

**EDMORE VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APPROVED JOURNAL OF MINUTES
March 11, 2019**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular session of the Village of Edmore Council was called to order on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Curtis Community Building by **President Gloria Burr**.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL:** Members Present –**Ashbaugh, Burr, Colburn, Guild, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen**. Also present: **Shirley Drain** – Village Treasurer, **Kristin Callow** – Village Clerk, **Sgt Snyder** – Montcalm County Sheriff's Dept.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by **Colburn**, supported by **Rasmussen** to accept the agenda with the additions to add to Old Business item 11 a. Employee Pay Raises. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No comments from the public on the agenda items.
6. **PRESENTATIONS:** Tom O'Connor from Pioneer Group spoke about adding an Edmore Community Page as part of their River Valley Shopper that would highlight any upcoming events in Edmore.
7. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**
 - a. **POLICE REPORT:** Presented by **Sgt Snyder**. Report on file.
 - b. **DPW REPORT:** New street signs have been installed on Main St. Keeping up with plowing and salting roads. Repaired 2 main water breaks on the corners of Pine and Moore St. and on Moore St. just north of Pine St.
 - c. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Books are closed for February and did not balance. The bank is still over \$43.05 showing more cash than we are showing in cash balances. Tracy will begin to review prior months to see if the error can be found. All loans are current except for Mustang Junction, as of today March 11, 2019, March payment has not been received. The \$30,000 has been transferred to the Water Fund as approved at the February Meeting. Cash Balance Reports are on file.
 - d. **DDA:** Phil Garcia reported. New Street signs look nice and thanked the DPW for their help with that project. The Food Hub Summit meeting took place Saturday March 9th. Many sellers showed for the meeting with a lot of interest however no buyers showed up for the meeting. The County Health department is looking for interest in buyers. The main project for this summer will be the downtown streetscape project. The DDA will be planning a walk through to decide of what will be done. Phil will keep the council posted of when this will take place if anyone would like to join. The DDA is planning Community Super Fridays to collaborate with the Farmers Market. They will provide children's event, pony rides and some vendors. This event will run from June through October. Phil will be putting together an events schedule for this coming season.

DISCUSSION: **Colburn** relayed several concerns about the condition and the occupancy of the building. He feels the floor is a huge liability and there should not be any events held until the floor has been fully repaired. The main purpose of the building was to get businesses not to hold events. He is also concerned about the availability of the building to interested businesses when these events have already been planned. There are also questions to why there is still money being sunk into this building when they are not sure what potential businesses would need.

Colburn encouraged Mr. Garcia to focus on getting businesses in there and not to focus so much on events. Garcia relayed that he would present Colburn's concerns to the DDA board and invited him to join the next meeting that will be held on March 20, 2019 at 12pm at the Curtis Building. **Ashbaugh** questioned if there was in fact an Occupancy Permit. Garcia informed Ashbaugh that there has been an Occupancy Permit granted but he is unsure as to what type of Occupancy has been determined. The building has passed the county inspection and a copy of the inspection will be supplied to the Village.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **PERSONNEL:** **Moore** reported that an ad for a new village manager has been drafted and will be posted starting March 15 and run through April 15, 2019. Colburn made suggestions to changing the wording of the ad to ask for a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Ashbaugh suggested checking on the number of hours needed for a part-time position before placing the ad. There will be a request for the approval of a new health insurance policy that would save the Village nearly \$20,000 a year in premiums while still providing good coverage for the full time Village employees.
- b. **POLICE:** Rasmussen spoke to Cal Beach at the Home Twp. office and they are willing to discuss this issue further but would like more specific information to present to their board for discussion. Colburn and Rasmussen will put together a more detailed proposal and set up another meeting.
- c. **MARIJUANA:** Colburn presented a new ordinance that would prohibit the sale of marijuana in the Village of Edmore. This will be a simple ordinance that will be easy to adjust in the future if the need arises.

9. PRESIDENT REPORT: **Burr** Thanked the Nina Curtis Foundation for the awnings on the Curtis Community Building for the front and back doors.

10. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: Minutes presented from the February 11, 2019 regular meeting for approval. Motion by **Rasmussen**, supported by **Ashbaugh** to approve the minutes with corrections. Correction to 11 a. Forensic Audit, adding that the forensic audit will be paid from the Water/Sewer and the DDA fund. Also, a correction to add what was discussed in the public comments. MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Employee Raises:** Motion by **Ashbaugh**, supported by **Hadley** to increase the 2 office employees wages along with the 2.4% CPI raises the DPW will be receiving. **Discussion:** **Ashbaugh** feels that all the employees should receive the CPI raises, not just the DPW. **Hadley** stated that a cost of living raise must be offered to all employees and not to individual employees and to only offer it to the men that work for DPW and not the women in the office will raise some concerns. **Colburn** stated that he disagrees, and that gender certainly does not have anything to do with it and that the office staff is very well compensated by this small Village with limited funds. **Rasmussen** and **Moore** stated that in comparison to the surrounding Villages our office staff's salary is higher than others and they are paid a very good wage. The raises for the DPW was based upon the type of work they provide for our community. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Hadley**. NO – **Burr, Colburn, Guild, Moore, Rasmussen**. MOTION FAILS 2-5.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **PAYMENT OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH BILLS:** Motion by **Moore**, supported by **Rasmussen** to approve payment of presented bills. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Colburn, Guild, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen**. MOTION PASSES 7-0.
- b. **PARKING LOTS:** Motion by **Moore**, supported by **Rasmussen** to appoint Guild and Hadley to speak with Travis Jensen, the owner of the Phenix, to discuss the parking lot contract.
Discussion: The contract to maintain the Phenix parking lot has been expired for 2 years. The Village maintains and carries the liability for that parking area in exchange to use this area as a municipal parking lot. This contract will need to be renegotiated. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Colburn, Guild, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen**. Motion Passes 7-0.
- c. **EMPLOYEE INSURANCE:** Motion by **Moore**, supported by **Rasmussen** to accept Priority POS 1000 as the new employee health insurance policy, while keeping the same Delta Dental plan effective May 1, 2019. **Discussion:** Moore stated that the insurance premiums have been extremely high for 4 full time employees. After checking with 10 insurance company the Priority POS 1000 will have higher deductible and out of pocket costs but will still provide very good coverage. Changing to this new policy will save the Village nearly \$20,000 per year. Annual costs for health and dental for 4 full time employees will be \$68,567.52. **Hadley** would have liked to compare last year's policy to the new policy to see more specific coverages. Employees will still be paying the same 8% of the premium. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Colburn, Guild, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen**. MOTION PASSES 7-0.
- d. **MARIJUANNA ORDINANCE:** Motion by **Colburn**, supported by **Moore** to set a public hearing on April 8, 2019 at 7pm to adopt the new Marijuana Ordinance 2019-1. ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – **Ashbaugh, Burr, Colburn, Guild, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen**. MOTION PASSES 7-0.
- e. **BAG BUILDING (MARKET PLACE):** Motion by **Colburn**, Supported by **Guild**. The motion states, The Village Council, consistent with and to the greatest extent allowable by law directs the DDA and by extension the Finance Director to immediately stop all further financial investment and expenditures in and for this project beyond what is contractually binding and what is necessary for public safety and to preserve permanent fixtures within the building. They are further directed to cancel all weddings and similar events currently booked where reasonably possible and to require any that cannot be cancelled to sign a full release of liability for any issue resulting from the know safety issues in the facility.
The foregoing should not be interpreted to prevent the council or appointed members of the DDA from continuing to solicit offers from potential buyers or permanent (as opposed to event), space renters for the bag factory building. Any contracts for the same shall be subject to Village Council approval. **Discussion:** **Rasmussen** attended the Food Hub Summit meeting and reported that 98% who attended were sellers, no buyers attended the meeting. **Rasmussen** also mentioned meeting with Phil Garcia to discuss the condition of the floor and the costs to have it repaired. **Hadley** questioned the meeting that took place. Asked if the personnel committee attended the DDA meeting to express concerns about the floor. **Moore** suggested to the DDA to hold off on the 2nd floor restrooms and complete the main floor entirely with completely repaired floors so if an event is held the floor will be safe. **Hadley** questioned Moore about his concerns about the unsafe floor while his granddaughter and friends were there for pictures. Did he have to rent the building? Hadley rented the building for an event and paid \$100 for 2 hours plus a \$250 security deposit. **Guild** asked what any of that has to do with the floor. **Hadley** argued that the floor was not a problem for them when using the building for free. **Burr** stated that the personnel committee met with Phil Garcia with concerns about the repairs needed for the floor. **Hadley** stated that it makes no sense for the personnel committee to meet with Phil Garcia who is employed by the DDA. Arguments broke out and **Burr** called a 10 minutes recess at 8:45pm.

