

**St. Charles Village Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 8, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Roe with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: McPhail, Dennis, White, Roe, Neumann, and Theile.

Members absent: Kutz.

Others present: Matt Lane, Deanna Koehler, Patrick Mishler, Allan Rabideau, Jim Palmer, Tina Beeler, Mary Beth Smith, Dennis Guzy, Brent Singer, Matt Brown, and others.

Jim Palmer and Tina Beeler updated the council on the museum. They have posted pictures on Facebook from the 1800's and 1900's.

Brent Singer addressed the council on his plan to open a Farmers' Insurance office in the Village and hopes to get involved in many community activities.

Motion by Dennis, second by Theile to approve the February 8, 2017 Village Council Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation January 18, Planning Commission January 19, and DDA January 13 Minutes were accepted and filed.

Matt Brown presented his proposed Eagle Scout Project to the council. Matt will be working with our DPW to install recycle/repurpose fishing line collection tubes down by the river at Lumberjack Park and the rail/trail.

Motion by Dennis, second by Neumann to approve the payment of claims in the amount of \$56,391.64. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by Theile to adopt Resolution #17-5 to rezone lots on Chesaning and Sanderson Streets from M1 to R2 per the Planning Commission's recommendation. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by McPhail to close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing for Truth in Taxation at 7:35 pm. Motion carried.

Matt Lane went over the proposed budget which included a 2% wage increase, an additional full-time police officer, moving a part-time position to full-time in the DPW, additional MERS funding of \$75,000, \$30,000 in OPEB funds set aside for future funding, a new SUV for the police dept., water, sewer, and streets asset management plans, continuing the Beaver Road Construction Project, street light retrofit continuation, a street sweeper and dump truck purchase, and more. Matt explained that employee wages were redistributed throughout the budget to more accurately reflect typical operational activities and that this redistribution reduced the burden on the General Fund.

Neumann voiced concerns over the 2% wage increase for employees which calculates to \$7896.12 in the budget as well as the addition of a full-time police officer and would rather the \$49,500 cost for the position be used to offset unfunded pension.

Dennis inquired if it was feasible to give wage increases to employees when residents already feel as though they are not benefitting from the amount of taxes they pay.

McPhail, Roe, White, and Theile were supportive of increasing the police department to reduce the gaps in the police coverage.

Neumann suggested that we hold another meeting on March 22 to finalize the budget after she is able to review all of the employee wages and which funds those wages are charged out from.

John and Shannon Grunas were very supportive of the Police Department.

Brent Singer and his wife commented about multiple MDOP's and larceny from vehicles at their home and in their neighborhood and had a positive response to additional police coverage.

Motion by Neumann, second by McPhail to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting at 9:37 pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by Theile to adopt Resolution #17-3 to Amend the 2016-17. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by White to table Resolution #17-4 to Adopt the 2017 – 2018 Budget until March 22 at 7:00 pm when we have a special meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by Dennis to approve the Attachment 2017-02 to Exhibit A of Spicer Professional Services Agreement for the Streets Asset Management Plan. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by White to adopt Resolution #17-6 to Approve the MDOT Grant Contract for North & Beaver Road. Motion carried.

Motion by Neumann, second by White to approve Attachment #2017-03 to Exhibit A of Spicer Professional Services Agreement for North Street/Beaver Road Construction Administration and Inspection. Motion carried.

Department reports were accepted and filed from the DPW, Police, and Building Inspector.

Tom White congratulated Matt Lane on presenting at the Michigan Farmers' Market Association Conference at MSU.

Marie Roe is putting a service organization together to help with the Christmas program and is looking for volunteers. She would like this organization to take on some of the services vacated by the Chamber of Commerce and is always looking for people to help.

Jim McPhail complimented Christine Neumann on her understanding of government finance and labeled her an asset and a guru for the Village.

Motion by Dennis, second by Theile to adjourn at 10:20 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna L. Koehler, Village Clerk