

**EDMORE VILLAGE COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING / REGULAR MEETING  
UNAPPROVED JOURNAL OF MINUTES  
May 08, 2023**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Public Hearing / Regular Meeting of the Village of Edmore Council was called to order on Monday, May 08, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. by **President Gloria Burr**.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL:** Members present – **Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Rasmussen, Burr**. Absent – **Moore**. Also present: **Justin Lakamper** – Village Manager, **Shirley Drain** – Village Treasurer, **Kerri Peterson** – Village Clerk, Deputy Evans – Montcalm County Sheriff's Office.
4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** **Burr** called a vote to approve the agenda as written. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 6-0.**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**President Burr closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.**

6. **PUBLIC HEARING: VARIANCE REQUEST**
  - A. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
  - B. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** **Lakamper** updated the board that Dollar General has asked for a variance to reduce their parking spaces from the required 63 down to 50 spaces. No other comments.

**President Burr closed the public hearing and re-opened the special meeting at 7:04 p.m.**

7. **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**
  - A. **POLICE: DEPUTY EVANS:** **Deputy Evans** reported in the month of April there were 36 Total Investigations with 7 Total Arrests. There were 24 traffic Stops, 5 Citations Issued, and 19 Verbal Warnings Issued. Notable events included on April 5<sup>th</sup>, a victim in the 500 block of South Second Street asked for a police report to be filed for an identity theft complaint. The victim learned from a credit card company that someone had applied for a credit card in the victim's name. There are no suspects. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, a break-in of a shed was reported in the 100 block of South Brown Street. Tools were the target of the theft. Neighboring camera systems captured the event, but the video quality was too poor to be of benefit. Interviews were conducted; however, no definite suspect has been developed.
  - B. **FINANCE:** **Lakamper** reported that **Tracy** has finished working with Darcy for the Audit and will receive a draft audit from her shortly. We have purchased the new copier and have it all set up. Initially all was good, but unfortunately it started paper jamming while trying to print approximately a week later. A tech will be coming to service the machine. **Tracy** has also been working on paperwork to change our insurance provider.
  - C. **DDA:** **Lakamper** reported the DDA met on April 26<sup>th</sup>, however there was no quorum present. The following topics were discussed: Planter box locations. Vicki's Flowers flower selection: Vicki will plant petunias and geraniums into the newly purchased planter boxes. The DPW will water the flowers. There are currently 11 planters at a cost of \$100 per planter to plant. First Friday's using the Marketplace as a rain location. They also talked about the DDA supplying marketing materials for downtown to be produced by Team GET. Upcoming DDA schedule is as follows: June 14<sup>th</sup> @ noon, July 12<sup>th</sup> @ noon, August 16<sup>th</sup> @ noon, September 13<sup>th</sup> @ noon.

- D. DPW: Burr** reported for **Andy**. There were two full burials. We have been focused on getting the Cemetery ready for the Spring. We will have it completely clean next week. We have opened the trail bathrooms and will be opening the bathrooms at the park on Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The park bathroom door locks were not working properly, so they were replaced. Next week we will also be hanging the Veteran's banners.
- E. MANAGER: JUSTIN LAKAMPER: Lakamper reported on Committees: Police:** Prior to the last meeting the Township was set to discuss their willingness to meet with our police committee. After following up with them, I was told that they still needed to discuss it. There was not much other information given on their feelings toward moving forward with some form of joint policing effort. As it stands, there has been no substantial movement on this front. **Road and Sidewalk Committee:** I have been in contact with Petersheim Construction about replacing sidewalks this summer. The committee needs to meet this coming month to select which sections of town should be prioritized for sidewalk repair/replacement. There is \$60,000 budgeted for this project. **DWAM Grant:** Flies will be handling the bidding process for the DWAM grant. They will be prepared to do this in late June. This would still leave time for the contractor to begin digging in the late summer and early fall. The grant is good for 3 years, so it is possible to move this process back to begin work next Spring. **Glenn Curtis Grant:** We have received \$22,223 in funding for the installation of the parking lot at Curtis Park and the pump track. This would not cover the total cost so the Council will need to decide how to move forward with the projects. **Events:** Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> was the inaugural First Friday's event downtown. There were food trucks and music for families to enjoy. It was a decent turnout. Also, the weekend of May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the Eagle Wings Motorcycle Association of Michigan held a riding event in the parking lot of the Edmore Marketplace. There were demonstration rides, rider safety courses, games, and sales. The group had dinners scheduled at the Depot and LaClear's and went for an area ride. The public was welcome to attend. **Insurance:** We have been working to find a new agent of record and a better insurance plan for the staff. Our old agent is no longer working in the insurance industry, so we requested quotes for new plans from Chris Miller. He has provided us with a blue cross blue shield plan which provides better coverage, a lower deductible, and vision insurance, for a monthly rate that is slightly lower than what we currently pay. We will be moving forward with switching our insurance to this new plan as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- F. PRESIDENT: GLORIA BURR: Burr** stated the motorcycle event is welcome to come back again.
8. **TREASURER'S REPORT: SHIRLEY DRAIN:**
- A. TREASURER'S REPORT & COMMENTS: Drain** reported the books are closed and reconciled with the bank. Cash balances look fine. ELF loans, MAKS is past due. Discussion took place about the loan to MAKS and **Lakamper** is going to check on details of the loan and report back.
- B. APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Motion by **Guild** to pay the bills. Seconded by **Griswold**.  
**ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION PASSED 6-0**
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS: INSURANCE**
10. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- A. REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023:** **Rasmussen** moved to approve the minutes with correction. Supported by **McParland**. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 6-0**
11. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. SETTING SPECIAL MEETING COUNCIL MEETING FOR DWRSF APPLICATION:** The Village's application for the DWRSF is due on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The application requires a public meeting

at which the public can review the project. A special meeting has been requested by our Flies engineer, Steven Bishop, to come and present the project to the Council and public. The meeting is set for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at 6 p.m.

- B. APPROVAL OF VARIANCE REQUEST: DOLLAR GENERAL:** The Village's zoning ordinance establishes the required number of parking spots based on square footage and use type. Dollar General has submitted that their internal studies have shown 50 parking spaces to be ample for their business and has asked that we consider allowing them approval with 50 parking spaces instead of the required 63. The Planning Commission voted 4-0 to recommend the variance to the Council. Motion by **Guild** to grant Dollar General's request to reduce their parking spots from 63, down to 50 spots. Seconded by **Colburn**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION PASSED 6-0**
- C. APPROVAL OF LOT SPLIT REQUEST: DOLLAR GENERAL:** The Village Council is responsible for approving all lot splits within the Village limits. Pending lot split approval, Dollar General will purchase the newly created lot from GR Investments LLC. This will make the original lot landlocked, however, they have granted an easement to GR Investments for permanent ingress and egress rights. This satisfies the state law for lot splits. The proposed split has been reviewed by Township Assessor, Caitlin Zemla, who certifies that it meets all state requirements. Motion by **McParland** to approve the lot split for parcel #041-621-008-01. Supported by **Rasmussen**. **ROLL CALL VOTE: YES: Colburn, Griswold, Guild, McParland, Rasmussen, Burr. MOTION PASSED 6-0**
- D. GLENN CURTIS GRANT PROJECT SELECTION:** At the last meeting, the Village Council voted to request funding from the Glenn Curtis Foundation to install a parking area at Curtis Park and money to purchase a bicycle pump track. The Glenn Curtis Foundation has granted us \$22,223 for both projects. This would cover the \$11,000 for the parking area in its entirety and would leave \$11,223 towards the purchase of a pump track, leaving the Village with the remaining balance of a minimum of \$28,776.30. Discussion took place among the board, and it was decided to move forward with the parking lot at Curtis Park and put the pump track on hold. The consensus is there is more interest in a possible splash park in the future, which is more expensive, and putting money into that.
- E. DISCUSSION ON FIREWORKS IN THE VILLAGE FOR THE POTATO FESTIVAL:** The Potato Festival committee has asked about holding their fireworks display this year in the Village. They have not submitted their special event application, but wanted to know if the Council would entertain allowing them to have fireworks in town before they go through the application process. Our insurance carrier states fireworks displays are not covered by our general liability insurance. However, the firework provider holds insurance coverage which would name the Village as covered party, and the Potato Festival also covers liability insurance which names the Village as a covered party. The second aspect of this would be site selection. The firework provider has informed that they require a 280' safety zone around the display. The largest lot that the Village owns would be the two parcels on which the Curtis Building sit along with the pond. The ball diamonds/cemetery is also a larger area; however, it sits across the street from a fertilizer plant. There are a few other areas that are privately owned, but finding the appropriate area could prove difficult. Discussion took place on insurance and locations. The board decided no, they could not hold them on Village property, but yes, they could hold them within the Village if it is held on private land that meets the criteria.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**

13. **COUNCIL COMMENTS: McParland** asked about the placement of the memorial flags downtown and discussion ensued on whether they would be in the same locations as last year. The answer was not clear as it depended on how the DPW took them down and stored them last fall.
14. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by **Rasmussen** to adjourn. Seconded by **McParland**. **VOICE VOTE: ALL YES: MOTION PASSED 6-0.**  
**President Burr** adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

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**Village President**

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**Village Clerk**

**Approved for Publication**

**NEXT MEETING: June 12, 2023**