

**VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
BANKS TOWNSHIP HALL
November 11, 2024**

Present: H. Campbell, L. Spearing, G. McCallum, S. Sowers, A. Drenth, M. Bennett, S. Dhillon, and M. Potter

Absent: M. Drenth

Others: Jacob Byrd, Jerry Rasmussen, Carla Kammerer, Bethany Cooper, and Jennifer Graham

Meeting called to order by Campbell at 7pm.

1. **MOTION** by A. Drenth/seconded by Bennett to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2024 regular meeting as presented. CARRIED 7-0

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Jennifer Graham from Gordie Frazier spoke about the challenges of the water project. We have a 5.5-million-dollar grant and a 2 million dollar loan from the USDA. We rejected a 4.5-million-dollar loan with \$500,000 forgiveness from EGLE and will reapply next year. We need more funding to lower the monthly consumer responsibility.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. Police: Ponies at Worgess' house have not been seen since McCallum & Byrd visited to discuss the issue. The Village issued a letter to be delivered by G. McCallum, zoning administrator.
- b. Streets: N/A
- c. DPW: AARP funding has been spent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. DDA: There will be a festival attached to the tree lighting this year on December 1, 5pm. The village has agreed to provide hot chocolate for the event.
- b. Planning Commission: Ken Lane from Beckett and Raeder is working on updating our Master Plan.
- c. Parks and Recreation: Rec Director Bethany Cooper reported that she needs uniforms, helmets and masks for the little league program. Spearing suggested that we re-up our rec plan with the township. They held their first "Witchy Walk" Fundraiser, raised \$149.00. It went well.

DISCUSSION:

- a. Sewer System: We have a 5.5-million-dollar grant and a 2 million dollar loan from the USDA. We rejected a 4.5-million-dollar loan with a \$500,000 forgiveness from EGLE and will reapply next year.

We need more funding to lower the monthly consumer responsibility.

- b. Wooden Shoe Holiday Festival/Community Christmas Tree: The DDA's tree lighting festival.
- c. Playground Equipment: The equipment is here. Waiting on concrete to be poured.
- d. Front Porch Grant: The Front Porch is applying for a grant to purchase a whole cow, \$6,200, and is asking for village support.
- e. Vandellen List: Dhillon will contact him about the memorial.
- f. ARPA Funds: The Village needs to obligate the funds.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. MOTION by Bennett/seconded by Spearing to provide a letter of support for the Front Porch Grant Application. CARRIED 7-0
2. MOTION by Spearing/seconded by McCallum to pay the \$26,200 Peerless bill from the ARPA funds. CARRIED 7-0
3. MOTION by McCallum/seconded by Bennett to accept a bid for \$27,400 from Lake Area Construction for the police substation. CARRIED 7-0
4. MOTION by Spearing/seconded by Dhillon to pay the bills as presented. CARRIED 7-0

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Carla Kammerer is concerned about the deterioration of Harris St. and would like the village to do something about it.
- Lynn Spearing reported that the Michigan Municipal League has training available for newly elected officials.

MOTION by Campbell/seconded by McCallum to adjourn at 7:45pm. CARRIED 7-0

Marlene Drenth, Village Clerk