



Village of Spring Lake
Minutes Council Work Session

April 9, 2018

7:00 p.m.

102 West Savidge Street (Upstairs Conference Room)
Spring Lake, MI 49456

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

1. **Ordinance Adoption (Recodification) - Burns** explained that the Ordinance Recodification had been reviewed by the Village Attorney and was ready to be adopted when **Council** was ready. **Council** agreed to move forward with the process for adoption and recodification.
2. **Jackson Street Sink Hole Update (John Stuparits) - Stuparits** reported that the Jackson Street sink hole had been a problem for about a year and that he had received a price to repair it but, unfortunately, due to the high-water table they had been unable to repair it and it was getting worse. **Stuparits** explained the damages and that he believed there was something else causing these issues, besides clogged storm drains, that needed to be determined. **Duer** asked if the pier was safe. **Stuparits** said that he had no reason to suspect that it was not and that the sheeting was in good condition and looked structurally sound. **Doss** said that after her experience last year with the Weaver House, she felt that they needed to be sure that it was safe. **Stuparits** said he agreed 100% that they needed to get it evaluated and make a decision on what they were going to do.
3. **Force Main Sewer Update (John Stuparits) – Stuparits** explained that starting the second week of August there would be a considerable amount of construction going on, not only on Division, Exchange and Cutler Streets, as part of the Force Main project, but they would be starting work on the pump station itself at the end of Division. **Burns** shared a marketing piece put together by Kevin Kieft at Prein and Newhof that would be used to communicate to the residents impacted and inconvenienced by this project.
4. **Sewer Collection System Update (John Stuparits) Stuparits** explained that there would be several improvements to the sewer collection side with repairs using the SAW Grant that had been awarded a year and a half ago. **Stuparits** explained the improvements that would be done showing photos of the poor condition of the collection system and explained what the probability of failure was.

5. Water System Update (John Stuparits) – Stuparits explained that there had never been an accurate map of the water and sewer system, so staff had been getting the data points to put on an aerial GIS map that they could pull up and have accurate placement and be able to enter information for future use. **Stuparits** said this was something that was required by the DEQ and they were finally able to accomplish it. **Stuparits** had a water valve and demonstrated what staff had to do to clean and repair a valve and how they used the valve turner equipment that was owned by Spring Lake Township. **Stuparits** had other items from the water and sewer systems and showed Council where some of the repairs were needed.

6. DPW Director Retirement (John Stuparits)

Due to John Stuparits' pending retirement, the Village and Township agreed to hire the MML to compose a new job description and salary compensation package. John was present to discuss the timeline for hiring a new DPW Director.

Stuparits explained that the MML was be putting together a job description and salary recommendation to advertise for a replacement person with an anticipated start date of July 2, 2018.

7. Exchange Street Crosswalk Discussion (John Stuparits)

During our first meeting with Ryan Arends of Moore & Bruggink regarding the Exchange Street project, it was noted that there was a large price difference for simply restriping pedestrian crosswalks versus stamped concrete. Council was asked to weigh in on the preferred method.

Stuparits reported there was a \$200,000 grant from MDOT to offset some of the costs and they would be starting this project in about a year. **Burns** explained that letters had gone out to property owner's that would be impacted by this work. **Stuparits** explained the 2 different methods of crosswalk striping and asked Council for their recommendation. **Council** recommended the less expensive method of striping since either way, it only lasted a year.

8. Budget Amendments & Preliminary Budget Discussions (Marv Hinga) –

Hinga explained that the adjustments involved moving money between line items where there was underspending in some areas and overspending in others. **Hinga** explained that they were still putting the finishing touches on the budget but gave the highlights. **Doss** asked to have a separate line item for Whistle Stop to be able to track donations/gifts and expenses for the Park. **Council** agreed with **Doss's** request. **Council** discussed the budget at length.

9. MERS Payment for Police (Marv Hinga) -

The December 2016 MERS Valuation showed an unfunded pension liability for the Police Group of \$98,654. The City of Ferrysburg approved making an additional \$20,000 (Village share \$10,000) MERS payment prior to June 30, with the caveat that the Village do the same.

