

# *Village of Climax*

Regular Meeting

March 4, 2008

Present: David Dell, Thomas Jones, Lisa Strong, Terry Strong and Treasurer – Deb Wyant.

Absent: Bill Lewis, Bill Twiss and President – Bill Rogers.

Also Present: Ralph Weessies, Billie King, Ann Niedzielski, Bruce Rolfe and Bill Sackrider – DPW.

**(Dell/L.Strong)** Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimously approved.

**(Dell/Jones)** Motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2008. Unanimously approved.

Guests: Members of the Library Board and Historical Society would like to see the Library building expanded as they are running out of room. As the library is located next to the park, there are few options to expand. Scott will look for the existing structure plans at the village hall to help in determining expansion options. The Library Board members want to acknowledge the good work the DPW does in maintaining the building and also taking care of the sidewalk during the winter season.

## Communications:

- 1) The village general election will be on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. Individuals must fill out an Affidavit of Identity and submit a nonpartisan nominating petition by August 12<sup>th</sup> in order to appear on the November ballot.
- 2) Results from the water system inspection are in. The wells and pumps are in good condition and no maintenance is required this year. The results suggest that pump #1 be overhauled in 2009 and pump #2 be overhauled in 2010.
- 3) Letter from Climax Township stating. “That due to circumstances that surround the issue of the Village of Climax becoming a city, there will not be a millage supporting the township fire department on a ballot until the issue and findings of the Boundary Commissioner and Director have been resolved. Although the Climax Township Board chooses at this time not to place a millage on the ballot, this does not prevent the Climax Village Council to offer a fire department millage to the taxpayers of the village to fund the offered Fire and Rescue Service by Climax Township.”
- 4) The 2008-09 Climax Township Fire Budget was received. The total is \$80,272.

## Public Works:

- 1) Water samples and pump reports are done for March.
- 2) Still collecting bids for the water system controls.
- 3) Compost pile: A letter was received from the State DEQ seeking registration for compost piles throughout the state. If we choose to maintain a compost area in the village, we must submit a registration and \$600. However, we can maintain a “temporary” compost pile without having to register as long as the pile is moved within 30 days. Mr. Gibson found a licensed compost hauler in the area that will remove the existing compost. The cost would be \$95 per load and may take up to 20 loads to complete the project. With the registration deadline of March 26<sup>th</sup> and with the frost still in the ground, this would be a good time to remove the existing pile. **(L.Strong/Dell)** Motion to authorize Mr. Gibson to contract with B&M Farms and have the compost pile removed to make the village compliant with the new DEQ regulations, at a cost of \$95/load and not to exceed 20 loads, subject to receipt of a

copy of proper licensing and insurance. Roll call vote: Ayes – Dell, L.Strong and T.Strong; Nays – Jones. Motion carried 3 to 1.

- 4) The DPW hopes to start pothole patching this week.

Administration:

- 1) Discussed adjusting the longevity increments. Currently: 2.5% upon completion of 5 years and 5% upon completion of 10 years. Proposed adding a 10% benefit upon completion of 20 years of employment. Discussion tabled until April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- 2) Reviewed the proposed 2008-09 Village Budget. **(L.Strong/Dell)** Motion to present the 2008-09 Budget – option A and to set the Public Hearing date for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Unanimously approved.
- 3) The proposed budget will:
  - a. Not include the Fire Protection tax expense, a savings of \$26,757,
  - b. Lower the tax levy on the General Fund from 9 mills to 8 mills,
  - c. Include a 1% employee raise,
  - d. No 10% 20-year longevity benefit payment,
  - e. The proposed budget will be available upon request.
- 4) Tabled the MCC printing options until the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Old Business: Discussed a resolution to send to the Township Board, declaring that the City Incorporation issue is dead and that the Council has no plans to appeal the State's decision. A motion was presented, but failed for lack of support. The reasons for the lack of support is 1) Any citizen could appeal the state's decision, and 2) The Township Board has tied city incorporation to the fire protection tax issue, therefore, to pass a resolution would be to acknowledge that the fire protection tax issue was linked to the city incorporation issue. The fire protection tax and the city incorporation process were two separate and unrelated issues.

Both the Village to City Committee and the Council feel the city incorporation process has been over since September 2007. The proceedings of the Boundary Commission discussions were requested under the FOIA for Village historical archives, but no attempt was made to appeal their decision.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.  
Scott Torrance - Village Clerk