

# Village of Climax

Regular Meeting  
February 1, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:35p

**Present:** Joline Chaney, Carolyn Kelly, Nick Ludwig, David Miller, Janet Sutherland, Jim Cummings-President, Linda Coburn – Clerk **Absent:** Denise Kenney, Brenda Borden – Treasurer **Guests:** Bill Lewis, Denise Anderson, Amanda Knowles

**(Ludwig/Kelly)** Motion to approve agenda with change – move Ordinances above Communications. Unanimously approved

**(Sutherland/Kelly)** Motion to approve minutes from January 18, 2022. Unanimously approved

**(Sutherland/Ludwig)** Motion to approve bill package for a total of \$6, 403.25. Unanimously approved – roll call vote.

Guests: Denise Anderson –

- 1) Requested that the council contact her directly with any issues regarding her home or those who reside in her home and distributed her contact information to all council members present.
- 2) She informed the council that her toilet had been inspected and was OK. She gave the inspector's card to David Miller.
- 3) She also informed the council that they were working on finding storage for the unlicensed cars that are on the property & the other vehicles were all legally registered/licensed.
- 4) She has also worked on cleaning up the yard and she stated that she wants to make sure that all residents are being treated equally regarding ordinances/violations and that the council isn't picking on certain residents.

The council thanked Denise for her efforts to correct the cited violations and also addressed her concerns regarding equal treatment of residents. The council has cited a number of properties with some residents correcting the issues after receiving a notice while others did not correct the issues and therefore received tickets, some of which resulted in court orders for noncompliance. Much discussion followed regarding the cited violations as well as recent incidents involving individuals that reside in her home.

Amanda Knowles –

- 1) Questioned why tickets were issued in the winter when it was difficult to clean up/take care of items due to the weather/temperatures. Why not give the tickets in the summer/fall months?
  - 2) She also was upset that the tickets were issued in her father's name because he has health issues.
- The council explained that because there is a process that is followed for issuing tickets, the timing is often dictated by the home owner's response and the ticketing process itself – first a letter is sent to the homeowner in the mail. If the homeowner does not correct the violation after a period of time a ticket is issued which requires a court appearance and also an additional time frame to comply. If there is still non-compliance after this time period, then a court order may be issued with yet another time period to comply. Regarding the addressee of the tickets: all correspondence (letters, tickets, court orders, etc.) must be addressed to the property owner on record.

Amanda then abruptly left the meeting.

More discussion followed with Denise Anderson regarding the entire situation and her frustration with the gossip/rumors/allegations regarding her home. Again, Jim Cummings expressed his appreciation for her efforts to rectify the cited violations and thanked her for addressing her concerns/frustrations in a respectful manner.

Ordinances: 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Noxious Weed Ordinance was started by David Miller

The meeting was interrupted by the entrance of Bruce Ellis at 8:23p.m. He asked the council two questions one regarding the actions of one of the council members and the other regarding who was born in Climax. He also asked why the council was throwing people to the curb. When asked to clarify who specifically he was referring to Ellis stated 'everyone in Climax.' Jim Cummings responded letting him know that the council was working on the village as a whole and it is not the intention of the council to hurt anyone nor be cruel/mean or unfair. Ellis insisted that the council should investigate any situations before getting authorities involved. It was explained that the council does not have the authority to do any home inspections/investigations. Discussion followed involving repetition of the information explained to Denise Anderson and Amanda Knowles. Ellis stated that he didn't believe the ordinance about the cars on Denise Anderson's property and left the meeting at 8:39pm.

Ordinances: Returned to the reading of the Noxious Weed Ordinance and completed it in full.

Communications: None

Public Works: No Report

Streets/Sidewalks/Census:

- 1) Jake Brake signs & No Trespassing signs are all posted.
- 2) Contacted several companies regarding road estimates/quotes for the spring (A-1, J. Allen, Lakeland) waiting for return calls.

Parks/Cemetery/Library:

- 1) Title search was done regarding the library building. Results show that the Village is the owner of record.
- 2) With this clarification, Bill Lewis stated that they know the direction to proceed regarding their desire to become a district library. He will need to meet with the library committee to set up a contract with the village.
- 3) Bill Lewis also informed that council that he has fulfilled all requirements to be a Certified Director and also completed all steps to be an Advanced Certified Director.
- 4) The library has also been working on staff training.
- 5) Consumers Energy did an energy audit at the library and replaced 31 fluorescent bulbs with LED bulbs.

Water:

- 1) Quarterly samples are done
- 2) Currently about 30 non-pays have been issued late notices

Administration/Employee Relations: No report – working on budget

Public Safety/Fire:

- 1) Met with Jeff Heppler from Augusta and gained some insight regarding public safety.
- 2) Met with Capt. VanDyken, Price & Christenson as well as Sheriff Fuller regarding public safety options for the village. Productive meeting regarding the contract process. Did confirm that the hours that the village contracts for will be in addition to the regular patrols that are scheduled by the Sheriff's office. The contract process does take some time. In the meantime, if the village wants extra patrols, extra patrols can be requested and paid for at an hourly rate prior to completing the contract.
- 3) Very interested in purchasing the speed sign for the village as this will give us useful data when requesting the extra contracted patrols.
- 4) FYI – the police did arrest one individual involved in the catalytic converter thefts.
- 5) Reminder that when there is inclement weather make sure you have a survival kit in your car if you are traveling.

Ordinance/Zoning:

Three cases going to court:

- 1) Selby – 329 W Maple
- 2) Linderman 375 E Maple
- 3) Anderson – 224 W Maple - scheduled for February 9
- 4) Discussion followed regarding overall concerns with situations within the village.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

**(Sutherland/Chaney)** Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Linda Coburn - Clerk