

The regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held at the Community Building, Thursday, January 16, 2012.

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

Present: R. Manville, Bower, Jenks, L. Manville, Holmes, Thorsen, Soper and Stapleton.  
Absent: none

Guests: Emily Votruba, Carolee Ness, Ken Bonney, Art Melendez, Sarah Lucas, Connie Manke, Scott Gest, Josh Stoltz, Loy Putney, Mike Viilo and another associate.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Holmes supported by Thorsen to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2011, regular meeting. Yeas - 7.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Jenks supported by L. Manville to approve the proposed agenda. Yeas - 7.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh Stoltz thanked the Village for their support of the Solstice Festival and his involvement with it. He said that his job would be taking up more of his time and he wouldn't be able to be on the Solstice Committee. Stoltz said that he would be available to answer any questions that arise concerning the festival. The Council thanked him for all the time and effort that he has put into the Solstice Festival.

Loy Putney said that he is interested in purchasing the former Bay Valley Inn. He said that he would like to put in migrant labor housing. Putney said that he has a purchase agreement with the bank for the property. R. Manville stated that it would be a long process with the zoning procedures involved.

Correspondence: L. Manville said that the Frankfort/Elberta Chamber of Commerce was holding their annual dinner on January 21 at Dinghy's. She suggested that with the Village's current financial difficulties that attendee's pay for their own dinners. Bower said that she had received word from the Chamber that the Village of Elberta was being given four free tickets. She asked that all those wishing to go to the dinner let her know at the end of the meeting.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS:

The receipt report showed a total of \$20,864.72. Motion by L. Manville supported by Holmes to approve the accounting checks and payroll checks for December, 2011 for a total of \$37,346.25 (accounting checks - \$22,458.18, P&R - \$324.61 and payroll - \$14,563.46). Yeas - 7.

Department heads were heard from.

Ken Bonney reported on DPW activities. He discussed the vandalism of the Christmas lights that had occurred at the big park.

Water/Sewer/BLUA: Holmes said that BLUA is still looking to hire another person that has the required licenses.

P&R: R.Manville discussed the recent P&R's meeting that he had attended. He said that he had talked with P&R about adhering to State laws. R.Manville said that the P&R P.O. box was closed at the appropriate time and as it had been used for more than six months there was no refund on the box rent. He said that a hardware flyer had inadvertently made it into the box.

R.Manville said that he had attended a meeting with Greg Jaris, Art Melendez and Laura Manville concerning Solstice Festival procedures. He also said that Melendez is working on streamlining the Village website, the Farmer's Market website and the Solstice Festival website into one website. This would save the Village money.

Zoning: R.Manville reported there would be red tape to deal with concerning the former Bay Valley Inn. He said he would keep the Council informed.

Budget Committee hasn't met yet. A meeting will soon be set up.

Fire & Safety: Holmes said that Frankfort's Fire Chief has resigned for personal reasons. Charlie Thompson is acting Chief. He said that Mills is in the process of setting up a fire board meeting.

Municipal Buildings: Thorsen said they are working to install the new doors at the LSS and are also reworking the old doors. He said it is a slow process. Thorsen said the building has been winterized but the heat is occasionally turned on while they are working.

Master Plan: L.Manville said that she had attended a public hearing of the Planning Commission regarding the Master Plan. At their meeting following the public hearing the Planning Commission voted to adopt the Master Plan. It was noted that the MP acts as a guide for the Village.

#### AGENDA:

1.D/A Master Plan - Resolutions - Sarah Lucas. Lucas discussed the proposed resolutions. She said the first resolution concerns the Council's desire to assert the right to approve or reject the Master Plan. Lucas said the second resolution concerns adoption of the Master Plan and directing the Village Clerk to sign the resolution signifying the adoption of the Master Plan. The Council thanked the MP Committee for all of their diligent work on the plan. R.Manville said that a lot of work was accomplished on the creation of the plan. Lucas was thanked for all of her work involved with the project. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to adopt a resolution asserting the right of the Elberta Village Council to approve or reject the Village Master Plan. Yeas - 7. The resolution in its entirety will be a permanent record in the Village Minutes Book. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to adopt the Elberta Village Master Plan and further resolve to direct the Village Clerk to sign the resolution signifying the adoption of the Elberta Master Plan. Yeas - 7. The resolution in its entirety was read into the record by L.Manville and will become a permanent record in the Village Minute's Book.

2.D/A Employee Relations Appointment Revisited from the December meeting. Soper said that he felt there was a conflict of interest with R.Manville being on the Employee Relations Committee. He felt that even if it was legal it would be still be unethical for R.Manville to be on the committee. This is due to his wife being the Village Treasurer. It was felt that he - R.Manville - would benefit from any positive decisions concerning his wife's benefits, etc. L.Manville agreed with Soper as did Jenks. Holmes pointed out that the Committee brings recommendations to the Council and it is then up to the Council to act. R.Manville said that one of his goals when running for office was to improve employee relations which he feels he has. He said the ERC is an advisory committee and the Council has final say. K.Bonney said that when R.Manville was elected everyone knew his wife was Treasurer. R.Manville said that he would like to stay on the committee. He asked if the Council would like to vote on it. Stapleton said if there was a problem at the time of the vote then R.Manville could recuse himself. He said that anyone could attend the committee meeting if they chose. R.Manville, again, asked the Council if they wanted to vote on him being on or off the Committee. Stapleton asked if it had been tabled at the last meeting. Bower said that Soper said at the December meeting that he would approve the appointments as presented but would like to revisit the appointment to ERC. Soper was asked if he would like a vote. Soper said he didn't feel they needed to vote and was satisfied as it stood.

3.D/A Solstice Committee Appointments. Stapleton asked if the current applicants were in addition to previous members. Melendez said that all former Solstice Committee members were notified that letters of interest needed to be submitted to the Council for approval. Motion by Holmes supported by Stapleton to appoint Reg and Laura Manville, Michelle Cannaert, Jennifer Wilkens, Art Melendez and Josh Herren to the Solstice Festival Committee. Yeas - 7.

Public Comment was heard.

Melendez said that when he was elected President of P&R he did his homework. He investigated the profits and losses for the Solstice. Melendez asked what the Solstice's purpose was. Was it to make the Village look good? He said that with the financial shape the Village is in that to spend \$20,000 on a party with no profit isn't a good thing.

Gest discussed several metal buildings that are on his property. He said the Village could have them. He said that if the Village can't use them then he will scrap them out.

Motion to adjourn was accepted.

Sharyn Bower, Village Clerk