

**EDMORE VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
UNAPPROVED JOURNAL OF MINUTES
April 10, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular session of the Village of Edmore Council was called to order on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. by **President Gloria Burr**.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL:** Members present – **Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr**. Also present: **Justin Lakamper** – Village Manager, **Shirley Drain** – Village Treasurer, **Kerri Peterson** – Village Clerk, **Deputy Tanis** – Montcalm County Sheriff's Department
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion by **Colburn** to approve the agenda as printed. Seconded by **Rasmussen**. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 7-0.**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS:** None.
6. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**
 - A. **POLICE:** **Deputy Tanis** reported there were 123 service hours during which there were 12 total investigations, 2 arrests, 32 traffic stops, 8 citations issued, and 24 verbal warnings issued. Highlights included during the month of March, there was no notable activity. Efforts were made on patrols and property checks with few calls for service. Deputy Tanis is being re-assigned to patrol a different area and is being replaced by Deputy Evans. Deputy Evans has two years of road patrol experience and over eight years of experience with the Sheriff's Office. This change begins May 1, 2023.
 - B. **FINANCE:** **Burr** reported for Tracy. She has been continuing to get files around for the audit and has completed all reimbursements for Glenn Curtis grants from last year.
 - C. **DDA:** **Lakamper** reported the DDA will meet April 26th at noon. Vicki Moulter of Vicki's Flowers held a successful wedding expo at the Marketplace on March 25th. The DDA hosted a table to advertise the Marketplace as a wedding venue. The new planters will be placed out in May and will be filled with flowers paid for by the DDA.
 - D. **DPW:** **Lakamper** reported for Andy. They have started chipping, been servicing equipment, and had one full burial. The new employee is working out well.
 - E. **MANAGERS:** **Lakamper** reported **COMMITTEES:** **POLICE:** The Police Committee did not meet last month. I have reached out to the township to set up a meeting with the police committee and township representatives to discuss policing in Home Township/Edmore. Cal told me he would bring it up again at their meeting this coming Monday to see if it is something that they want to pursue. I have also spoken with more local communities regarding their police departments and feel that I have enough information to provide a budget for establishing and running a department. I would like to present all of the information at once and I would like to have a better understanding of where the Township is at before I do. I will return at the May or June meeting with options for policing. **ORDINANCE:** The Ordinance Committee met to discuss changes to the marijuana ordinance. The question regarding a marijuana microbusiness is on the agenda, but we also spoke about amending the process for renewing licenses. The marijuana ordinance allows for the powers of the licensing authority (the Council) to be delegated by resolution. Since we have a number of licenses that need to be renewed each year, and each time it comes to vote, I thought we could streamline this process somewhat by allowing the Village Manager to approve renewals if there are no changes to

the business, and they have not had any violation. This would eliminate the need to bring these renewals to a vote each time. If this is not bothersome, we can leave it alone. If you feel that we could benefit from making this change, I can bring it up at the next meeting. After some discussion among the board, **Colburn** suggested **Lakamper** letting the board know of any changes the month before. **Drain** suggested naming **Justin Lakamper**, as the Village Manager has the permission to authorize licenses, not just naming the 'Village Manager'. If Lakamper were to leave the position, it would revert back to whoever is the Village Manager. It was decided to put something together for the May meeting. **DEVELOPMENTS: PUR OILS LLC:** They have received their license from the State. **DOLLAR GENERAL:** They have submitted their paperwork for a lot split, variance, and site plan review. The Planning Commission will meet on April 21 at noon, to provide a recommendation on the variance and review that site plan. The variance and lot split will then come to the council at the May meeting for final approval. Once all of this is done, Dollar General will be good to start construction, as far as the Villages requirements are concerned. It is unclear what the plan for the old building is once vacated. **Vacating Cherry Street:** Cherry Street between M-46 and W. Gilson St, was vacated in 1955 and the land was never given to the adjoining property owners. The County stated that since the original resolution did not specify what to do with the land, it wasn't deeded over. It was actually given to the property owners, it was just never recorded with the County. The County is amending their files and the Council needs to do nothing.

