

# Village of Climax

Regular Meeting  
December 15, 2009

Present: Trustees: Dave Hopkins, Tom Jones, Bill Lewis, Norm Lyons, Terry Strong, President – Kyle Smith and Treasurer – Deb Wyant.

Absent: None.

One vacant seat due to the resignation of Lisa Strong.

Guests: Richard Thierjung, John Cook, Bruce Rolfe and Ellen Fox.

Agenda: **(Lewis/Lyons)** Motion to approve the agenda. Unanimously approved.

Minutes: **(Lewis/Strong)** Motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of December 1, 2009 as presented. Unanimously approved.

**(Jones/Lyons)** Motion to approve the December 2009 Bill Package totaling \$10,452.66 as presented. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.

**(Jones/Lyons)** Motion to approve the November 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented:

## Village of Climax Combined Funds on Account as of 11/30/2009

	<b>Sturgis Bank and Trust</b>	<b>First National Bank of MI CD's</b>	<b>Fund Totals</b>
General Fund	\$ 113,271.30	\$ 40,205.74	\$153,477.04
Water	\$ 40,053.41	\$ 45,261.93	\$85,315.34
Major Streets	\$ 69,204.22	\$ 21,115.76	\$90,319.98
Local Streets	\$ 30,952.03	\$ 10,036.13	\$40,988.16
Perpetual Care (CD)	\$ 11,406.63		\$11,406.63
Petty Cash	\$ 200.00		\$200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$265,087.59</b>	<b>\$ 116,619.56</b>	<b>\$381,707.15</b>

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved.

Guests:

- 1) Ellen Fox of Municipal Code Corporation visited the council to explain the options to update the code book and to review the final invoice. The code books were received in April 2008 and we never received the final invoice. In September 2009 we received a past due statement and an invoice that was very confusing.
  - Option 1: Wait until we have several ordinances to add to the code book. Send them to MCC to be updated, at one time, into the code book. When providing a new ordinance to MCC,

many ancillary pages (ie. Index, content pages) need to be adjusted. By waiting to provide several new ordinances to MCC, the ancillary pages only need to be updated once and therefore a cost saving is realized.

- Option 2: Update one copy and then make our own copies for the number of books we have.
- Option 3: Simply update the new ordinance, but don't revise all the supplement pages.
- Option 4: Code on the Web. Pay an annual fee (\$400 to \$500) and then pay only \$25 per new ordinance. The places our code on the web and make it searchable.
- We can order a copy of the code book in Word, pdf or other similar formats.

Mrs. Fox presented the final invoice of \$2095 to the Council. As a gesture of goodwill from MCC, they discounted the bill by an additional \$1195 to bring the final payment due to \$900.

**(Jones/Lewis)** Motion to approve the final payment of \$900 to MCC for codification of the village ordinances. Roll call vote – Unanimously approved.

- 2) Richard Thierjung, Climax Township Board member, visited the Council regarding the Fire Department funding issue. Revenues for both the village and township are dropping and a solution to fund the fire department needs to be found in order to preserve the department. Mr. Thierjung asked for suggestions and would like to consider all options. He will take suggestions to the Township Board. Also would like to look into a joint meeting with the village and township. A millage was again discussed. There is a fear that a millage would fail and the fire department would not be funded. However, without the fire department, the increase in our home insurance would cost residents far more than funding the department through a millage. This would have to be communicated to township and village residents in order to make the millage a success.

Communications: None.

Public Works:

- 1) Water meters will be read this week. Three past due Water accounts – the Council recommends to follow established ordinances and shut off these customers for non payment.
- 2) The insurance adjustor has contacted the village regarding the Doxey water/basement issue and has requested information. The investigation is continuing.
- 3) John Cook has obtained his CDL.

Parks/Library:

- 1) The library had a good turn out to volunteer appreciation day.
- 2) Looking into a library director position.

Administration:

- 1) **(Jones/Lewis)** Motion to pay a Christmas bonus to village DPW employees of .5% of their base annual pay. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.
- 2) John Cook's CDL – approved in December 2008 to add 0.50 to his wages upon obtaining the CDL. Hourly wage is now \$14.00

Public Safety:

- 1) 12 hours Sheriff patrol in November.
- 2) 110 FD runs through November.
- 3) Adult Education – Doug Newington asked to hold off discussing the village letter until next year.

Ordinance:

- 1) Reviewed ordinance violations
- 2) Still looking for examples of dog ordinances.

Old Business: Council Trustee position remains open.

New Business: Budget discussion being held among village representatives online (ListServe). Many small communities are having budget issues due to the bad Michigan economy. Villages are discussing ideas to overcome the crisis and have proposed a conference on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. (Lewis/Lyons)  
Scott Torrance – Village Clerk