

# *Village of Climax*

Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2008

Present: Trustees: David Dell, Thomas Jones, Bill Lewis, Lisa Strong, Terry Strong; Treasurer: Deb Wyant.

Absent: Bill Twiss and President: Bill Rogers

Guests: Bruce Rolfe, Jack Manis, Robert Scherer, Ralph Weessies, and Bill Sackrider.

Agenda: **(Jones/Dell)** Motion to approve the agenda with changes. Unanimously approved.

**(L.Strong/Lewis)** Motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008. Unanimously approved.

**(Lewis/L.Strong)** Motion to approve the February 2008 Bill Package totaling \$18,550.15 with the removal of the Ford, Kriekard, Soltis, PC bill of \$200.00. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved

**(Jones/L.Strong)** Motion to approve the Ford, Kriekard, Soltis, PC bill of \$200.00. Roll call vote: Ayes – Jones, L.Strong, Dell and T.Strong. Nays – Lewis. Motion carried 4 to 1.

**(Lewis/Jones)** Motion to approve the January 2008 Treasurer's Report as presented: Major Streets = \$147,441.04; Local Streets = \$47,704.06; General Fund = \$140,795.77; Water Fund = \$88,539.33, Perpetual Care Fund = \$11,406.63; Totals = \$435,886.83. Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Council meeting was suspended at 7:40 p.m. to hold the **Public Hearing** on the variance request for the Climax United Methodist Church.

Letter received from Bill Twiss in favor of the variance request. Ralph Weessies, adjacent neighbor to the church, attended and was in favor of the variance request.

The UMC is seeking to remodel their facility by adding a structure in the location of the existing parking lot.

- The existing driveway on the west side will be removed.
- They are negotiating with CTS to use the company's parking area.
- The septic system will be moved to the existing front yard.
- No parking will be permitted in the front yard, however a circular drive will be constructed to allow for front door drop off.
- The new structure's roof line will be the same as the existing Sanctuary.
- To keep kids from congregating along the west side of the structure, lighting options and fencing options will be reviewed.
- An access path is planned that will run from the CTS parking to the west side of the structure.

**The Public Hearing was closed** at 8:00 p.m. and the Council meeting was resumed.

**(Dell/Lewis)** Motion to give a zoning variance to the United Methodist Church and allow them to proceed with the proposed property improvements in accordance with the layout sketch. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved (5 to 0).

Communications: Noted

Guests: A letter was sent to the Township Board to invite a representative to the Council meeting regarding the Fire Tax issue. The Council has not received a response from the Township Board.

Public Works:

- 1) The DPW is still working on water system control bids.
- 2) Caution signs have been placed along Main Street to warn motorists of the potholes. The DPW is waiting for the weather to warm up in order to patch the holes.
- 3) Bill Sackrider will not be resigning and will stay on through December 2008.
- 4) There are reports of snow being blown onto homes and a broken window has resulted from sidewalks being cleared by the village snow thrower.

Parks: The Council received information and a request to build a skateboard park in the village. There is no available location to build the skateboard park and liability issues and costs prohibit any further consideration.

Water: The water committee reviewed the existing water bill payment procedures and has recommended changes to the delinquent and shutoff time periods.

Currently:

- Water bills are received on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each calendar quarter and due in 15 days.
- A 5% late fee is charged after 15 days from the billing date.
- Delinquency and shut-off notices are mailed 60 days after the due date.
- Water service is shut-off after 3 months delinquency.

Proposed:

- Water bills are received on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each calendar quarter and due in 15 days.
- A 5% late fee will be charged after 15 days.
- Delinquent and shut-off notices will be mailed 15 days after the due date.
- Water service will be shut-off after 45 days of billing.

The current wording in the ordinance needs to be changed from “three months” to “45 days”. Also, the change will be sent to MCC as soon as possible to be included in the code revisions. Scott will contact the attorney for his review. Further discussion was tabled until the first meeting in March.

Administration:

- 1) The proof reading of the code book is finished and will be sent to MCC for finalizing. They require a hard copy of our revisions rather than an electronic copy.
- 2) Working on the 2008-09 budget.
- 3) Will work with the Library to get their information on the village website: [www.ClimaxMichigan.net](http://www.ClimaxMichigan.net).
- 4) Tom has begun the process of updating the employee manual.

Public Safety/Fire:

- 1) Continued the discussion of sharing police services with neighboring cities/villages.
- 2) No update from the township on the fire tax issue.

Old Business: None

New Business: A train blocked both the north and west entrances to the village from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There have been reports of this happening other times throughout the year. Is this an isolated occurrence? A law has been repealed making it an offense to block a road for over a certain period of time. The railroad will be contacted to find out what the issue was and if there are ways to avoid the problem in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.  
Scott Torrance - Clerk