

The regular meeting of the Elberta Village Council was held on Thursday, October 18, 2012 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, Bower, Jenks, L.Manville, Holmes and Soper.

Absent: Thorsen and Stapleton.

Guests: Laura Manville, Ken Bonney, Joyce Gatrell, Emily Votruba, Carolee Ness, Lois Schram, Connie Manke, Mary Spinner-Hendershott, Charlie Hendershott, Cheryl Gross, Eric Vanduzen, Don Tanner and Bob Johnson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Soper supported by L.Manville to approve the minutes for September 20, 2012. Yeas – 5.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Jenks supported by Holmes to approve the proposed agenda. Yeas – 5.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob Johnson, Mayor of Frankfort, discussed an invitation that had been sent to the Village concerning a tree trimming workshop that will be held on October 26, at 1 p.m. in Frankfort. He said the workshop would be led by Kevin Sayers, the MDNR Urban and Community Forestry Specialist.

Eric Vanduzen discussed the beach issue. He volunteered to help with the verbage for signage for the beach. Vanduzen also said that he would donate \$100 to help with the signage. He also indicated that he could get others to donate money for signs. Vanduzen also said that he thought a management plan similar to that of the Elberta South Dunes Management Plan would be helpful in managing the beach area. Vanduzen also thought the agenda needs to be advertised in the paper.

Don Tanner, current Chair of the County Commissioners and a candidate for County Commissioner for this area, spoke on Community Mental Health, Brownfield redevelopment, fishing issues in Betsie Bay and adjacent areas, etc.

Cheryl Gross thanked the Council for putting the beach issue on the agenda. She told of her attempt to stop cars from driving on the beach.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Laura Manville discussed the Dash Board report that was included in the packets. She said that this report has been sent to the State Treasury Department as required in order to receive our statutory revenue sharing. Laura Manville said that the report must be done every year. She said that it is really not geared for small communities.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

L.Manville said the receipt report showed a total of \$23,222.93. Motion by L.Manville supported by Holmes to approve the accounting checks in the amount of \$25,182.15 (which includes \$1,092.41 for P&R) and payroll in the amount of \$9,219.48 for a total of \$34,401.63. Yeas – 5. L.Manville thanked Bower and Laura Manville for the balance sheets for P&R and Solstice. She said that they were very helpful. Bower said that Laura Manville was the one that did the balance sheets.

Department heads were heard from.

DPW: Bonney discussed DPW activities.

Water/Sewer: Holmes reported on BLUA.

P&R: Manke apologized for the lack of P&R minutes. She said that the secretary has been out of town. Manke said that the regular P&R meeting date is the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The Farmer's Market is done for the season.

President's Report: R.Manville said that he had attended a meeting in Frankfort concerning the low water issue on Betsie Bay. He discussed the low water issues at length. Don Tanner who is a river guide also discussed the low water issues.

Municipal Buildings: The repair of the library building was discussed. The roof needs to be repaired and a dual effort between the Village and the Township was discussed. Laura Manville said that the Township uses the building for taxes, meetings, elections, etc. She also said that the Township pays the Village \$1,500 in rent plus all of the utilities at approximately \$2,000.

Master Plan: L.Manville said that the Planning Commission met on October 2. She said that Stobie is the Chair and Stapleton is the secretary. L.Manville said that the waterfront development was discussed.

AGENDA:

1.D/A Parks & Rec – Credit Card Limit, Expenditure Limit, Fund Raisers and Pay Pal. Expenditure limit was discussed. Motion by Soper supported by Jenks to approve P&R spending up to \$1,000 per month without Council approval. Yeas -5. The credit card limit was discussed. Motion by Jenks supported by L.Manville to approve the credit card limit to \$1,000 per each card. Yeas – 5. Fund raisers for P&R were discussed. Motion by L.Manville supported by Soper to utilize Pay Pal for fund raisers for P&R. Yeas – 5.

2.D/A Community Building – Marketing use of the Building and Fees. It was suggested that the Council research this and come back to the next meeting with ideas for more uses and fees for the Community Building.

3.D/A Beach Barrier – Goal Amount – Pay Pal. Ken Bonney gave a presentation on improving Lakeside Blvd. (Beach Road). This was discussed at length. Motion by L.Manville supported by Jenks to set up pay pal to accept donations for the Elberta Beach Road Project with a goal of \$32,000. Yeas – 5.

4.D/A Elberta South Dunes Natural Area. It was agreed upon that a Management meeting be set up before the November meeting to set up a plan for using the Olsen Grant funds.

5.D/A Village Taxes. Soper read a prepared statement discussing the difficult times in the Village. He stated that all areas needed to be cut. Soper said that the office staff hours should be cut in half. Holmes said the office is always busy and shouldn't be cut. Soper said that the audit shows our deficit is growing. Laura Manville said that there was a problem with the audit and a new one should be forthcoming. She said that the initial deficit occurred between 2003 and 2008. Laura Manville said that the 20% budgeted for the LSS had grown almost 100% with Council approval. She said that usually the Village has \$50,000 on the LSS rentals. The issue was discussed at length. Laura Manville also supplied information concerning the wages received by the office staff and the DPW. She said that it had been erroneously reported that over 50% of the Village taxes had been paid to two people. Laura Manville said that 34% (17% for Clerk and 17% for Treasurer) had been used out of operating tax. The remainder of their wages had come out of other funds.

Public comment was heard.

Motion accepted to adjourn.

Sharyn Bower, Clerk
Village of Elberta