F. PRESIDENTS: Gloria Burr: The Edmore Women's Club is supporting We Care For Kids Montcalm County. We have planted blue pinwheels around town in support of Child Abuse Awareness Month.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT: Shirley Drain**

A. **TREASURER'S REPORT & COMMENTS: Drain:** Books for March 2023 are closed and balanced with the bank. Cash balances look good. All ELF loans are all current.

B. **APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Guild moved to pay the bills. Seconded by **Griswold**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING March 13th, 2023:** Motion by **Griswold** to approve March 13, 2023, minutes as printed. Seconded by **Rasmussen**. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **CONSIDERATION OF RAISING HEADSTONE FOUNDATION RATES FROM \$0.40 TO \$0.60 PER SQUARE INCH:** Lakamper reported the Village currently charges \$0.40 per square inch to pour headstone foundations at the cemetery. Over the past two years, our cement provider has increased their price for concrete three times. Due to these increases, \$0.40 per square inch no longer covers the cost to pour most sizes of foundation. Therefore, we are asking that the cost be increased to \$0.60 per square inch. Discussion took place on pouring the slab ahead of time as one slab for multiple grave sites. The customer purchases the lots so it would be their decision as to how many lots get done at once. The profit goes to the cemetery line in the general fund. Veteran lots are owned by the VFW. The most common slab size is 24"x12"x24". Individuals purchase lots and there is a minimum of two lots. Cremains can be buried two per lot or a casket and a cremains in one lot. Motion by **Rasmussen** to increase the headstone foundation charge from \$0.40 to \$0.60 per square inch. Supported by **Moore**. **ROLL CALL**

VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION PASSED 7-0.

- B. CONSIDERATION OF MARIHUANA LICENSE RENEWAL FOR NEW STANDARD:** Lakamper reported the marihuana business, Agri-Med, from Muskegon was granted municipal Provisioning Center and Marihuana Retailer licenses from the Village Council in April of 2020. Each license is valid for one year and must be renewed annually. As part of their renewal application, Agri-Med has informed us that they are only renewing their recreational Marihuana Retailer license and will allow their medical Provisioning Center license to lapse. Nothing has changed with their ownership or business model. Agri-Med has successfully operated their store under the DBA "New Standard Edmore" in town since opening, without incident. They maintain their state marihuana licenses with the Marihuana Regulatory Agency and have not violated any provisions of our marihuana ordinances. With this change, dropping their medical license leaves two open medical licenses available in Edmore. Motion by **Colburn** to approve Agri-Med's Marihuana Retailer license renewal. Supported by **McParland**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Moore, Burr. NO: Rasmussen. MOTION PASSED 6-1.**
- C. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING ORDINANCE 2020-02:** Lakamper reported the Ordinance Committee has met to consider amending ordinance number 2020-02 Regulation of Recreational Marihuana Ordinance. A downtown building owner has requested that the Council consider allowing a marihuana microbusiness under the ordinance. When the ordinance was originally passed, it allowed for one microbusiness in town. In the summer of 2021, the Council voted to remove this license type from the ordinance. A microbusiness is both a grow facility and a store at which marihuana products are sold. A microbusiness is allowed to cultivate up to 500 plants and sell the flower from those plants at the on-premises store. They are also allowed to sell marihuana products from other producers at the store, in conjunction with the flower grown onsite, and also plant clones (starters). If the Council approves this license type, and issues the license, there would be three store locations open to the public to purchase marihuana products in Edmore. Even though the building owner has requested the Council consider allowing one microbusiness in Edmore, this amendment is not to award this owner and location the license and would be open to anyone to apply for. Allowing this license would increase our general fund revenue, bring another business to town, and most likely lead to a vacant building being utilized, all of which are positives from an administrative standpoint. Some discussion took place among the board. The location and the thoughts of the people of the community are a big concern. Security is also a large concern. The current marihuana businesses have had good praises from some members of the community. Motion by **McParland** to amend section 4B of Ordinance 2020-02, to add one microbusiness back into the ordinance. Seconded by **Griswold**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, McParland. NO: Guild, Moore, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION DENIED 4-3.**
- D. DISCUSSION TO REQUEST GLENN CURTIS FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS:** Lakamper reported each year the Glenn Curtis Foundation gives grants for local causes. Applications are due on April 15th. In the recent past we have received multiple grants for purchasing park equipment at Curtis Park. This year I have asked the parks and recreation committee to consider requesting money to purchase a bike pump track. The pump track is a type of ramp system that can be ridden on bikes, skateboards, and scooters. There are only a few manufacturers of this style of ramps and there is one company in the US that sells them. We could ask for the full amount for purchasing a pump track. We also discussed the project of pouring a

