Allan to open the Variance Hearing for 112 Bass Bay Blvd. – Allan confirmed that the owner, Carolyn Buhler and Property Trustee Barb McGrath were present, he asked Jim what the main issue is and Jim reported the owner is asking for a front yard variance to allow a 9'10" set back versus the 20' set back required by code for the portion of the property on Bass Bay Blvd. – Allan asked if Jim sent all neighbors a notice about tonight's meeting and Jim responded "yes" – Allan asked the owner and trustee to raise their right hands as well as any neighbor wanting to comment on this variance and he proceeded to swear them in – the owner proceeded to review her request for the variance to enhance her retirement home which she considers to be health and safety issues, neighbors Olenik, Wolff and Boucek all expressed "no concerns" with the proposed Variance – Allan asked if there were any other comments or concerns, none were raised – Allan read the Area Variance seven factors for the record and no exceptions were noted and then **asked for a roll-call vote on approving the Variance Application - Roll-call vote; Bud – aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken - aye.** Allan asked Jim if he would issue the Decision Letter to the owner and he responded yes and Allan stated that this concludes the Variance Hearing

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3. Bill Glasenapp asked if the property next door to his property would all be cleaned-up and in compliance with code by the time he returns in another month and Jim responded that it should be otherwise court proceedings would be next course of action

Community Relations

Tamitha reporting:

1. thanked Lisa for her assistance on the website and for moving those hard to find files to the home page with a “link” to the website and for all the updating that she does without being asked
2. reported that Walgreens has been added to the list of vaccination sites
3. has been advised that there will be some sort of a Spring-Clean-up Program to be offered by the Medina County Solid Waste District and that she hopes to have more information by the time of the next meeting – Keith asked if there will be vouchers for yard waste as were previously provided – Tamitha said that when asking about this in the past she was told “no vouchers” and they are to get back to her with details on the Spring-Clean-Up Program
4. Mayor Dodaro thanked Tamitha for representing the Village at the upcoming Medina County Health Department meeting on March 1st
5. Alan asked about a Spring Newsletter and Mayor Dodaro stated that Tamitha had already approached her about this and that due to COVID, it is uncertain if we will be able to proceed due to unknown restrictions that might be in place as relates to any Village “gatherings”

Buildings & Utilities

Barbara reporting:

1. confirmed that the pole and light have been repaired at Park Lake but the old pole, with Verizon equipment still connected to it, is strapped to the new pole until Verizon removes it’s old equipment and she is continuing to work on this
2. confirmed that the work at Beachside Blvd. for the swapping of the lights has been completed but it appears that J&B contractors replaced the photocell sensor with the old sensor as the lights are still on 24 hours per day and that she had asked for a new sensor to be installed – instructed Gary to “hold payment” on this work until corrected
3. on the energy audit at the Community Center there is still no answer for the high energy draw at this site – Gary has provided the past bills going back to 2018 as requested by J&B and she is waiting to hear back from J&B as to when they want to meet to review this on-going issue - both Keith and Alan said that they would be happy to participate in this meeting as well – reported that the building has been used only once by the Ski Team – Jim suggested that perhaps the water heater is going bad and recommended that it should be checked/tested
4. thanked Keith and Mark Krosse for their help in opening the Community Center and meeting with J&B for the Beachside work

Parks

Ken reporting:

1. confirmed that he will collect the “bike signs” this Spring
2. reported that at Point Park, across from Willow Wood there is a tree down in the lake that may not be able to be removed until Spring and he has reached out to AJ Tree Service on this
3. offered to send to Tamitha some information that might assist her in preparing the Newsletter

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Streets

Keith reporting:

1. reported that he will meet with Engineering Associates on Phase 8 and 9 and that he is in discussion with the Medina Sanitary Engineering Department, Jeremy Sinko, on the financing and the coordinating of work to replace their infrastructure, while storm sewers are being replaced, to avoid what recently happened on the work just completed on Phase 7 where a water main busted thus requiring repair and a street patch job that is never as good as the recently resurfaced street
2. confirmed that street snow plowing and salting are going good

Legal

Allan reporting:

1. confirmed that he is working on 5 cases – 9 Park Way Path Civil Suit, Lee Lore on property violation codes, a defendant found guilty with persistent domestic violence with a court date of March 9th, another domestic violence case with a February 19th hearing and a new threat of domestic violence where the defendant is claiming innocent due to mental defect
2. did the first reading of Ordinance 856-21, “an Ordinance approving an agreement for law enforcement services for the Village with the Medina County Sheriff from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 and declaring the same an emergency
3. **Gary confirmed that Keith made a motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings of Ordinance 856-21 and that it was seconded by Barb. Roll-call vote; Bud –aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye.**
4. **Gary confirmed that Keith made a motion to adopt Ordinance 856-21 as an emergency and that it was seconded by Barb. Roll-call vote; Bud –aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye.**
5. Allan did the first reading of Ordinance 857-21, “an Ordinance replacing Ordinance No. 740-12 door to door and public property solicitation regulations and declaring the same an emergency
6. **Gary confirmed that Barb made a motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd readings of Ordinance 857-21 and that it was seconded by Keith. Roll-call vote; Bud –aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye.**
7. **Gary confirmed that Barb made a motion to adopt Ordinance 857-21 as an emergency and that it was seconded by Keith. Roll-call vote; Bud –aye, Barb –aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye.**
8. Mark Reuter asked if this is a knee-jerk reaction to a single incident and Allan confirmed that this has been a repetitive issue as also confirmed by Ken and Alan – Mark asked if this applies to the Ice Cream truck that drives the streets in the summer and Allan stated “no, so long as he does not do any door to door sales” – he also asked about posting a notice on the Village Posting Boards about this new “no soliciting” ordinance in the Village – Gary stated that he will post such a notice and Bud suggested that we add a similar notice to the website and Mark Reuter also suggested adding it to the Village Facebook page – Barb asked if residents are to contact the Sheriff’s Office about future solicitors in the Village and Alan responded with “yes but not to the emergency dispatch and he will take care of notifying the Sheriff’s Department
9. reported that Gary sent him property tax statements on eight properties last year where the taxes substantially increased – he determined that the County has reassessed the value of each of those properties at much higher values thus driving up the taxes on each -

