

March 14, 2024 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Palmer at 7:01 p.m. Upon a roll call members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb were present. Clerk Smith was also present.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Chase requested the Rules of Procedure be moved to the April Work Session.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Walton, support by Bacon to approve the agenda as amended. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – John Collins commented on the solutions to be presented by Dr. Grobbel.

COMMUNICATIONS – Two letters from Ed Peplinski, and a letter from Dave Taghon, Tina Dunphey, and Holly Decker were read aloud and available in the posted packet.

PRESENTATIONS

WILCO ROAD PLAN – Dr. Grobbel reviewed the plans drawn up by Gosling Czubak after several on-site visits and consultation with between him and Village Engineer Graf. A series of bio swales would slow and infiltrate the drainage before it reaches Lake St.

SOUTH BAR LAKE QUALITY REPORT – Dr. Grobbel reviewed his study that includes the continued areas of bacterial concern at the Florence Inlet, Lake & Niagara and Chippewa Run. He has recommended a treatment system that would mitigate the influx of these concerns. His report is available on the Village website.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRESENTATIONS – Several comments were made, and questions were answered.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Palmer noted that there will be a severe weather siren alert on 3-20-24 at 1:00 p.m. She also read a prepared statement on the Village Office Update (posted as handout).

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Bacon reported on the Planning Commission Annual Report, asked about the status of several PC items sent to the Village Attorney and whether a Mass Gathering permit has been requested for the Asparagus Festival. Walton reported the Personnel Committee will be meeting on 4/9/24. Dye reported on the 3/13 STR Committee meeting and the next meeting will be on 3/26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Library.

There was discussion of whether an appraisal, survey, or an environmental assessment are needed for the new village office property purchase. The inspection report was reviewed, and it was suggested that each item be addressed by the seller. **Motion by Rademacher, support by Webb to contract for an appraisal not to exceed \$4K. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Webb. Nays: Bacon, Chase, Walton. MOTION PASSED. Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to not conduct an environmental assessment. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton. Nays: Webb. MOTION PASSED.**

The annual report from the Planning Commission was reviewed and several items were discussed and corrected. The report is available on the Village website.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE MINUTES: Special Meeting 2/23/24, Closed Meeting 2/23/24, Special Meeting 2/28/24, Closed Meeting 2/28/24, Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting 2/28/24 – **Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve all the minutes listed. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

RULES OF PROCEDURE REVIEW – Moved to April Work Session.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FROM PLANNING COMMISSION TO INCREASE BUDGET FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – **Motion by Bacon, supported by Dye to approve the Planning Commission contracting for a Master Plan update not to exceed \$10K.** There was discussion of budget amendments to be made if needed. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

WATER UTILITY CUSTOMER ACH PAYMENT OPTION – Treasurer Acton reviewed the costs and savings to offer this service. **Motion by Bacon, support by Walton to authorize ACH payment option for water bills. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

Motion by Rademacher, support by Walton to continue the meeting until 9:30 p.m. Upon a unanimous voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

PERSONNEL PAY RAISES FOR FY 2024-25 – **Motion by Walton, supported by Dye to approve the 5% pay raise for the employees listed in the agenda request. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: Bacon, Chase. MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Tina Dunphey commented on the Short-Term Rental issues, transparency and encouraged all Council members to attend the committee meetings. Sage Campbell commented on having agendas available to the public for committee and council meetings.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Dye commented on Short Term Rental Committee.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:10 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the March 26, 2023, Regular Council meeting.