cement parking area at Curtis Park in front of the pavilion. The Parks and Rec Committee also discussed a longer-term plan for installing a splash park at Curtis Park. The conversation revolved around the question as to whether we will have the resources to pursue this in the future if we pursue a pump track. The idea of the pump track stems from how we can draw more traffic from the Heartland Trail and provide the kids with more amenities. One location for a larger bike park would be on the railroad bed between 3rd and 5th streets. A bike park is essentially a larger area with ramps and jumps and obstacles to ride a bike on. The idea of putting it on the railroad bed, aside from it being a suitable piece of land, is that it would pull people off the trail and through town. It would also provide some recreation amenities on the north side of town. Using the railroad bed would however present the issue that the adjoining neighbors currently use it as if it were a part of their property. This will need to be addressed as it was just recently discovered and there are no records of it. According to the American Ramp Company, who sells the pump tracks as well as build full scale bike parks, a pump track is a common part of a bike park but can also be used on its own. You can purchase a smaller pump track now and expand on it later if you choose. The pump track is modular and bolts together so it can be moved and used on any flat surface. It could be placed on the railroad bed or on the tennis courts. The cost of the cheapest pump track is \$42,000 and the most expensive is \$80,000. Discussion began among the board on locations. The railroad bed, although a great location and would draw cyclists further into town, would have concerns of safety as it is not a well-lit area and it's not a monitored area. **Rasmussen** asked whether it could be put in the park replacing the skate ramp. **Lakamper** responded if a splash park were to be added in the future, the park is the location that has been slated for that. **Rasmussen** thinks the bike park is a great idea. **McParland** recommended not waiting until next March if we are going to do this, to discuss it. We might want to put money from the General Fund into it to do this, because we are talking over \$100,000 to do this. **Guild** stated we just received \$50,000 from the County, so let's spend it instead of putting it in the General Fund. The board agreed. **Burr** responded that it's for the community, it's for the kids, it's for our residents. I think it's a good idea. **Guild** agreed. **Burr** went on stating that's what some of that money is for is that stuff. **Guild** agreed. **Drain** asked about Parks and Recreation grants. **Lakamper** responded there are grants for that. **Drain** stated that she thinks the liability is a bigger problem than paying for it. **McParland** asked if we should talk to our liability insurance company about it. **Lakamper** responded we have insurance, and I don't think it would increase our premiums. **Colburn** stated his biggest concern isn't liability, it's somebody actually getting hurt. Discussion took place on the railroad bed location again and how dark it is and more secluded, there is no way to keep the kids out of there after dark. **Burr** stated that she thinks everyone agrees that it's a great idea, it's just a matter of location. **Lakamper** went on stating that another location would be the tennis courts on Johnson Street. There is power there and lights. **Drain** asked for a size comparison of the pump track to the tennis courts. Discussion took place on the size of the tennis court property. The tennis courts are very seldom used. The basketball court gets played on. This may combine middle school age and high school age activities in the same area. **Burr** commented that it would be a lot better to fix the existing lights at the tennis courts than it would be to put up all new lighting at the other location. **Guild** agrees with **Colburn** that he doesn't want anyone to get hurt. **Lakamper** stated he would put up all the proper signage with requirements for the skate park. **Colburn** asked about shredded padding and if it could be put over the concrete or some kind of protective padding and be effective. Discussion took place on what could be used. Tearing the concrete