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stated that he can apply for tax exemption if they are considered as public service areas – it was noted that some of these properties are used as green space, some are low land areas and swampy and/or wetlands or he can simply try to get the County to lower the appraised values of these properties – he will report back with his findings/progress

10. Mayor Dodaro asked Allan to update his chart/map on Village owned properties so we can see where the properties are located as it has been some time since the last update – Allan said he would do so; Mayor Dodaro asked if we own the “low land” on Garmin Road and Allan confirmed “yes” – Keith reported that the County Highway Department replaced the culvert above a main water line where the old culvert was below the main water line and now there is the “bump” in the road – Keith will contact the County on this matter
11. Bud asked Allan about the rewriting that Allan was doing on Lake Front Properties and Allan indicated that he is still working on this
12. Allan asked Gary if the signed contract was ever returned by Kies and Gary responded “no”, Jim stated that Kies is out in Arizona for 13 weeks, that he (Kies) will return before mowing begins and that the contract will be signed and sent in beforehand

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that this past Saturday he distributed the January Bank Reconciliation Report to Council reporting that all accounts are “in balance” – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered; he requested **a motion approving the January Bank Reconciliation Report as distributed and authorizing Council to sign the report – he confirmed that Keith made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Barb. Roll-call vote; Bud – aye, Barb – aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye.**
2. confirmed that this past Saturday he distributed to Council the 2020 Financial Results for Revenues and Appropriations/Spending – before opening it up for comments or questions by Council he stated that he wanted to give the total amounts to our residents attending this meeting – he stated that all totals do include all monies for OPWC and Cares Act Funding that also passed through Chippewa Lake receipts and disbursements – Budgeted Total Revenues were \$805,612.28, actual revenue received totaled \$807,384.94 or about ¼ of 1% more than forecast; Budgeted Total Appropriations were \$948,252.88, actual spending amounted to \$755,050.24 or about 79.3% of available monies, which Gary commented is a good thing because we always need to spend less so the Village has carryover into the next year to meet early financial obligations in the new year – he opened it up for questions and comments – Alan asked if the Auditor or Treasurer or Municipal League has released any forecast for possible “hits” to the Revenues in 2021 due to COVID – Gary reported that to date, no such alerts have been issued by any of these entities
3. confirmed that on Wednesday, February 3rd he advised Council about the need to finalize the 2021 Permanent Appropriations by the time of our March 8th Council Meeting – he asked Council that between now and March 4th all departments need to determine if additional monies need to be considered to add to the Temporary Appropriations submitted last year and that anyone who wants to meet via Zoom Meeting or over the phone, he will make himself available to answer any questions or discuss any considerations – he asked if there were any questions or comments – Keith asked Gary to call him tomorrow to review monies for Phase 9 and Gary said he would do so

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4. confirmed that last month he did file the NOPEC Sponsorship Award Application Grant for the Lions Club and that today he was notified that the Grant was approved with monies soon to be deposited into the Lions Club checking account
5. Alan asked about the status of the 2021 NOPEC Energized Community Grant valued at \$1,512 – Gary confirmed that earlier today he had followed up with NOPEC and that he is waiting to be contacted by NOPEC and that once notified he can then proceed to file the Grant Application which he confirmed that he will do
6. confirmed that the draft copy of the Record Retention RC-2 will be delivered to Council on or before the end of the First Quarter, 2021

Old Business

Nothing reported.

Public Participation

1. Ed thanked Council for the upkeep that they are doing in the Village – he raised a question about maintaining the break wall – after several minutes of discussion, Mayor Dodaro asked that Allan contact the Park District’s attorney, as recommended by Bud, and generate a Memo of Understanding for release to the Village and impacted residents – Allan stated that this is a good idea and he will proceed accordingly
2. Mark Reuter asked if it would be OK to take about 8’ of 4” tree limbs from the downed tree at Point Park for his use in woodworking – Mayor Dodaro gave the OK

New Business

1. Alan reported that the Lafayette Fire Department’s Breakfast will be delayed into the future due to COVID restrictions and considerations as they consider a possible date in the future

There being no further business, Gary confirmed that Keith motioned to adjourn at 9:01 PM, and that it was seconded by Ken.

Mayor Joanne Dodaro

Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris