

**EDMORE VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
UNAPPROVED JOURNAL OF MINUTES
April 08, 2024**

1. **SWEARING IN CEREMONY – CRISTINA PIERCE, TRUSTEE:** Peterson administered the Oath of Office to Cristina Pierce.
2. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Village of Edmore Council was called to order on Monday, April 08, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. by **President Gloria Burr**.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **ROLL CALL:** Members present – **Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Pierce, Burr**. Also present: **Mark Borden** – Village Manager, **Shirley Drain** – Village Treasurer, **Kerri Peterson** – Village Clerk, **Deputy Edwards** – Montcalm County Sheriff's Office.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Guild moved to approve the agenda. Supported by Moore. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 7-0.**
6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**
 - A. **POLICE: Deputy Edwards** reported notable events which included on March 21st, an industrial accident at the old Edmore Hospital resulted in the death of a 22-year-old man from Prescott, Michigan. A group was removing an old boiler when the man was caught between the boiler and a mini excavator. The case remains under investigation. On March 28th, a missing person complaint was filed in the 1000 block of East Main Street. The caller indicated that he and his girlfriend, an 18-year-old Lakeview woman, had gotten into an argument and she left. The caller was unable to locate her and was concerned for her safety. The woman later called Central Dispatch asking for assistance as she was having an emotional event. The woman was contacted and transported to the hospital for treatment.
 - B. **MANAGER: Mark Borden (Code Enforcement, DPW, DDA):** Borden reported on **Committees:** The Police Committee met on April 8th. The DDA met on March 21, 2024 to discuss the downtown trees and planter pots. The DDA voted to accept Higbee Landscaping's two proposals for pots and trees, and Woodland Tree Services proposal to trim the existing downtown trees. The tax capture rate was also discussed. And it was voted on to request the increase and asked for this to be on the agenda for the April 8th meeting. **Developments:** The Church of God is actively planning a new pole barn style, multi-purpose building. No permit application has been submitted to date. They are aware that our ordinance requires one off-street parking space for every four seats in the main auditorium. The Storage business on the North side of M-46 behind the Barber Shop has contacted us to ask about constructing a new storage unit on the west side of his property and wondered how close he could build to M-46. **Code Enforcement: Citations written to date:** 402 Greenfield Street, 330 S. Second Street, 518 E. Gilson, 139 N. Eleventh, 125 E Railroad. **Door Tags Issued in April:** (They have until 4-30-24 to comply) 219 N. Third, 119 N. Second, 611 S First, 520 S First, 201 Center St., 315 S. Fifth Street. **DPW Activities:** Yard bags and brush pick up started in March with the warmer weather. Marcus Thiesen is our new DPW employee. He started 3-25-24. Sewer back up reported 413 Greenfield. 5:00 on 4-4-24. Andy and Jon responded within 30 minutes. They found grease to be the cause of the clog in the sewer main. Andy will try to determine where the grease is being introduced into our sewer system. We had three burials. Spring cleanup in

the cemetery is a big priority. **Master Plan:** The work on our Master Plan is nearing completion of the document portion. Once the draft or document is completed, we will be holding a public hearing for citizen's input. The plan will then be presented to the council for review. **Wellhead Protection Plan:** Kelly Hon with MRWA is putting the finishing touches on our plan. It should be ready to be delivered to EGLE by 4-12-24. We will be implementing some items as part of the new plan. Some of the projects will include locating and capping private wells, fencing and signage around all well houses, road signs identifying the wellhead protection area, and possible purchase of a model for use in the schools. Grant funding is available for these items and will be pursued. They are a 50% grant. We get credit for the \$2500 already spent with F&V on this project. This has been a big undertaking, but it will be worth it if it helps us get our \$10M grant request for water upgrades. **Granger:** Spring clean-up is Saturday, April 20, 2024. **Generators:** Point Broadband came through on their pledge to give/gift us the generator and the building at the water tower. Once we take possession, we will have Edmore Electric check it out and make sure everything is functioning. Point Broadband has asked to have a public ceremony the week of April 15th. We will have media in attendance. Tentative Wednesday, April 17th at 3 p.m. **Safety:** Our DPW is taking steps to make sure we are fully OSHA/MIOSHA compliant in all areas. **Personnel Management:** Gus Rios resigned from his position with the DPW. Marcus Thiesen was hired as his replacement. Marcus started with us on 3-25-24. **Industrial Drive Sign:** The new sign has been installed and looks great. **ARPA Reporting:** Our annual report was submitted this week for our ARPA funding. The report was due by 4-30-24. So far, our annual submission has been that we have not spent any of the money, which is accurate. It is important to know that we must spend or have contracts in place with contractors or vendors to spend the money by 12-31-24. The ARPA funds will be reclaimed if we do not spend the money. We must have it spent or committed by way of written contracts by 12-31-24 but we have until 12-31-2026 to complete the work. **ACT 51 Reporting:** Our annual Act 51 report to the MDOT was submitted with no changes from the previous year. Our mileage remains unchanged for Major and Local streets. The Street Committee needs to meet to discuss one of the streets in town and whether we want to include it in our official Act 51 street inventory for next year. We have until 12-31-24 to add it if we want it on next year's official Act 51 Inventory map.

C. **PRESIDENTS:** Gloria Burr: None.

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Shirley Drain

A. **TREASURER'S REPORT & COMMENTS:** Drain: Cash balances look good. All ELF loans are current.

B. **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Motion by Griswold to pay the bills. Supported by Colburn. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Pierce, Burr. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 11, 2024:** Motion by Moore to accept the March 11, 2024, minutes as printed. Supported by Griswold. **VOICE VOTE:** ALL YES: **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

11. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR DOWNTOWN TREES AND PLANTER POTS, DDA APPROVAL VOTE:** The board discussed the DDA's downtown proposal. Included in the proposal was the care and maintenance of the trees and pots. It was asked if the trees/plants die, will they come

fix/replace them? That conversation was not had between the contractors and the DDA. They will be here every two weeks for care. The board wants watering and maintenance plan in writing. Discussion continued on the type of trees they are going to plant downtown and the mess with the type of tree because of their leaves. There is concern with using a Crimson Sentry Maple. Motion by McParland to accept both Higbee Landscaping and Woodland Tree Services contracts with details of maintenance and tree warranty in writing. The plan is to leave the planters out year-round with changing décor for the season. It was mentioned that Locust trees are a nice tree for the straight down root system. We currently have Bradford Pear trees. Before the pear trees we did have locust trees. It was asked why they weren't planting the same type of tree that is already downtown. The DDA approved the landscaper's recommendations on trees. **Motion by McParland to accept the DDA's proposals with both Higbee Landscaping and Woodland Tree Services, with details of maintenance and tree warranty in writing. Supported by Colburn. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Pierce, Burr. MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

- B. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS – REVIEW OPTIONS, PROPOSAL:** Discussion took place on three options. The council would like to see what it looks like this year and can always change it for next year. The DDA purchased strings of lights to put on the bare poles but there is no information about them other than that. **Motion by Moore to approve Option 3, a decoration and lighted garland wrap on every other pole, 36 poles for \$3240 furnished by Hometown Decoration and Display, LLC. Supported by Guild. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Pierce, Burr. MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

- C. DISCUSS WATER/SEWER SERVICE TO THE OLD HOSPITAL PROPERTY, HOME TOWNSHIP OFFICE, EDMORE FAMILY DENTISTRY:** Borden updated that the Health Department contacted him and asked for a meeting. Waiting for a meeting with the Health Department. The Health Department wants to meet with the new owner of the old hospital, Home Township representative, Edmore Family Dentistry, and Village council representative to come up with the best plan moving forward.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CONSIDER DDA REQUEST TO INCREASE THE TAX CAPTURE FROM 60% TO 100%:** Discussion took place on if this could be done this year, and it cannot. It would have to wait until February 2025. If approved, the DDA would get \$30,000 in September 2024 and then 100% in February 2025. It's based on taxes. The 60% was negotiated about 5 years ago. It was mentioned that the DDA is in the situation they are in due to unfortunate decisions that were made and it's not felt that we should charge the people that have nothing to do with it. It's not their responsibility. If we find something that absolutely needs to be done and the DDA doesn't have the funds for it, then it should be our responsibility to pay for it out of the General Fund. It is not fair to take money away from the Library and all the others. Discussion ensued among the board about all the money being poured into the old bag building. The board understands that the DDA has got to be frustrated but they agree that it is not fair to take tax payer money from the others. There are 4 years left on the contract. After that the council can tell them to support themselves or they won't receive any money. They still owe \$120,243. It was stated that the Village is requiring the DDA to pay for things now that they don't have the money for. The Village is telling them they have to take care of the planter boxes and things downtown and it is going to take all of their budget and there is not enough money. If the Village wants it the Village should pay for it and not charge the DDA for it. What else has the DDA done? The Village cut the budget but you still expect them to do all the projects with no

money. The DDA claims the Marketplace is supporting itself. They should have money that they are not spending out of that budget if the building is supporting itself. This is extra, not the bag factory, so the Village should take care of the bills. It was felt that if they don't get help from the Village the members of the DDA are going to resign. They are not broke, they have money in their cash balance. They can get some of that money but it needs to be approved. If they are self-supporting on the building then they are doing what we asked them to do. It was brought up that if the Village wants something done downtown and the DDA can't afford it, then the Village could step in and do something downtown themselves.

Motion by Colburn to deny the request from the DDA for a 100% tax capture. Seconded by McParland. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Pierce, Burr. NO: Moore. MOTION PASSED 6-1.

B. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAM, MID-MICHIGAN INDUSTRIES:

Discussion took place, and it was agreed we could accommodate 2 individuals for the work program through Mid-Michigan Industries. One job could include painting hydrants. Borden is going to ask if that is a possibility with these individuals.

13. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

14. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Burr thanked council members for coming to Jerry Rasmussen's memorial service. McParland welcomed Cristina Pierce to the board.

15. **ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Griswold to adjourn. Supported by Colburn. VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

President Burr adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Village President

Village Clerk

Approved for Publication

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2024