

Richland Village Council
8985 Gull Road
Regular Meeting
October 14, 2013

Present: President Bob Prentice, Clerk Jacqueline Holewa, and Trustees: Diane Briggs, Paul Gobble, Rob Brinkerhoff, Doug Jonas, Gail Koporetz, Chief Mattioli

Absent: Virginia Gross, Treasurer Terry Edds

The meeting was called to order in the Village Hall by President, Bob Prentice, at 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President, Bob Prentice

1. **Guests:** Laura Stensland, Consumers Energy Field Representative, took questions from the council members and residents who attended the meeting. The questions asked were about the right of way or easements under the high voltage lines in Richland Village.
2. President Prentice amended the agenda - Accident Fund (workman's comp) Insurance was added to new business.
3. Comments from the audience were taken. Barb Ericson asked about when the road repairs for Richland Village Condominiums would be scheduled. Prentice explained that there is a road committee that has been meeting for the last few months to discuss the village's need for a long term road repair schedule.
4. President Prentice read an e-mail from Village resident, Pam Ross.

Action Points:

5. Minutes: **Motion to approve September 9, 2013 minutes Gobble/Brinkerhoff – CARRIED**
6. Bills Payable – **Motion to accept Warrant 0003 – Brinkerhoff/Briggs – CARRIED**
7. Treasurer's Report: the council reviewed the report.

Old Business:

Discussion:

8. Prentice led the discussion to explore the option of changing the Clerk's and Treasurer's position from an elected official to an appointed position. In recent years the positions have expanded duties requiring well-defined skills to perform the duties. He wanted to dispel any rumors that the council was exploring the option because they wanted to "fire" the current clerk and treasurer. He explained that the council was looking at the option because it would allow the council to require specific job skills, training, education and

experience for the positions and would make each position accountable to the council. Furthermore, it would also provide for a greater job security and continuity while insuring the village had qualified personnel for the daily operations. Brinkerhoff stated that the council should educate the residents to the benefits of appointing the positions. Any decision that the council would make in the future would take effect at the expiration of the clerk's and treasurer's term in November 2016.

Action Point:

- 9. Motion not to convert the elected positions of clerk and treasurer to appointed positions until further research has been completed. Gobble/Koporetz -- CARRIED**
- 10. Motion to accept the AT&T Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension – Gobble/Brinkerhoff – CARRIED**

Discussion:

- 11.** Council discussed the need to have the village attorney present at all meetings. The consensus was that Attorney Soltis' presence at meetings was advantageous but it is the budgetary constraints that is of concern.

Action Point:

- 12.** Budget committee to meet before the November meeting to address the matter.

Discussion:

- 13.** D Avenue road project: Prentice discussed the 20 year street projection handout. At the last road meeting the group had narrowed the funding options to one – it needs to be honed as to final numbers.
- 14.** Jonas urged that a Time line must be developed to keep everything on schedule for the D Avenue road project.
- 15.** According to the MDOT contract packet a resolution is needed authorizing two officials to sign the contract.

Action Point:

- 16. Motion authorizing Bob Prentice and Doug Jonas to sign the MDOT contract Job #119792, Contract # 13-5621 on behalf of the Village of Richland – Gobble/Brinkerhoff - CARRIED**

New Business:

Discussion:

- 17.** The clerk explained an invoice from Accident Fund Insurance Company of America. An audit was conducted on September 23 regarding Workman's Compensation. The policy's

effective date is July 13, 2012 – July 13, 2013. The premium is based on estimated wages. The police department wages were estimated at \$88,673 – audit of actual wages - \$151,067. This was due in part by the village paying two chief of police officers (Diane Coles & Jeff Mattioli) for about three months and the department's participation in the Safety Grant which increased hours/wages. The Village was billed \$2,043.00 for the difference.

Action Point:

Motion to pay \$2,043.00 to Accident Fund (Workman's Comp) – Brinkerhoff/Jonas - CARRIED

Discussion:

- 18. Police Report:** 95 Incidents; 154 Citations; 35 Verbals; 7 OWI events; 4 GLHS Football games; 4 WMU Football games
- 19.** Patrols were increased on DE Avenue in response to complaints of vehicles speeding during the morning hours before school begins.
- 20.** Chief/DPW supervisor explained a cost saving chart the he gave to the council members. The chart indicated a large savings in the DPW workers doing the work themselves as compared to bids submitted for the respective jobs.
- 21.** The 2011 Ford Crown Victoria was totaled after a rear end accident. Chief will purchase another Tahoe from WMU to replace the Crown Vic along with the previously approved two Tahoes. All three vehicles will cost less than one new vehicle. Chief Mattioli will have the vehicles delivered in November.

- 22. Fire Report:** 23 calls – 5 calls in Village

- 23. Trees/Park Report:** - \$1,000 Consumers tree grant – will replace some dead trees and plant some trees in new areas.

- 24. Buildings/Grounds/Community Hall:** New doors for the Community Hall should be installed by the first part of November.

- 25. Budget committee report:** Briggs encouraged the trustees to begin working on their respective budgets.

- 26. Administrative Report:** Clerk reported that the payroll duty changeover is going well.

- 27. Zoning Report:** Planning Commission Chairman, John Smith, urged the council to adopt the 5 Year Recreation Plan that was previously postponed in December 2012.
- 28.** Noise ordinance was discussed. The current ordinance is ambiguous and difficult to enforce.

Action points:

- 29.** Clerk to contact John McCann of Viridis regarding the 5 Year Recreation Plan. It will be on the November agenda.

30. Planning Commission to work on a draft of a Noise Ordinance.

Discussion:

31. P.P.P. Report: NONE

32. Public Service: Another excellent newsletter for the Fall edition.

33. AD Hoc Report: NONE

Motion to adjourn– Gobble/Jonas - CARRIED

Meeting adjourned 9:53 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Jacqueline Wanda Holewa,

Village of Richland Clerk