

**VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – DATE: 08-09-17**

**Chair called Village Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Three Oaks Village Hall.**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Yes**

**Roll Call: Present: Capiak, Kramer, Pappa, Heemstra, Grosse**

**Absent: Graziano, Zebell**

**Approval of the Agenda as presented by the Village Council President. Moved: Capiak Supported: Kramer Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

**Public Comment on the Agenda: Ken Weber, Audience will comment on Item #6, the request from Vickers Theatre for a Sunday Liquor License.**

**Approval of the Consent Agenda to include: Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on 07-12-17, the Public Hearing on 06-14-17 and the Special Council Meeting on 06-21-17. Approval of Invoices to be paid (\$71,974.81), Approval of Disbursements made from July 1 through July 31, 2017 (\$219,076.47), Approval of Prepays, and Payroll as paid (\$41,500.84), and the Treasurer's Report. Moved: Heemstra Supported: Kramer Aye: 5 Nay: 0 Absent: 2 Abstain: 0 MOTION CARRIED.**

**NOTE: Council Member, Steve Graziano arrived at 7:05 pm.**

- **DEQ APPROVAL FOR DREDGING OF SEWER POND #1:** The DEQ has issued their approval and a permit to allow for the dredging of Sewer Pond #1. The Sewer Ponds were built about 35 years ago and have never been dredged. It is recommended that they be dredged every 10 years, so there is significant build-up in the ponds. Gro-America, a company that prepared a Residual Waste Management plan for the Village, made application to the DEQ for the dredging permit, and conducted a "sludge judge" of the ponds earlier this year submitted their proposal to remove the sludge from Sewer Pond #1 at a cost of \$ .069/gallon. It is estimated that 2 to 3 million gallons will need to be removed. **A Motion was made to award the contract to Gro-America for dredging Sewer Pond #1 at a cost of \$ .069/gallon. They estimate that 2 to 3 million gallons will be removed. This contract will run from September 1, 2017 to December 15, 2018. Moved: Graziano Supported: Pappa Aye: Capiak, Graziano, Kramer, Pappa, Heemstra, Grosse Nay: None Absent: Zebell Abstain: None MOTION CARRIED.**
- **PICK-UP TRUCK for DPW DEPARTMENT:** It was discovered that the pick-up truck for the DPW department was never ordered. Mike Greene, Village Manager, will meet with Three Oaks Ford to see if they can still honor their bid from several months ago. If so, the order will be placed. If not, the Village will go out for new bids on the truck.
- **VICKERS THEATER – REQUEST for a "Tavern with Sunday Sales Permit":** Bill Lindblom, speaking on behalf of Vickers Theatre, asked for support from the Village in their application to the State of Michigan for a liquor license that would allow beer and wine sales at the theater. He stated that many independent theaters now have these licenses which allow them to bring in additional revenue and to stay competitive in the market. There should be no issues because the beer and wine would only be sold during a short time period and the majority of their customers are over the age of 60. Audience Member, Ken Weber spoke and said that he and his wife, and many other residents attend both theaters in town often. They are proud to have these theaters in our community and want to encourage and support their efforts in maintaining a viable presence in town. **A Motion was made to support and give local government approval to Vickers Theater (Scully Vickers, LLC) in their application to the State of Michigan for a "Tavern with Sunday Sales Permit". Moved: Heemstra Supported: Pappa Aye: Capiak, Graziano, Kramer, Pappa, Heemstra, Grosse Nay: None Absent: Zebell Abstain: None MOTION CARRIED.**

