

A public hearing and the regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Building, 401 First Street, Elberta.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at the beginning of the meeting.

Present: R.Manville, Jenks, Bower, L.Manville, Holmes and Gatrell.

Absent: Wilkins and Stapleton.

Guests: Ken Bonney, Steve Laske, Emily Votruba, Carolee Ness, Lois Schram, Mark Held, Loy Putney, Charlie Hendershott and Cheryl Gross.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: L.Manville pointed out that on page 2, second paragraph of the minutes of July 9, 2013, it should have referred to the May 17, 2013 meeting of the Planning commission as a public hearing and special meeting. Also, on page 7, Jenks' name was left out of the roll call for the approval of the special use permit and the site plan review. It was also pointed out that in the minutes for the special meeting of July 29, 2013, it should have said that the reason that a new DPW employee was being hired was to bring the Village into line with the State and to spread the workload over two people and to train someone who will be able to obtain a water license. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approve the minutes of the public hearing and special meeting of July 9, 2013 with corrections, the regular meeting of July 18, 2013 and the special meeting of July 29, 2013 with corrections. Yeas – 5.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Jencks said that she would like to add agenda item #6 – Relay for Life. L.Manville supported by Jenks to approve the proposed agenda with the addition of #6. Yeas – 5.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Laske said that he was attending the meeting as a representative for the Cancer Relay. He asked that August 9 and 10, 2014 be set aside for the Cancer Relay to be held in the Waterfront Park. Bower said that she wasn't sure that date was open. She will check on Friday.

Emily Votruba asked about the public hearing for the library. She said that she hadn't seen it at the Office. Bower said that the notice for a public hearing concerning the future of the Library Building had been published in the Record Patriot.

Cheryl Gross discussed the Lakeside Blvd. Project at length. She said that the Project will probably run close to but less than 100 thousand dollars. This would include the definition of the road as well as gravel. Gross had received a suggestion of using used guard rails for the road which would save money. She said that she would return at a later date with design options.

Motion by Jenks supported by L.Manville to close the regular meeting and go into the advertised public hearing. Yeas – 5.

Gatrell discussed the deed for the Library Building. She said the deed was for the property only. The excerpt from *Blacklock's Book* concerning Gilmore Township's involvement with the library was discussed. Gatrell said that the people that she had talked with would like to see the building used as a community building. It was noted that the building has been closed as a library since approximately 2000. Nothing substantial has been done to the building since that time. R.Manville discussed the budget deficit. He said that we presently have four Village buildings and a large number of parks.

R.Manville said the Library Building needs a new roof, wiring, windows, etc. He said the Village doesn't have the money for the repairs that need to be done Holmes said there needs to be an appraisal and a survey done on the building and lot. Carolee Ness asked about the ownership. Council members said that the Village owns it. R.Manville asked Bonney if he had a figure estimate on what it would take to bring the building up to code. Bonney said that he wasn't sure but that it would need a new roof, furnace, new wiring, windows, bathrooms and he added that there was black mold in the walls as well as ant hills on the floors. L.Manville said that she would hate to see the building go. She suggested selling it to someone, not necessarily make a lot of money on it. L.Manville asked if it was true that the bricks on the Library Building were made in the Village. Holmes said the bricks had been made in the Village. It was discussed about the new owner having to bring it up to code. Holmes said that we should sell it to someone to use as a commercial property. He added that an appraisal and a survey be conducted on the property. It was asked what would happen if whoever purchased it decided to tear it down. Holmes said "so be it". L.Manville asked the audience what their feelings were. Steve Laske said that he thought the Village should sell it and let the new owners do what they want with it. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to close the public hearing and return to the regular portion of the meeting.

Yeas – 5.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from the Village's attorney notifying them of the dismissal by the Michigan Department of Civil Rights of the civil rights complaint brought by Loy Putney against the Village.

A letter from the Village to Mr. Loy Putney concerning the removal of the playground equipment from Village property to Mr. Putney's property.

A follow up letter from the Village to the Warrens addressing their concerns about the safety issues on Furnace Avenue.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

L.Manville said the receipt report showed receipts for the month of July of \$61,465.04. Motion by L.Manville supported by Gatrell to approve for the month of July the

accounting checks in the amount of \$61,723.68 (which includes P&R \$603.83 and Solstice Festival \$5,086.79) and payroll \$9,649.51 for a total of \$71,373.19 Yeas – 5.

Department heads were heard from.

DPW Superintendent: Bonney discussed various activities in the DPW and the Village.

BLUA: Jenks said that a new employee had been hired at BLUA. The new employee is Jason Kittleson.

P&R: Votruba said there has been discussion about handing out Welcome Back Kits to new business's and new residents.

