

Village of Climax

Regular Meeting
September 3, 2013

Present: Pat Clark, Jim Cummings, Tom Jones, Norm Lyons, Bruce Rolfe, Kyle Smith – President.
Absent: Terry Strong and Brenda Borden – Treasurer.

Guests: Colleen Vosburg and Mike Gibson – DPW.

(Lyons/Jones) Motion to approve the agenda. Unanimously approved.

(Lyons/Clark) Motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2013 with corrections. Unanimously approved.

Communications:

- Consumers franchise agreement. Consumers Energy is working up a new franchise agreement with municipalities. The current agreement is about to expire (entered into 30 years ago) and a new one must be agreed on. The Clerk will forward the agreement to the village attorney for his review and hope to have an answer from him by the next meeting. The new ordinance would have to be published and voted on. A Consumers Energy representative will attend the October 15th.
- A department official from the State of Michigan visited 102 S. Main and notified President Smith. There was nothing in writing from the State. He will contact the State to ask for documentation.

Guests:

1) Colleen Vosburg – a complaint about the high amount of iron in her water. Lives on corner of Sheldon/E. Maple and said that there are times when her water would be so brown that would ruin clothes in the laundry. The home is on the main line and shouldn't have this problem, but Mr. Gibson said the village only uses a portion of the water system's capacity. The problem is that not enough water is moved through the system which causes iron to settle in the pipes. When a hydrant is opened, the iron is stirred up and residents down the line are affected. Mr. Gibson flushes the hydrants constantly to help remove the sediment, but the problem persists. There does not seem to be a good solution to the problem. The village cannot purchase a home filtration system or a water softener for her as other home owners would demand the same. It would be unaffordable for the village. Mr. Gibson will continue to keep with the flushing schedule.

Public Works:

- 1) Water samples will be sent later in the month, once pump #2 is back online.
- 2) Wood Choy of the DEQ did a semi-annual visit and noticed 5 observation wells in the well field. These wells were put in when the water system was installed. It was initially thought they were 100+ feet deep, but later determined to be only 30 feet. The DEQ wanted these filled in and capped to prevent any upper ground water to find its way into and contaminate the deep aquifer. Mr. Gibson found that Peerless would cap them at a total cost of \$1000 – the work could be done while they worked on pump #2 – and he sought Council approval to have the work done. President Smith gave him the approval, the work was done while Peerless worked on pump #2 and should be less than the estimate of \$1000.
- 3) Several lawns were mowed by the DPW. The Clerk will invoice the banks and have the Treasurer apply to property taxes.

Parks:

- 1) Library siding project is being done.
- 2) Movie in the park was shown last week. Low turn out and debating whether to have one in September.
- 3) Automation of the library records is going slower than expected. Library will remain closed. Volunteers are needed.
- 4) Tree in the cemetery has been looked at by council members and agree that it needs to come down. Discussion of recouping expenses by selling the cut wood (after tree is felled) to the highest bidder. Mr. Gibson will seek buyers and when a bid is selected will have the tree cut. The buyer will have a certain number of days to remove the wood.
 - a. **(Lyons/Clark)** Motion to approve Martin Tree Service at a cost of \$650 to remove the tree on the west end of the cemetery. To have Mr. Gibson find people interested in the cut wood and sell to the highest bidder. Upon finding a buyer, Martins Tree Service will be notified to cut the tree down. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.
 - b. **(Rolfe/Lyons)** Motion to establish guidelines to sell wood from cut trees. Unanimously approved.

Streets: Receiving bids to repave W. Hancock Street. Two bids are in – waiting for one more.

Administration: **(Cummings/Lyons)** Motion to adjust the fee schedule by adding the following fee: \$100 per hour to have the DPW cut any lawn that has been deemed an ordinance violation. A minimum of one hour will be charged for each job. Roll call vote – unanimously approved.

Public Safety:

- 1) Still working on paperwork with Consumers to get the cameras set up.
- 2) Per Township Supervisor, send the township ½ cost of warning siren repair.
- 3) Per Township Supervisor, send the township ½ cost of Bike Path repair.

Old Business:

- 1) Clerk reminded to send the Township Board an invitation to a joint meeting in October.
- 2) CN railroad issues. Seems to be a problem with the track Supervisor and the completion of the track repairs. The repairs were expected to be a week in duration, but took over 3 weeks. The road was closed for that time period. Once higher CN officials were notified, the repairs were done immediately. The crossing looks nice from a distance, but the asphalt is so low that the crossing is still rough. Main Street crossing was to be repaired immediately following Maple Street. However, the work has not been started.
- 3) Village office hours: Recently proposed to hold office hours on the last Saturday of each month. After further discussion, it is proposed to have village office hours from 6 to 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. The office hours would be immediately prior to the Council meetings. **(Lyons/Cummings)** Motion to hold village office hours from 6 to 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month – effective September 17th. Unanimously approved.

New Business:

- 1) Work up a certificate for Bill Twiss for service rendered to the village
- 2) The Best Way Disposal contract is coming due and a representative will be attending the September 17th meeting to meet the Council and discuss the contract. Proposed changes: Best Way plans to pick up recycling once a month rather than weekly to help hold down costs. Customers will

be provided the schedule and during the change will be provided a 2nd opportunity in case they forget the recycling pickup day. Customers who recycle a lot will be provided a 2nd container.

(Lyons/Cummings) The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Scott Torrance - Village Clerk