- **PROPOSED WAGE INCREASES for FULL & PART-TIME POLICE OFFICERS:** A comparison study of police officer wages in our neighboring communities was presented which showed that the Village of Three Oaks is the lowest paid force in Southwest Berrien County. Police Chief, Dennis Buller is concerned that we will lose officers to other agencies due to the low pay and is seeking an increase for the officers in order to remain competitive and help to retain the officers currently on staff. **A Motion was made to increase the hourly wage for part-time police officers by \$1.00 an hour and to increase the hourly wage for full-time police officers by \$1.50 an hour. This increase will be effective on the next pay date of 08-25-17. Moved: Graziano Supported: Capiak Aye: Capiak, Graziano, Kramer, Pappa, Heemstra, Grosse Nay: None Absent: Zebell Abstain: None MOTION CARRIED.**
- **APPROVAL of PRELIMINARY 2017 – 2018 BUDGET:** The preliminary budget for 2017-2018 was presented. The projection for both revenues and expenses is very similar to the current budget. **A Motion was made to approve the preliminary 2017-2018 budget as presented. Moved: Capiak Supported: Heemstra Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Absent: 1 Abstain: 0 MOTION CARRIED**
- **WASTE WATER TREATMENT STUDY:** Dave Grosse and Bruce Hauch met with two (2) engineering firms about conducting a waste water treatment study. Both firms have extensive experience in designing lagoon systems in Michigan and have lots of knowledge and enthusiasm. This study is necessary as it is part of the agreement with the DEQ in order to make measurable progress on reducing the discharge of industrial waste. A long-term solution for handling industrial waste must be developed and plans need to be in place in order to facilitate future growth in the Village. It was suggested that the Village look into applying for a grant from the Pokagon Fund in order to assist with these costs, and to perhaps talk with Three Oaks Township to seek their support in helping to fund the study. **A Motion was made to accept the proposal from Moore & Bruggink, Inc. for professional engineering and consulting services to conduct a Waste Water Treatment Study for a cost not to exceed \$29,500.00. Moved: Graziano Supported: Capiak Aye: Capiak, Graziano, Kramer, Pappa, Heemstra, Grosse Nay: None Absent: Zebell Abstain: None MOTION CARRIED.**
- **BUILDING AT WATKINS PARK:** A building located in the west parking lot at Watkins Park is owned by the Village, but is being used by the Lions Club due to an arrangement made many years ago. It had been set up that they could use the building in exchange for remodeling and updating it and making it available for other community groups and events. Mike Greene, Village Manager, and Dave Grosse will look into this agreement and determine if building updates have been made and then research what might be the best use of this building. Mike will report back at a future meeting.
- **VACANCIES ON THE DDA and PLANNING COMMISSION BOARDS:** There are three (3) openings on the DDA board and one (1) opening on the Planning Commission. An ad will be prepared to advertise these openings.
- **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:** The minutes from the August 7, 2017 meeting were not yet available. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, September 11, 2017, as the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of September is Labor Day.
- **PLANNING COMMISSION:** The minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting were not yet available. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 5, 2017.
- **DDA BOARD:** The DDA meeting was held prior to the Council meeting on August 9, 2017; therefore, no minutes were available. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm.
- **VILLAGE MANAGER'S UPDATES:** Mike Greene, Village Manager, reported that the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities are still being well attended, that the parking lot across from Big C is now finished, and that work is continuing in the meantime to develop an immediate short-term solution for handling the industrial waste from Journeyman Distillery. Once the Waste Water Treatment study is conducted, a long-term solution can be put in place. Mike said that he attended a Southwest Michigan Planning Commission meeting today.

- **VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S UPDATES:** Dave Grosse reported that the River Valley High school sports team banners will be available soon for display in the downtown area. He reminded everyone that the Prancer movie would be shown on Friday, August 11, 2017 and that the Civil War enactment is the following weekend. He encouraged everyone to attend.
- **COUNCIL MEMBER, Darlene Heemstra** presented many concerns that came from the Parks & Recreation board as a result of their board meeting on Monday night. They asked council what could be done to provide public restrooms at Carver Park, when the landscaping in Carver Park was going to be finished, and where the kiosk was that had previously been authorized for purchase. They questioned the status of the maintenance on Schwark Drain, the status of the \$15,000 that had been allocated for the Hike/Bike Trail, the painting of the downtown planters, and asked if the benches in Dewey Cannon were moveable. Mike Greene, Village Manager, will look into all these concerns/questions and will report back to the Parks & Recreation Board.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:55 pm**

Submitted by:

Cynthia E. Moynihan,  
Three Oaks Village Clerk  
Minutes for the 08-09-17 Regular Council Meeting  
Were **APPROVED** at the 09-13-17 Council Meeting