

Village of Ortonville
Township Offices – 395 Mill Street, Ortonville, MI 48462
Village Council Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2008 – Following Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

President Quisenberry called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

Members Present: Nivelt, Champion, Green, Eschmann, Batten, Quisenberry
Trustee Kassuba was absent with notice.

Also Present: Ed Coy-Village Manager, Julie Alexander - Village Clerk, William Prince – Village employee, Les Barrett – Business Agent, Teamsters Local 214, and approximately 12 residents.

Approval of Agenda:
Added Item D (New Business) **Auditing** at the request of **Trustee Batten**.

Motion by **Green**, seconded by Nivelt, to approve amended agenda.
All in favor, the Motion carried.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:
Minutes of the Ortonville Regular Council Meeting – August 11, 2008

Motion by **Green**, seconded by Eschmann, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2008 Village Council meeting without corrections.
All in favor, the Motion carried.

Disbursements:
Clarification sought for the following invoices:
-Rentrop & Morrison Questioned status of 21 Church Street
-League Employee Benefits Requested more affordable rates/plan at renewal time
-Keller Thoma Requested explanation of services on invoice

Motion by **Green**, seconded by Eschmann, to approve disbursements in the amount of \$18,741.02.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Nivelt, Champion, Green, Eschmann, Batten, Quisenberry
Nays: None.

Motion approved.

Acceptance of Other Items:
A. Treasurer's Report – June/July 2008
Council recognized changes in report format. No questions or clarifications.

B. Brandon Township Fire Alarms – July 2008

No questions or clarifications.

Public Comments (Agenda Items Only):

None.

Unfinished Business:

A. Heritage Garden Update – Ed Coy

Village Manager Coy provided an update on the Heritage Garden. The DDA design committee is supposed to meet regarding this issue to discuss changes. Council will be informed of plans to improve the appeal of the garden.

Motion by **Batten**, seconded by Nivelt, to table this issue until next Council meeting, with an update from the DDA, at that time.

All in favor, the Motion carried.

New Business:

A. Fire Chief Replacement – Ron Lapp

Supervisor Lapp presented status of the Fire Chief replacement. The position/requirements were posted with hopes of filling the position “in-house”. David Kwapis, currently a Brandon Township Fire Captain was the only person to apply for the position. He has been interviewed by the Fire Board. The interview went very well and the Board would like to see the Village Council approve the promotion of David Kwapis from Captain to the Fire Chief. All involved parties think Dave is an excellent choice to replace Bob McArthur as Fire Chief upon Bob’s retirement in January 2009.

Dave Kwapis introduced himself to the Council. He is a current Brandon Township resident.

Motion by **Batten**, seconded by Champion , to approve the promotion of Dave Kwapis from Brandon Township Fire Captain to Fire Chief.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Motion approved.

B. Flint Watershed Signs – Ed Coy

Village Manager Coy presented proposed signs to Council. The signs are very large and would required new poles. The Water Shed Conservancy is requesting these signs be installed in 4 locations throughout the Village. Our Village DPW would be doing the actual installation. Council discussed the locations proposed. Council was not in favor of adding signage to the Village.

No Action taken by Council.

C. Skate Park Event – Ed Coy

Village Manager Coy presented a Skate Park Event flyer the Skate Park Monitor, Bob Roerink put together. Mr. Roerink would like to host a skateboarding competition on September 13th. The event is not a fund raiser, but an opportunity to promote the Skate Park and a fun event for the families that use the Park. Fred Waybrant has offered his assistance with the event. Mr. Roerink will be requesting donations from area businesses to help with the cost of prizes and food items. He is seeking Council approval for this event.

Council discussed safety factors and the need for donation receipts.

Also, Mr. Roerink requested a designated parking space closer to the Park. He noted that he is handicapped and the parking space would be helpful. Council advised that the issue would be addressed.

Motion by Nivelt, seconded by Green, to allow the Skate Park Event.
All in favor, the Motion carried.

D. Auditing - (Added at the request of Trustee Batten)

Trustee Batten referenced the Lewis & Knopf letter included in Council packets. He noted his dissatisfaction with the decision to use Lewis & Knopf for the annual audit without Council approval. It was determined that the Village Manager, Council President, and Village Treasurer made this decision.

Motion by Batten, seconded by Green, that all Village business be conducted by the Village Council.
All in favor, Motion passed.

Public Comments (Items Not on Agenda):

Ms. Amy Guirey of The Village Pub addressed Council requesting their assistance with the “harassment” local businesses are receiving from an individual Oakland County Health Department inspector. Ms. Guirey advised Council of several local businesses that have been treated unfairly. She requested Council to discuss the issue with any contacts they may have to help stop this unfair treatment.

Village Manager Coy has spoken with Brad Jacobson, Oakland County Commissioner, regarding the situation. Mr. Jacobson noted his willingness to meet with approximately 6 of the business owners involved.

Mr. Perry Rouse of The Village Pub stated his dissatisfaction over the condition of Dave Bonner’s property. He stated there are weeds growing through fence that are ruining his equipment and fencing. He requested the DPW do the clean up and send a bill to Mr. Bonner. Village Manager Coy will contact Mr. Bonner about the situation again.

Items from Trustees:

Trustee Nivelt – Thanked Skate Park Monitor for assisting 9 year old that was hurt at the Skate Park over the weekend.

Motion by Green, seconded by Champion, to move to a Closed Session for **Personnel Issues** following a 5 minute recess.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Motion approved.

Moved to Closed Session at 8:27 p.m.

In accordance with Public Act 267 of 1976 Section 8 (b).

At the request of DPW laborer, William Prince, the Personnel Issues will be discussed in an Open Session.

Motion by Green, seconded by Nivelt, to move to an Open Session.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Motion approved.

Moved to an Open Session at 8:32 p.m.

Personnel Issues

Council President Quisenberry referenced a letter written by Village Manager Coy that was included in Council packets. The letter is addressed to Mr. William Prince, a DPW Laborer with the Village of Ortonville. The letter outlines seven charges of misconduct against Mr. Prince. Mr. Prince, and business representative Les Barrett from the Local 214, were present.

President Quisenberry identified which rules were violated as outlined in the letter. It was confirmed that a copy of the letter was provided to Mr. Prince. On behalf of Mr. Prince, Mr. Barrett addressed Council on each of the alleged violations.

President Quisenberry stated that the purpose of the hearing was for Council to decide whether or not disciplinary action was warranted.

After considerable discussion, no action was taken by Council.

Motion by Green, seconded by Nivelt, to adjourn the Village Council meeting.

All in favor, the Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 .m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Alexander
Village Clerk