

SUNFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL
July 8, 2024
REGULAR MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL 2024-2025

MEETING HELD LIBRARY

CALL TO ORDER: 7:17 PM by Trustee Roy Morris for the absent President Decker.

ROLL CALL: Present: Beers, Fox, McCoy, Morris and Peabody. **Absent:** Decker and Steele.

GUEST COMMENTS: Steve Smith spoke on the Fire Department inquiry about additional funding in their budget. The council will need to decide if the budget increase for the Fire Department will be on the ballot in November or take public action and pass a vote. Additional information from the recent Fire Department budget meeting will be discussed by Fox later in the meeting. Smith stated the township and lawyers continue to finalize the Ambulance service and it's estimated to increase to \$65/partial on the summer county tax bill.

EATON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Grosshans announced that all budget and treasurer reports were cut off early because of the holiday. She was happy to report the Village received \$400 revenue from recent ball tournaments. Taxes have been mailed and payments have already been received. The delinquent balances from Water and Sewer accounts placed on tax bills totaled \$33,471.67. She was excited to report that for her first tax mailing, she matched that of the county. She took a moment to review all credit card charges. No questions or concerns asked. Motion made by Beers and seconded McCoy to accept Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Trustees were asked to review all bills to be paid. Clerk Snedegar explained that because of the numerous Consumers Energy accounts checks were individually printed and not listed on the monthly bill report. Forthcoming will be a spreadsheet of the monthly charges per Consumers Energy account number/address. She asked if there were any other questions. None asked. Motion made by Beers and seconded by Fox to accept and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Fox, who missed last month's meeting to attend the Fire Department budget meeting, had several questions to ask for clarification. They were reviewed paragraph by paragraph allowing necessary explanations and answers. After much ado Fox was satisfied to understand the happenings from the June meeting. With no further questions or concerns a motion was made by Beers and seconded by McCoy to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

.DPW: DPW Manager Desegranges opened with remarks regarding a letter from the State of Michigan reviewing the asset management plan, cross connection program, emergency response plan and his operator designation plan. Though in compliance there is always room for improvement. At this time, we must update and replace our asset management plan. Engineers will be retained to make sure we comply. Desegranges then reported an estimate for a new zero turn lawn mower of \$34,000 is list price, but at this time we can get for approximately \$23,800. He requested a rear discharge and newer market tires of plastic material, so as to not have the constant flat tire repair expense. The council discussed the price for off set brush hog at \$11,098. Snedegar reported the final tractor payment on the John Deere financial account will be in September for \$12,898.28.

Fox supported Desegranges when asked for new tires on the Gator. They are \$240 each but asked for new rims as at this time the fronts are 9" and rear 12". This makes for a rough ride. His request would be that all rims be 9". Motion made by Morris and seconded by Fox to purchased 2 9" rims and 4 new tires for Gator. Motion passed.

Desegranges then explained how the drain in the park is plugged and is currently investigating with Precision Grade. Some concerns in the direction of flow on all drain lines in the park. Peabody was asked if might have some information on locations. He then reported on the sidewalk and bench repairs at Foltz Field and adding more benches at sidewalk.

Desegranges is still awaiting quotes for 6 trees on Logan Street and 3 small dead trees around town. He asked the council to consider the purchase of a commercial dehumidifier for the well house. Currently, he estimates \$3,800 - \$4000. This brought us to the quote from Stowell

Builders on a new pavilion in Van Buren Park at 24' x 56' and 10 feet in height. The quote includes the concrete, and relocation of the old roof to Foltz Field for the future construction of a pavilion there later. This quote for the larger pavilion at Van Buren Park will be constructed before the local Farmer's Picnic festival held in mid-August is for \$39,800.

Desegranges last topic on his project list is to get rid of the porta johns and build a restroom facility. He's currently working on a blueprint. Fox then asked if there was money to build the new pavilion. Treasurer Grosshans reviewed funding of various accounts. After money spent on the water tower, mixer, pump and generator there is still some funding available.

The motion was made by Morris to build the new pavilion in Van Buren Park. McCoy asked for confirmation there would be no surprises from the water tower. Desegranges estimated only 5 more days until completed. Fox noted he was also concerned in the funding availability. Grosshans noted she met with former Treasurer Wacha to clarify availability in accounts. It was then seconded by Beers and a unanimous vote to build a new pavilion in Van Buren Park. Desegranges last item on the job list is fencing. To be discussed at August meeting.

WATER & SEWER: Kelly Waldo was present to review the timeline for her replacement. Snedegar took the time to explain the transition from the old QuickBooks to cloud based account that will allow access for 3 persons with restricted use within the accounting program. Snedegar reported the delay of transition was part the audit completion and now the organization and time to begin data entry. The CPA requires accuracy for future audits. In creating a new accounting program all the necessary steps to mail and collect water and sewer billings can be done by either party. Online payments and email links will also be implemented moving forward. She asked for the council to allow Grosshans and her time to build the new QuickBooks account, and slowly transition Waldo out. Allowing just the two of us to maintain until the end of the year before hiring a 3rd person.

OLD BUSINESS: Fox, who attended the Fire Department budget meeting last month took the floor to highlight his findings from the meeting. The fire department is seeking additional funding for new and newer equipment along with training expenses. They are asking for 2 MIL. It was pointed out that the request for additional funding normally takes place at the beginning of the year, and not at mid-year. The public concern is they will ask for 4 MIL in 2025. The council agrees that we need our Fire Department and willing to do our

best to research possibilities. This brought the trustees to discuss a special assessment, which needs to be established by August 13, 2024. Recommendation made to ask for our Legal Council to act immediately to establish a special assessment agreement urgently. A suggestion was made by guest Smith to lower the Mil to 12.5 down to 10.5 to allocate the 2 MIL for the fire department. Motion was made by Beers and seconded by Peabody to establish a special assessment.

Tabled for the next meeting is an ordinance adding recreational vehicles, travel trailers, and boats to current abandon and non-working automobiles.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business to report.

CORRESPONDENCE: none read

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Fox and seconded by McCoy to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Minutes taken and summarized by Tricia Snedegar, Village Clerk. This summary of minutes is not official until approved by the Village Council at the August 12, 2024, meeting.