out was mentioned as an option and most of the board agreed. **Burr** stated that no matter what we do it's going to cost us. We just have to decide which way we want to go. **Colburn** asked how big of a grant we were looking at? The full \$40,000? **Lakamper** responded that the largest he knows of that they have given is around \$40,000 for the main play structure in the park, about 5-6 years ago. Since then, we've asked twice for around \$25,000. They have a set allotment, and they try to give all of it away if they can. I would say around that \$40,000 area would be the max. **Burr** responded that she would rather ask for what we want and then they can decide how much of that if not all of it they want to give. **Drain** asked about State grants. **Lakamper** stated he knows of the SPARK grant through the DNR, but doesn't know the specifics surrounding it. That could be something we would want to look into if we wanted a splash park or expanding a bike park or something like that. He went on to say that is why he's recommending the smaller piece that can be added on to at a later date. Applications are due at the end of this week to the Glenn Curtis Foundation, they will then meet within a week or so and decide. **Guild** asked if we would get the money this year and get it going this year. **Lakamper** said yes. **Burr** stated she thinks from the past it is usually June when they disperse the money. **Lakamper** redirected the discussion to the potential parking area beside the pavilion in the park. After speaking with Dan Petersheim, along with Andy, they believe it can be poured with a slight slope for water drainage. The pad would be 20'x90' at 4" thick for \$9900. It would include a handicap parking spot. Adding a walkway from the parking lot to the pavilion is an additional \$900. Discussion took place on the cement mix. More discussion took place on the grant and how it worked. The Council granted **Lakamper** permission to write the grant for the pump track and the parking lot. The board all agreed this is a great idea, especially since it's for the kids.

- E. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – FIRST FRIDAYS:** **Lakamper** reported events on public property require a special event permit to be authorized by the Council. Growing Edmore Together (GET), is a group of local business owners who plan sales and other events downtown. They have submitted a special event application for a series of events that they wish to host on the first Friday of each month from May to August. They would like to close 4th Street south of M-46 to the alley, to have food sold by food trucks and music. They are very active with setting up street sales and other events to bring people downtown. They are asking for two things from the Village. The first being the use of barricades to block off 4th Street. We have a large number of barricades from the potato festival and placing them out four times is not an issue for the DPW. Second is to be exempt from providing additional insurance for these events. The event policy requires it and was originally meant for larger festivals. Since these are business owners doing work to promote the downtown who would otherwise not hold the events if they were required to pay for insurance. The Village would be liable for any issues regardless if GET had insurance. **Burr** agreed that they do a great job in the events they have had, and she hates to see it not happen. **Guild** asked about alcohol. **Lakamper** stated the Potato Festival could if they applied for a permit to sell alcohol. There is a question of folks bringing their own alcohol and technically it's not illegal. Our officer stated if they arrest somebody due to alcohol it would be for public intoxication. The State law is that it is legal to drink on public property if not otherwise prohibited by ordinance. We do not have an ordinance that prohibits it. **Burr** asked what the hours were going to be and if it was just going to be on Fridays. **Lakamper** replied that the bank closes at 5pm and the event is from 6pm to 8pm. GET has agreed to give access to anyone. The bank does not have a problem

- as long as it doesn't block customers. Motion by **Guild** to approve First Fridays special event permit for May-Aug 2023. Supported by **Moore**. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 7-0**
11. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**
 12. **COUNCIL COMMENTS: None.**
 13. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by **Rasmussen** to adjourn. Seconded by **Griswold**. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 7-0.**
President Burr adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Village President

Village Clerk

Approved for Publication

NEXT MEETING: May 08, 2023