



**Village of Spring Lake  
Council Work Session Minutes  
March 13, 2017**

**7:00 p.m.**

**102 West Savidge Street (EOC - Downstairs Conference Room)  
Spring Lake, MI 49456**

President **Hatton** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Annual Heritage Festival Request (Steve VanBelkum) - Steve VanBelkum (President of the SLHF Committee) asked Council to consider the use of Central Park, Mill Point Park and Barber School for the Heritage Festival from June 12<sup>th</sup> thru June 17, 2017 and Mill Point Park for Music at the Point through the summer months. **Council** had no questions for Mr. VanBelkum.
2. Discussion with Disincorporation Work Group (DWG) - Tony Verplank was present to answer any questions that Council might have. Mr. Verplank said that it came down to “choice” and explained that taxes could be reduced by maybe a few hundred dollars with disincorporation, but at what cost? President **Hatton** shared a spread sheet of Village operating costs that she felt could be saved by disincorporation. **Council** discussed added administrative costs for the Township to take on the Village and how unfunded pensions would be paid. **Council** also discussed the process of liquidating assets and what would happen to properties that had been gifted to the Village and Village liabilities.
3. Ballot Language for Charter Amendment - Attorney **Sullivan** and Attorney **Pinjuv** explained the 2 options for the Charter Amendment language and answered questions from **Council**.
4. North Bank Trail – Crockery Township (Marv Hinga) - **Hinga** explained the request from Crockery Township to sponsor their Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant through MDOT and, also to seek on their behalf, a State Infrastructure Loan for the North Bank Trail. **Hinga** explained that Crockery Township could not request any of these on their own because they were not a recipient of Act 51 funds, they were not an MDOT entity. **Hinga** said their choice was to go with Ottawa County Road Commission, which had already said no to the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan. **Burns** discussed her concerns that the agreement did not have provisions to protect the Village if Hinga was no longer the Finance Director. **Hatton** asked what would happen if the Village disincorporated? **Burns**

asked Attorney Sullivan to include draft language to protect the Village in the event of these issues.

5. Budget Discussion (Marv Hinga & Chris Burns) – **Hatton** asked to table the Budget Discussion to a later date. **Doss** said she was there to work so she would like to continue. **Burns** said she and Marv were looking for direction so they could start plugging in the numbers for the new budget. **Doss** requested that Council create a savings account for large park maintenance projects. **VanStrate** said he would also like money budgeted for parks maintenance. **Council** agreed they would like money budgeted for park maintenance. **Burns** and **Hinga** reviewed Council's priority list of goals from their budget meeting for more direction.
6. Budget Amendments (Marv Hinga) – **Hinga** explained the Budget Amendments. There were no questions from Council.
7. Purchasing Card (Marv Hinga) – **Hinga** explained that this would be a Master Card that would be accepted everywhere so that a check would not always have to be issued or cut ahead of time and for online or other possible credit card purchases. **Hinga** explained that he and Chris would have the ability to set and change credit limits depending on who and for what the card was being used. **Powers** asked who would be card holders? **Burns** recommended Marv Hinga, John Stuparits, Ben VanHoeven and herself as card holders.
8. Water Rates for customer located outside the Village – **Hinga** explained that when the revised water rates were adopted they did not take into account that there were 6 customers that live outside the Village limits but were water customers of the Village. **Hinga** said that if Council agreed, they would prepare something that said yes, they keep the differential of a 50% higher rate for those 6 customers that are located outside the Village limits. **Hatton** asked why there was a difference in rates. **Hinga** explained this difference was because those customers outside the Village do not pay to help maintain the system. **Council** agreed the 50% differential should be kept.
9. Annual Business Recognition – **Council** discussed their choice for this award suggesting Tri City Auto, Wok and Roll and The Front Porch. **Council** agreed on Kelly Larson from the Front Porch.
10. Short Term Rental Ordinance – **Burns** explained that the City of Grand Haven, Ferrysburg and Spring Lake Township were working on or had already adopted an ordinance for short term rentals and what this might mean for the Village in the

future. **Burns** asked Council what their thoughts were on this issue as other communities ban them. **Council** agreed that they would like to consider this issue. **Burns** said she would have Attorney **Sullivan** look into the ordinances of other communities.

**11.** Summer Concert Series Endowment Fund – **Burns** explained that this was an annual housekeeping item that each year Council needed to give permission for.

**12.** Lakeshore Housing Alliance Request – **Burns** said that her recommendation would be to deny this request due to budgetary constraints. **Council** agreed.

**13.** Park Usage Requests – **Burns** explained that these were also housekeeping items. **Miller** gave a brief rundown of the events for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Wooden Boat Show on June 3rd.

**14.** Street Abandonment Request – **Burns** explained that there was a request by Mr. Mike Kamps for the Village to abandon a strip of property that surrounded parcels that he owned at the end of Meridian St. Mr. Kamps explained that there were 4 streets on the map that didn't actually exist so he was asking that the Village abandon those streets right of ways. **Burns** shared that, if Council approved this request, all legal costs would be paid by Mr. Kamps and that the contiguous neighbors would be notified. **Council** agreed that they did not have a problem with this request but that the neighbors would need to be contacted first.

**15.** Communications - There were no questions or discussion at this time.

**16.** Minutes

**17.** Public Comment – There was no Public Comment.

**18.** Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

---

Joyce Verplank Hatton, Village President

---

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk