

**VILLAGE OF CARLETON  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 23, 2009**

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The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at 1230 Monroe Street, Carleton, MI 48117. Members present, President Ron Lambrix, Councilmen Don Mell, Dennis McCormick, Thom Zemke, Chuck Collert, Tom Reiser, Bill Reckinger, Treasurer Peggy Leiffer and Clerk Lori Dahl. Also present Engineer John Emig and Attorney Jeffrey Osment.

President Ron Lambrix opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Don Mell to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Motion supported by Thom Zemke, all in favor, motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Salt Bin** – President Lambrix said they have started on the salt bin and have the foundation in and the trusses have been ordered.

**Striping** - President Lambrix said the cost for the recent street restriping was \$2700.00, done by RS Striping, which was less than the last time it was done. The last time it cost \$3850.00.

**Spending limits** – Attorney Jeff Osment said the proposed policy (not an ordinance) for the Presidents spending limit calls for: anything under \$500.00 requires the best quote, \$500.00 to \$1500.00 get 3 quotes, anything over \$1500.00 will be by sealed bid to the Village Office. Thom Zemke asked what is meant by “best quote” Attorney Osment said generally the Department head would know what they need and who has the best price. Motion made by Dennis McCormick, support by Don Mell to approve the spending limits policy as proposed. All in favor, motion carried.

**Park Committee** – Tom Reiser said he and Chuck Collert met with township supervisor Mr. Carmack and trustee Mr. Grabitz regarding the park commission. They want to make 3 appointments to the commission. They want to make 2 appointments the 1<sup>st</sup> year and 1 the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Our committee offered them 1 the 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2 the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They would not agree to that. They also want the park commission to be responsible for grass cutting at their 2 fields, foul lines established and drag the infield. They think if their spending exceeds a specified amount it should come before the Village council before they spend it. Chuck Collert said they want to appoint the first 2 next year and one person the next year for their total of 3. Tom said he didn't want to make a motion on it tonight. Thom Zemke asked who they wanted to kick off the commission, and how do you kick off volunteers. Tom Reiser said they won't kick off 2 they would appoint 2 and we would appoint the remainder. Chuck added they would also like to see a budget. Chuck said if we let them pick 2 people, they will pay the \$15000.00 that is due. Chuck verified that all appointments would not be made until the term is up in April 2010. Chuck said the township will let the kids play for free

for the first 3 years if we don't agree. Thom Zemke said he doesn't have a problem with this however, he wants to see the \$15,000.00 paid to the park commission from last year, before he votes on it. Dennis McCormick asked if we could put something in writing. Chuck suggested it be put in writing that if the \$15,000.00 is not paid by a specified date (January 15<sup>th</sup> was suggested) the Village council would pick all the appointees for the commission. Don Mell asked if they talked about who will pay for the insurance for the parks, the paper work and the wages for the workers, because the Village (not the park) has been paying all of it for over 40 years. It was not discussed at the meeting. Chuck Collert said if we don't agree on this, Robin said he will move forward and start his own park commission and programs and he will try and pull our kids out of our programs. Motion made by Bill Reckinger to allow the township to make 2 appointments when the new appointments are made next year. Attorney Osment said you may be in violation of the open meetings act by voting on this tonight, stating a decision like this should be on the agenda and give proper notice for people to see what is being voted on. Jeff also said how this whole thing came to be, by the gifting by the Rotary Club of Ash Carleton Park and the forming of this committee, he would like to do a little checking to be sure what they are doing by combining the two parks would not be in violation of anything. Jeff doesn't think we would be in violation but we have time before the baseball season starts and he would rather be safe than sorry. Bill Reckinger withdrew his motion. President Lambrix said he will have it on the agenda for the next meeting.

**BILLS** – Motion made by Don Mell, supported by Dennis McCormick to pay the bills totaling \$18,967.79, all in favor, motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Best Christmas Decorated Business** – President said the letter has been sent out to the local business's and he requests that the council be here to do the judging at the tree lighting ceremony on December 5th.

**Tree Removal** – Tom Reiser said trees at Harris & Center Street, and Mill and Ash Street need to be removed. President Lambrix suggested bids be taken, Dennis McCormick said he will get 3 quotes/bids for the project.

**Burning Ordinance** - Jeff Osment said ordinance #111 was passed in 1978 and says "no person, firm or corporation shall burn or incinerate any leaves or debris from trees on any street, road or alley located within the Village of Carleton without first securing a permit from the village clerk". Jeff presented an amendment to that ordinance which he passed out for councils review tonight, which states "no person, firm or corporation shall burn or incinerate any leaves or debris from trees on any public or private property located within the Village of Carleton without first securing a permit from the Village Clerk" Motion made by Dennis McCormick to put the amendment proposal on the agenda and in the paper to possibly be voted on at the next meeting. Motion supported by Don Mell, all in favor, motion carried.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Thom Zemke asked who put the Christmas lights. President Lambrix said we rented a lift and the DPW did it. However Detroit Edison agreed to come out on Wednesday and put the lights on the tree for us.

Treasurer Peggy Leiffer suggested the burning ordinance wording be changed from Village clerk to "office clerk" to obtain a permit. Peggy also announced that her deputy treasurer Doug Leiffer resigned due to issues with the township. Peggy has appointed her son, Joe Leiffer as her new deputy, so we will need new cards signed for the bank.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ester Ciersezwski asked Chuck Collert how he knew we will lose all our kids who play baseball. Chuck said because the township will let the kids play for free for the first couple of years. Ester said well, we can let our kids play for free here too if they do. Ester also stated, she thought someone from the council should attend the Township Meetings as they speak badly about the Village Council and Park Commission.

Al Madaski, chairman of the Park Commission said he is tired of the bashing and hatred at the township hall regarding the Village council and park commission. Al said if he is the problem with the township, he will resign, if it gets the money the park commission needs for the kids. Al said the board they have now is settled in, they are aware there are a few things that need to be ironed out, however they are doing a good job.

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m. made by Don Mell, supported by Dennis McCormick, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Dahl, Clerk  
Village of Carleton

Next meeting December 14, 2009  
Happy Holidays!