

## VILLAGE OF BERRIEN SPRINGS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Village of Berrien Springs Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, April 17, 2023. President Barry Gravitt called the council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Barry Gravitt, President Pro-Tem Jack Davis, Trustees: Zach Fedoruk, Lonna Johnson, Sheila Snyder, Kristin von Maur, Mark Vandevere, Village Clerk Rachael Kuzda, Deputy Clerk/Payroll/Utility Billing Clerk Michelle Smith, and Attorney DeFrancesco.

Absent: None.

Also Present: *The Journal Era* and several audience members.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA APPROVAL:

\***Moved** by Mark Vandevere seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the agenda with additions - under Public Properties and Ordinance: 5K request from the Berrien Center Bible Church and Amending our ordinances allowing Doggie Daycare/Boarding as a special use with conditions; under Library Board: One Letter of Interest received for the open position on the Library Board; and under New Business: Approve Annual Year-End Transfers and Approve Committee Appointments . Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**Approve the minutes of the Council Workshop held April 03, 2023.**

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve the minutes of the Council Workshop held April 03, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 03, 2023.**

\***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 03, 2023, as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Notice of Pre-Hearing regarding Indiana Michigan Power Company requests Michigan Public Service Commission for a certificate of necessity pursuant to MCL 460.6s and related accounting authorizations for the construction of the Lake Trout solar generation facility, which will provide 245 megawatt of solar generation and to be located in Blackford County, Indiana. To be held Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. before Administrative Law Judge Katherine Talbot by video/teleconferencing.

### Audience Comments:

Sandy Swartz of 413 Lake Street addressed the council regarding cats and the notation that they spread many diseases, but many are not transmittable.

Gretchen Brown of 309 S. Main Street thanked the council for the programs they are implementing. She provided an information packet from *Alley Cat Allies* for the council and stated she is always available to reach out to for information.

Angela Reichert addressed the council that they have an opportunity to be an example to other communities and she is available to answer any questions.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – President Barry Gravitt, Chair

\*Chair President Barry Gravitt gave a synopsis of the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Pay the bills.**

\***Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Mark Vandevere to pay the bills in the amount of \$34,236.22. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### **Approve the invoice for the Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 29 Bond due in the amounts of Principal \$175,000.00 & Interest \$17,339.25 for a total amount due of \$192,339.25.**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Jack Davis to approve the invoice for the Berrien County Water/Sewage Improvements No. 29 Bond due in the amounts of Principal \$175,000.00 & Interest \$17,339.25 for a total amount due of \$192,339.25. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### **Approve to renew the agreement with Oronoko Charter Township for Zoning Administration and Building Inspection Services with the Village's share of \$32,500.00 annually.**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve renewing the agreement with Oronoko Charter Township for Zoning Administration and Building Inspection Services with the Village's share of \$32,500.00 annually. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

#### **Approve the Resolution – Michigan Emergency Management Act – naming Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde as the primary emergency liaison for the Village.**

\***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Kristin von Maur to approve the Resolution – Michigan Emergency Management Act – naming Public Works Superintendent Dave Kunde as the primary emergency liaison for the Village. Roll Call Vote: Jack Davis/Aye; Lonna Johnson/Aye; Kristin von Maur/Aye; Mark Vandevere/Aye; Sheila Snyder/Aye; Zach Fedoruk/Aye; President Barry Gravitt/Aye. Motion carried.

#### **Approve increasing Community Coordinator Kelly Ewalt to 40 hours per week.**

\***Moved** by Jack Davis seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve increasing Community Coordinator Kelly Ewalt to 40 hours per week. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

\*Council received the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report of Investments; January – March 2023.

### PUBLIC PROPERTIES AND ORDINANCE – Kristin von Maur, Chair

\*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Special Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

\*Chair Kristin von Maur gave a synopsis of the Public Properties and Ordinance Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

#### **5K request from the Berrien Center Bible Church.**

Discussion held. Tabled at this time for more information.

#### **Amending our ordinances allowing Doggie Daycare/Boarding as a special use with conditions.**

\***Moved** by Sheila Snyder seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve moving forward with amending our ordinances allowing Doggie Daycare/Boarding as a special use with conditions. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**FIRE** –Village President Pro-Tem Jack Davis and Trustee Lonna Johnson are the Village Representatives.

\*The next Fire Board Meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES** – Chair Lonna Johnson

\*Chair Lonna Johnson gave a synopsis of the Public Utilities Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**SHAMROCK PARK COMMITTEE** – Chair Jack Davis

\*Chair Jack Davis gave a synopsis of the Shamrock Park Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

\*Council received the Revenue/Expense Report for March 2023.

**Approve slag gravel #11 for a total cost of \$3,000.00.**

\***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve slag gravel #11 for a total cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY BOARD** – Lonna Johnson

**One Letter of Interest received for the open position on the Library Board.**

\***Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Lonna Johnson to approve appointing Kristine Conklin as a Village Representative on the Berrien Springs Community Library Board. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**MEDIC 1** – Clerk Rachael Kuzda

\*The next Medic 1 Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023.

**RECREATION BOARD** – Jack Davis

\*Council received the GBSRD Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2023.

\*Council received the GBSRD Board Meeting Agenda from March 07, 2023.

**POLICE COMMITTEE** – Village President Barry Gravitt is the Village Representative

\*The next Police Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023, at 3:30 p.m.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE:** Chair Sheila Snyder

Nothing new to report.

**COMMUNITY COORDINATOR/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:** Chair Sheila Snyder

\*The Community Coordinator/Social Media Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. was cancelled.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Approve Annual Year-End Transfers.**

\***Moved** by Zach Fedoruk seconded by Mark Vandevere to approve the Annual Year-End Transfers. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**Approve Committee Appointments.**

**\*Moved** by Lonna Johnson seconded by Zach Fedoruk to approve the Committee Appointments as presented. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Sandy Swartz of 413 Lake Street thanked Gretchen Brown and Angela Reichert and asked for professionalism from the council regarding cats.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**\*Moved** by Kristin von Maur seconded by Sheila Snyder to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. Ayes, 7; Nays, 0. Motion carried.

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Rachael Kuzda, MiPMC  
Village Clerk

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Barry Gravitt  
Village President