Marina/Farmer's Market: It was reported that there were 19 vendors at the Farmer's Market on the day of this meeting.

Beach: Bonney said that most of the signs were still in the ground on Lakeside Blvd, that only three were missing. He said that Phil Mix said that the signs have made a difference and things have improved in that area. The Council discussed putting up "no camping" signs in several areas of the Village.

Zoning Administrator: Bonney talked about the new house being put in between Frankfort Avenue and Washington.

President's Report: R.Manville reported that he had met with Scott Gest concerning the "junk house" on Furnace Avenue. He told Bonney that he would like him to give Gest a deadline of when it needs to be cleaned up and then if he fails to meet the deadline a ticket should be issued. R.Manville said that he had also met with MDOT concerning the parking situation on M-22.

Budget Committee: R.Manville said that he had discussed the Village's financial deficits during the public hearing concerning the Library Building repairs.

Fire & Safety: Holmes said the fire department was still looking at a ladder truck. A millage for fire protection was discussed.

Planning Commission: L.Manville said that the PC would be having a public hearing and a special meeting on August 27, 2013 at 7 pm at the Library Building to discuss occupancy square footage for apartments. L. Manville said that she had met with the Trail Council. She said that she had not been aware until recently that she was on the Trail Council.

AGENDA:

1. D/A Library Building. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to authorize a professional/commercial appraisal and survey of the Library Building, 704 Frankfort Avenue, Elberta, Michigan. Yeas – 5.

2.D/A Beach Road Advisory Committee. It was noted that at the July meeting an Elberta Beach Improvement Fund Agreement was approved. Part of the Agreement is the establishment of an advisory committee who may, within Foundation policies, recommend grant distribution from the fund. The Village Treasurer will write the checks but the Foundation will be doing the majority of the work. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to authorize R.Manville and Laura Manville, Village Treasurer, to execute the agreement and appoint Bonney and Jenks to the Advisory Committee. Yeas – 5.

3. D/ A Health Benefits. L.Manville discussed the various options that were open. She said that Bower was on supplemental insurance. L.Manville said that with the new employee that it would be close to the hard cap. She said that Frankfort's DPW pays 15% of their health insurance premiums. L.Manville said that requiring the employees to pay 20% of their health insurance premiums would amount to approximately \$22 to \$27 per week per employee. R.Manville pointed out that there had been no raises in the office or garage and making the employees pay 20% of their insurance premiums would be a cut in wages. R.Manville said that he had been against hiring a full time employee for the DPW. He had felt that a part-time employee would have been the right thing to do. As to not making the employees pay 20% of their health premiums L.Manville thought this would be considered a conflict of interest for R.Manville as money was involved. She said that R.Manville would benefit from Laura Manville's wages. Jenks was for requiring the employees to pay the 20 %. She said the Village is paying for 64 hours in the Village Office when everyone else in the County works 19 hours. L.Manville was for the 20%. Holmes suggested 10%. The issue of paying a portion of the health insurance was discussed at length. R.Manville said that he was from Flint. He said his grandfather was a union man and he was a union member. R.Manville said he was for the workers. Motion by Jenks supported by L.Manville to require the employees to pay 20% of their health insurance premium. Jenks – yes, L.Manville – Yes, Holmes – no, Gatrell – no, and R.Manville – no. Motion failed to pass.

4. D/A Appointment of Two ZBA Alternates. It was discussed that due to R.Manville and Holmes recusing themselves from the ZBA that two alternates be appointed to fill their seats. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to appoint Mark Held and Holly Odwyer as alternates to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Yeas – 5

5. D/A M-22 Parking Plan. R.Manville said that he had met with MDOT officials concerning the parking along M-22. The consensus was that due to the danger that parking along the curve (duck's head) needs to be eliminated as well as some of the parking areas close to the side streets. No parking signs especially by the Gum and Moseler properties were discussed. Changing the speed limit to 25 mile per hour within the

Village limits was also suggested. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to authorize Bonney and R.Manville to draw up a parking plan and speed limit plan as discussed and presented to MDOT. Yeas – 5.

6. D/A Cancer Relay. Motion by Jenks supported by Holmes to approve having the Cancer Relay in the Waterfront Park in 2014 contingent on the dates working for all. Yeas -5

Public comment was heard.

Charlie Hendershott said the benches in the park are in very poor condition. Hendershott said once his grandson graduates he intends to sell his house and get out of town. He said it seems that everyone hates one another in this town. Hendershott also said that if this Council could work together they could do all sorts of good things. He told the Council to work together.

Motion accepted to adjourn.

Sharyn Bower, Clerk

Village of Elberta