Meeting called back to order at 8:55pm. There was a motion on the floor by **Colburn**. **Burr** asked for a roll call vote. **Hadley** requested a sub motion to postpone the vote until next month's meeting to have the opportunity to let the public know that this is being discussed. His motion was supported by **Ashbaugh**. **Discussion: Colburn** still has concerns about the liability. Garcia verified that there are no scheduled events until after our April meeting. **ROLL CALL VOTE: Yes – Ashbaugh, Hadley. NO – Colburn, Guild, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr.**

MOTION FAILS 2-5 Burr stated that **Colburn's** motion is still on the floor. **Discussion: Guild** has concerns about liability. **Moore** stated that the DDA budget had already been approved and events have been planned. Events will bring in money and if needed a liability waiver could be signed. **Hadley** pointed out that events held at the Bag Factory provide good economic development for Edmore. The DDA's purpose is to generate business for the Edmore Community. Burr asked for a roll call for Colburn's motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Colburn, Guild. NO – Ashbaugh, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION FAILS 2-5.**

- f. **MANAGERS AD:** Motion by **Guild**, supported by **Moore** to post the ad for the Manager's position with the corrections. Corrections include removing the number of hours worked for part time, asking for a minimum of a bachelor's degree in Public Administration and offering wages up to \$45,000 in salary per year. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Ashbaugh, Colburn, Guild, Hadley, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION PASSES 7-0**
- g. **CLOSED SESSION:** Motion by **Guild**, supported by **Moore** to close regular meeting and enter closed session for ongoing litigations at 9:23pm. Motions passes unanimously.
- h. **REGULAR MEETING CALLED BACK TO ORDER:** **Burr** call the regular meeting back to order at 10:28pm.

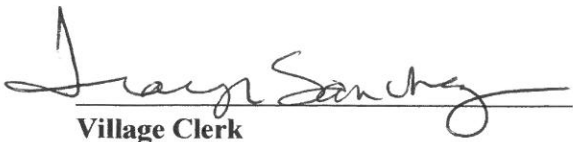
13. PUBLIC COMMENTS:


Michelle Leak-Rensland – Concerned that you should not discuss economic loan status with employees of a business. Is a violation of privacy. Banks cannot discuss issues with anyone not on loan papers. Council should follow same practice as banks.

Nicole Hadley – Thankful Toms motion failed and feels there should have information given to the public beforehand.

14. COUNCIL COMMENTS: **Hadley** would like more information on items on the agenda.

15. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by **Rasmussen** to adjourn, supported by **Moore**. **Burr** adjourned the meeting at 10:40pm.


Village Clerk


Village President
Approved for Publication

NEXT MEETING: April 8, 2019

Kristin Callow
10606 N Neff Rd
Edmore, Mi 48829

March 25, 2019

Dear Edmore Village Council Members,

Please accept this letter as notice that I will be resigning immediately from my position as Edmore Village Council Clerk.

I accepted this position with the hope and understanding that the mood and conduct of our Village Council was going to take a great change. I looked forward to having the opportunity to get involved in our Community and to be part of a group that was willing to put past differences aside and work together as a team for the betterment of our Community. However, only 4 meetings in and I find myself regretting my decision. I have come to the realization that this is not a good fit for me under these circumstances. I am very uncomfortable around conflict and choose not to be part of any form of hostile confrontation such as that which took place at the March meeting. The negativity that is shared at these meetings is more than I can handle, and I feel it will not only benefit me but also the council to have someone else sit as your Village Council Clerk.

I hope for those of you who so kindly put so much time and effort in to this Village Council that these changes will take place soon. Your hard work and dedication are admirable.

Thank you to the Council for offering me this opportunity and I wish you all the best of luck as you move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Callow". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kristin Callow