

**Village of Ortonville**  
Township Offices – 395 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462  
**Village Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.**

President Quisenberry called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Present: Batten, Kassuba, Nivelt, Champion, Green, Eschmann, Quisenberry  
Absent: None.

**Also Present:** Village Manager – Ed Coy, Village Clerk/Recording Secretary – Julie Alexander, and approximately 11 residents.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Quisenberry** – requested to add item D to Acceptance Items (Update on Guardrail Insurance Coverage Options – Walt Renn)

**Motion** by Green, seconded by Eschmann, to approve amended agenda.

**All in favor, the motion carried.**

**Treasurer’ Report – March 2008:**

No questions.

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of the Ortonville Regular Council Meeting – March 24, 2008.

**Green** – correction to the vote to form a committee, in conjunction with Brandon Township, to address Skate Park issues. Green voted in favor of a committee.

**Motion** by Champion, seconded by Green, to approve the amended minutes of the March 24, 2008, Village Council Meeting.

**All in favor, the motion carried.**

**Disbursements:**

Clarifications sought for the following invoices:

- Brandon/Groveland Youth Assistance for \$1,350.52

This money was 2004 CDBG funds left over from the shed demolition.

- Scott Van Tine for \$1,189.28

Repairs needed for the Case 580 back hoe. Scott is a local, qualified, heavy equipment repairman.

**Motion** by Green, seconded by Nivelt, to approve disbursements in the amount of \$36,258.04.

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Batten, Kassuba, Nivelt, Champion, Green, Eschmann, Quisenberry

Nays: None.

**All in favor, the motion carried.**

**Acceptance of Other Items:**

**Brandon Fire Department Expenditures – March 2008**

No clarifications or corrections.

**Brandon Fire Department Runs – March 2008**

No clarifications or corrections.

**Minutes to DDA Board Meeting – February 21, 2008**

No clarifications or corrections to minutes.

Council was informed that Village staff is tracking the time spent working on DDA related tasks.

**Update on Guardrail Insurance Coverage Options -Walt Renn**

Mr. Renn wanted to address specific questions regarding guardrail insurance coverage. It would not be cost effective to insure only specific guardrails. The majority of the increase would occur by insuring just one, and would only go up slightly for each additional guardrail. Also, the Village and insurer are keeping an open line of communication to be sure the necessary coverage is in place. There may be items that should be communicated to the insurer for coverage consideration. The coverage has not decreased from the past. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Village to inform the insurance company of what type of coverage is needed.

**Public Comments (Agenda Items Only):**

Stephanie Strawsburg – Skate Park

She noted her frustration with the Skate Park. She specifically noted the bad language, graffiti, and harassment the residents are experiencing by those that use the Skate Park.

Heidi Barckholtz – Skate Park

She noted that similar issues with the area youth are happening throughout the community, not specific to just the area directly surrounding the Skate Park. She would like to see a resolution that does not include closing the Park.

Kathy Wood – Skate Park

She noted her dissatisfaction with the foul language, speeding cars, and graffiti. She stated the Skate Park is a great concept, but is in a poor location. She noted the need for a controlled environment.

Karen McArthur – Skate Park

She questioned the legal side of the ongoing Skate Park issues.

Robert Flath – Skate Park

He recommended a camera system be put in place to identify those involved individuals that are creating the problems. He recommended a public meeting to discuss a way to rectify the situation.

Sgt. Burkett – Skate Park

He liked Mr. Flath's suggestions but doubted the "problem kids" would come forward to meet regarding the Skate Park issues. He has met with the Village Manager to discuss the Village Ordinance, and suggests amending it to be more specific. Past efforts to amend the ordinance were shared and supplied to Sgt. Burkett in writing. He discussed a computer tracking system to track those causing problems, and how Youth Assistance can become involved. He briefly discussed Youth Assistance versus probate court as a better way to address the problems. While swearing is not something that can be addressed by the police, trespassing and vandalism are criminal activities that will be treated as such. Other options were discussed. It was agreed on that there needs to be ramifications for actions, and with police involvement the Skate Park

issues should improve. A citation was issued for trespassing on 4/13/08. Phone numbers were provided to contact the police dispatch.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**A. ISO Rating – Brandon Fire Chief, Robert McArthur**

Chief McArthur gave an overview of what ISO ratings are and how they are derived. He was pleased with the Village rating of 6. ISO insurance ratings are done by an independent company that is contracted to test fire departments. They check water supply and response time, among other details. He explained the goal is to contain fires so that they do not spread to surrounding properties. Existing equipment was used for this test to get an accurate rating. He does feel the Village needs a better, more consistent water supply; he is considering a well and /or storage tanks. The next test will be in November. Residents will be notified of the ISO rating to take to their insurance company for a possible reduction in premium.

**B. Skate Park Committee Report – Mary Kassuba**

Kassuba was unable to attend meeting. Green and Champion did attend. Both were pleased with the meeting results. Some recommendations will be discussed at the 4/21 Township Board meeting. It looks like the Township is open to working with the Village to solve the problems associated with the Skate Park. There may be a grant available that could partially cover fencing, lighting and sound deadening materials that would improve the situation. There will be a report regarding the results of the 4/21 Township meeting at the 4/28 Village Council meeting. Additional discussion regarding suggested improvements took place. It was agreed that photos of Skate Parks that have similar fencing, lighting, and sound deadening materials should be made available for review by Council. It was clarified that the Township is not interested in moving the Skate Park. Kassuba stated that she would like to research that camera option mentioned by Mr. Flath. The committee of Kassuba, Green, and Champion is no longer needed, and therefore dissolved.

**Public Comments (Items Not on Agenda):**

**Fred Waybrant** – Ball Field Update

Lighting will be key operated. Work to be complete within 10 days. Some light bulbs need to be replaced.

**Items from Trustees:**

**Batten** – none.

**Kassuba** – thank Green and Champion for attending Skate Park meeting.

**Nivelt** – questioned timesheet submission options. Emails are acceptable.

**Champion** – questioned work being done at the DPW. Building has rotten wood, needs repair.

**Green** – none.

**Eschmann** – questioned the Village participation in the spring clean up. It was decided that the Village/DPW would participate. Ed will coordinate the effort. Also, Eschmann questioned status of post office pillars. They are yet to be fixed. Green suggested a letter to the post master. This issue will be on the next Council meeting agenda.

**Quisenberry** – none.

**Motion** by Batten, seconded by Green, to adjourn the Council meeting.

**All in favor, the motion carried.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Alexander  
Recording Secretary