

**EDMORE VILLAGE COUNCIL
APPROVED JOURNAL OF MINUTES
May 8, 2017**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular session of the Village of Edmore Council was called to order on Monday, May 8, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Curtis Community Building by **President Michael Kotenko**.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members Present – **Kotenko, Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn**. Also present were: **Neil Rankin** – Village Manager, **Elaine Leak** – Village Treasurer, **Michelle Leak-Rensland** – Village Clerk, **Sergeant Steven Snyder** – Sheriff Deputy, **Autumn Lau** – Student Representative.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by **Hadley**, supported by **Davis**. **Approved Unanimously**
 - a. **Burr** questioned if we needed to post information about the public hearing being held.
5. **PRESENTATION:** No presentation.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING: Cross Connection Ordinance**

Kotenko opened a public hearing concerning a new cross connection ordinance at 7:10 P.M.

Members Present: **Kotenko, Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn**.

Rankin explained new ordinance. These are needed changes in verbiage to meet DEQ standards. This must be completed by June 1, 2017. The original ordinance (#232) was adopted in 1982.

Public Comments: Mr. Simon stated that Mr. Rankin is not providing all the information that is needed to make decisions.

Kotenko closed the public hearing at 7:14 P.M.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- a. Mrs. Drain – Questions about finance report. Good job on council minutes last month. Village Clerk includes being FOIA coordinator.
- b. Mr. Colburn – At the Bag Factory, certain areas will not be open for availability due to condition. Asked if there was a plan for these areas.
- c. Mr. Guild – Noted return of clothing allowance to the agenda. Questioned what is happening between council members behind the scenes.
- d. Mr. Macklin – Noted 100 days has passed for this council. Questioned progress on trash program (new containers vs. bags and tags). Questioned Mr. Rankin's decisions and leadership. Discussed the appointment of Maxfield to DDA. Wants to know what is going on with council, as he is concerned about our reputation in other communities.

8. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:** Autumn was named to Top 10 for Montabella. This is her last meeting.

9. **POLICE REPORT:** Presented by **Sergeant Steven Snyder**. Report on file.

10. **FINANCE REPORT:** Report on file. One loan is current, others are making payments but remain behind schedule on repayment.

11. **DPW REPORT:** Cemetery work continues, completing small jobs.

12. CLERK REPORT:

- a. Minutes presented from the April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting for approval. Motion by **Ashbaugh** to approve as written, supported by **Deja**. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn, Kotenko**.

13. **TREASURER REPORT:** **Elaine Leak** presented accounts balanced through March. Report on file.

- a. PAYMENT OF BILLS – Motion by **Davis** to approve payment of the presented bills, supported by **Deja**. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES - **Ashbaugh, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn, Kotenko**. NO – **Burr**.

14. MANAGER REPORT: Neil Rankin

- a. Spring Newsletter has been posted on website. Can be found by clicking on “Community” tab. Copies will be mailed this week.
- b. Neil and Andy will be attending the Michigan Rural Water Association meeting.
- c. Neil is attending meetings in Grand Rapids this week and will be out of the office.
- d. Trash information is in the newsletter.

15. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Fire Withholding Program. Motion by **Hadley** to adopt Resolution 2017-4 concerning enrollment in Fire Withholding Program, supported by **Ashbaugh**. Discussion: **Rankin** – Only applies to buildings with 49% or more damage. **Burr** questioned how program works, handling of situations where residents have no insurance. **Rankin** – All insurance companies must report claims to governing municipalities. Current action is to send letters to property owners, could place lien on property. **Kohn** asked about downside of not adopting. **Rankin** – One lot on Forrest Street has not finished cleaning debris. **Burr** – If have insurance, has to clean up; if no insurance could just leave mess. **Rankin** – This could have positive impact on insurance rates. **Deja** – Contacted insurance companies, they prefer using this program in villages and towns. **Rankin** – The building inspector would release funds to property owner after inspection. This is not a lien on property, money is placed in escrow. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES - **Ashbaugh, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kotenko**. NO - **Burr, Kohn**. MOTION PASSES 5-2.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Carol Dodson addressed the council concerning FOIA charges. She is concerned about the FOIA itemization form and if this policy was being used to deny information to public. Has contacted other villages to compare costs. She is appealing the cost she has incurred. **Burr** added she is also appealing the costs she has been charged. Policy was consulted, both people were advised that appeals of FOIA costs must be presented in writing to the Village President. **Burr** asked that village FOIA policy be reviewed at the June meeting.
- b. Clothing Allowance for Office Staff – This was revisited at request of 3 council members. Motion by **Davis** to provide a 1 year allowance of \$250 each for office worker, supported by **Ashbaugh**. Discussion: **Davis** – Staff empty trash, clean bathrooms, under counter to fix computer issues. **Deja** – Laura is paid by Nina Curtis to clean. **Rankin** – Laura cleans for 1 hour, is paid by Nina Curtis fund, not paid by village for this time. **Burr** – Office staff is comparing to DPW being provided with Carhartts each year. **Deja** – Could set precedent, proper clothing is something expected from office staff. **Ashbaugh** – We changed the policy, should help them. **Deja** – Code updated to khakis from t-shirts and jeans. **Kohn** – Could leave to Village Manager's discretion to pay for cleaning of soiled items. **Burr** – Waste of money, too much money for their discretion. **Ashbaugh** – Should provide them something. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES - **Ashbaugh, Davis, Hadley, Kottenko**. NO - **Burr, Deja, Kohn**. MOTION PASSES 4-3.
- c. Attorney – Motion by **Ashbaugh** to continue contract with Mr. Gates for pending litigation, supported by **Davis**. Discussion: Floyd Gates has moved to a new law firm. We can continue to work with Mr. Gates, or can obtain a new lawyer from Miller Canfield. This issue will be revisited at next need of legal services. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn, Kottenko**. MOTION APPROVED.
- d. Repeal of Ordinance 232 – Motion by **Hadley** to repeal old ordinance 232 concerning cross connections, supported by **Ashbaugh**. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn, Kottenko**. MOTION APPROVED.
- e. Adoption of Ordinance 2017-1: Motion by **Hadley** to adopt Ordinance 2017-1 concerning cross connections, supported by **Ashbaugh**. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn, Kottenko**. MOTION APPROVED.
- f. Contract with Fleis-Vanderbrink: Motion by **Hadley** to move forward on reconstruction of south 10th Street through Fleis-Vanderbrink for the amount of \$27,300, supported by **Kohn**. Discussion: This is for an 850 foot section of south 10th Street. Road is crumbling. Would like to build curbs to help with water runoff. PCA has requested this be addressed before, possible shared funding is an option. The beginning engineering costs are often greater than construction costs. **Kohn** – Cost of Work? **Rankin** – Need to reach bidding phase to know \$ amount. This is budgeted for \$60–70,000. **Burr** – Could PCA help pay? **Rankin** – We can do a special assessment if council wishes. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Davis, Deja, Hadley, Kohn, Kottenko**. MOTION APPROVED.

17. PUBLIC COMMENTS:


- a. Mr. Harkness – questions concerning tornado warning whistle, recycling, high speed traffic on Juniper Street. Also concerned about proper personal protective equipment for staff to use when cleaning bathrooms. Suggested offering a uniform to change into for cleaning work.
- b. Mrs. Pool – Would like to see a statement of amount for bills being paid each month or a total of expenditures.
- c. Mr. Macklin – Audience banter is created by silence of the council. Mr. Hadley makes too many motions and should allow others the opportunity. Feels comments from the community are “looked down upon”. Community does not have all information unless they submit a 5-day FOIA request. Reconsider trust in Mr. Rankin. Would like to see Robert’s Rules concerning re-voting on a motion (clothing issue). Graded the council on its progress.
- d. Mrs. Cook – The people in the audience are trying to learn about what is happening.

18. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a. **Burr** – Questioned hours of contract with Mr. Rankin. Need accountability for hours he works. Can’t count meetings in his hours. **Rankin** – In Edmore on Monday, Wednesday and alternating Fridays. Works 24 hours per week. Training days are considered work days. **Kotenko** – This is a personnel issue and should be taken to committee.
- b. **Deja** – Hazardous Waste Day at MCC on June 3. Village is confused about Spring Clean-up Date.
- c. **Ashbaugh** – Nice job on minutes.
- d. **Deja** – Restated need to discuss FOIA policy on June agenda. Must follow state guidelines.

19. MOTION TO ADJOURN: Motion by **Deja** to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M., supported by **Burr**. Approved Unanimously.

Michelle Leck-Rensland
Village Clerk


Village President
Approved for Publication

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 12, 2017 7:00 P.M.