

Village of Climax

Regular Meeting

March 16, 2021

Present: Denise Kenney, Nick Ludwig, David Miller, Janet Sutherland, Jim Cummings– President, Linda Coburn – Clerk, TJ Gibson - DPW **Absent:** Brian Deller, Jayci Torrance, Brenda Borden – Treasurer **Guests:** Bill Lewis, Anthony Bates

(Sutherland/Ludwig) Motion to approve the agenda. Unanimously approved.

(Kenney/Sutherland) Motion to approve March 2, 2021 minutes. Unanimously approved.

(Kenney/Sutherland) Motion to approve bill package for a total of \$10,381.27. Unanimously approved – roll call vote.

(Ludwig/Kenney) Motion to approve February Treasurer’s Report \$784,741.16. Unanimously approved – roll call vote.

Guests

Anthony Bates – Will be running again in 2022. Discussed redistricting

Bill Lewis – Clarification needed for the library – How is the \$10,000 allocated that is exchanged between the village & the library? It is allocated as \$2,500 audit & \$7,500 maintenance. Needed verification regarding insurance coverage. Confirmed that they are covered through Decker Insurance. Also expressed concerns about the village not having regular hours and noted some confusion regarding how the village can be contacted. It was pointed out that contact information is available on the village website and phone numbers are given on the voicemail message. The confusion between the township hall and the village hall continues to be a challenge.

Communications: None

Public Works:

- 1) Working on Water Tower – Nelson is continuing to move forward on the project
- 2) PFAs testing will be done tomorrow
- 3) Rading meters this week
- 4) Working on servicing village vehicles
- 5) Proposed rate increases for a variety of the village fees. Will email copy to council for consideration
- 6) Purchased supplies to repaint basketball posts/backboards & purchased new nets.

Streets/Sidewalks/Census: No Report

Parks/Library/Cemetery: Waiting for quotes on the tennis courts.

Water: No Report

8:00 p.m. (Kenney/Ludwig) Motion to close regular meeting and open public meeting. Unanimously approved.

No public comments on the budget.

8:07 p.m. (Kenney/Sutherland) Motion to close public meeting and resume regular meeting. Unanimously approved.

Administration/Employee Relations:

(Kenney/Ludwig) Motion to approve 2020-21 budget as presented. Millage Rates: 9.5 General Fund, 2.5 Water
Unanimously approved – roll call vote.

Public Safety: Jim & Nick met & planned/prepared for the meeting with Sheriff Fuller & Capt. Christianson.

Jim & Nick (David was unable to attend) did have a 1/12 hour meeting with Fuller & Christianson.

- 1) Concerns – the village council’s concerns were made clear specifically on the 115 Watson situation; lack of representation in our community, unclear hierarchy regarding who to contact and how.
- 2) Information Gathered – Their office is aware of multiple issues at 115 Watson – Citizens can take the following actions regarding this or any other situation that occurs A – Report the situation on the Non-emergency number 269-488-8911. B – Report the situation through the Silent Observer number 343-2100. The officers did also say that the courts are severely back logged.
- 3) Steps Moving Forward – They will immediately begin scheduled directive patrols during evenings on the weekends. The patrols will cover different roads at different times. The council members did request that the patrol cars be visible and spend some time at the main four corners instead of on the outer edges of town. Discussed issuing tickets as necessary for speeding and other violations.
- 4) Discussed the possibility of a small community coalition. Jim will be investigating this with surrounding small communities regarding hiring a shared officer and sharing the expenses.

- 5) Communication channels were discussed and established that communication will be to Nick primarily and then Jim & David secondary. (After discussion of this during the council meeting, Jim will request the following communication channels be followed by the Sheriff's Department: Any ordinance or court issues will be communicated to David as the primary; Any other issues will be communicated to Nick as primary)
 - 6) Did not receive a direct answer regard reimbursement of the \$450 incurred by the village due to the Sheriff Department's failure to show up.
 - 7) The officer's did state that the village was following all of the correct steps to get the ordinance violations taken care of. Stated that they would be there to back up the village if/when we reschedule the clean up.
 - 8) Jim stated that although there is still much to be done, he believes that the meeting was a positive step forward.
- Much discussion followed.

Ordinance:

- 1) David expressed his disappointment that we did not get an answer regarding the \$450 being reimbursed and we did not get an answer as to why after much planning the sheriff's department failed to show up as scheduled. He would like to file a complaint as approved previously since we did not get an answer. Council again expressed approval of this action.
- 2) 6 letters are being sent to properties with violations.
- 3) Rescheduling clean up at 115 Watson was discussed again in much detail. Council is unanimous regarding the rescheduling – responsibility of this will be given to Nick who will coordinate.

Old Business: Memorial Day Parade – Jim has been informed that there will be a Memorial Day Parade. More details will be given in the future. The council would like to see some food trucks out on that day and continues to work on several other ideas to promote our town.

New Business: A citizen mentioned to TJ that it would be helpful if they had some kind of identification on their uniforms that say Village of Climax – DPW. TJ will look into getting this done.

(Sutherland/Kenney) The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Linda Coburn - Clerk