Hinga explained the reason for an additional allocation of \$10,000 to the MERS Police unfunded pension to match Ferrysburg's allocation. **Council** discussed the additional allocation and agreed to do this with Ferrysburg.

10. Personnel Sharing Memorandum of Understanding

Burns explained that the Township's receptionist, Caroline Zeeff, resigned giving the Village and Township another opportunity to share personnel. **Burns** said the current Personnel Sharing Memorandum of Understanding only covered DPW sharing so they would like to expand that to cover other personnel. **Burns** explained that, due to Caroline's resignation, they would like to have Mary Paparella cover the front desk in its entirety and the Township proposed they would pay 50% of Mary's wages and then evaluate as time went on to make sure the 50/50 was still equitable for both sides. **Burns** said that Mary had the capacity and the desire to do the job and that she and **Hinga** felt this was her strong suit and that this was a win/win for all. **Burns** also said that some of Mary's duties had been shifted to other staff, such as utility billing was now handled by Lori Spelde and Village taxes were going to be included on Township tax bills, freeing up some of Mary's time.

11. Arbor Day Celebration

The Village's annual Arbor Day Celebration typically included a tree planting ceremony. This year, we will be planting a tree at Central Park (near the dog park) on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Council Members were encouraged to attend the event.

12. Communications

- Complaint - Tyler
- Complaint - Verlinde
- DDA – new reporting requirements – **Burns** explained the new DDA reporting requirements.
- Gelbard – STR inquiry – **Burns** explained that Ms. Gelbard was present to request that she be allowed to keep her 2, already scheduled, short-term rental leases for 2018 and be allowed to add a third week. **Burns** said that this was something that, technically, should go before the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Planning Commission, but they could discuss it and give directions at this

meeting. **Powers** said that unless they pass an ordinance that was equivalent, he did not feel they had the authority to give someone an exemption from the current ordinance. **Doss** said, as a resident living in that neighborhood, she did not see how short-term rentals benefited the neighborhood and she would not put her name on it. Gelbard said she was not asking for special treatment and that she understood the ordinance a little different. Gelbard also asked what the complaints against her home were. **Powers** said that if **Doss** wanted to share those complaints, she could do so after the meeting.

Bob Mersereau, 1821 Doris Ave, Grand Haven, explained that he felt the short-term rental hosts could address all of Council's concerns. **Powers** explained that he had a problem with businesses being next to residential homes, but encouraged the short-term landlords to put something together to bring to Council.

Marianne Martinus, 209 S Park, said that she encouraged her tenants to buy local and felt short-term rentals were good for the Village economy.

- Library calendar (April)
- Martinus – STR inquiry
- Wetlands Watch minutes

13. PVC Legislation

The North Bank Communities were collaborating on a communication to our legislators in Lansing that addresses the use of PVC pipe. We are collectively asking our Chief Elected Officials to sign a letter which will be forwarded to Senator Arlan Meekhof and Representative Jim Lilly.

Burns explained that the MML crafted a communication that they would like the 5 Northwest Ottawa communities to consider regarding lobbyists that are promoting the use of PVC pipe.

14. Japanese Knot Weed

Burns shared a, no cost to the Village, agreement with Ottawa Conservation District to treat Japanese Knot Weed, an invasive species. **Burns** asked to put this agreement on the Consent Agenda.

15. Minutes

Minutes of the March 12, 2018 Work Session and March 19, 2018 regular meeting are attached for review. Should you wish to make edits, please share that information with Chris Burns or Maryann Fonkert prior to April 13, 2018.

16. Public Comment

The following Village homeowners spoke to Council, during Communications, regarding Short-Term Rentals.

Bob Mersereau, 1821 Doris Ave., Grand Haven
Drorit Gelbard, 17712 Tamarack, Grand Haven
Marianne Martinus, 209 S Park, Spring Lake

Lee Schuitema, 408 W. Exchange, was concerned with stakes he found in his front yard and that he had not received any communications to explain what they were for. Schuitema also said, as the neighbor, he had not had any issues with Martinus's short-term rental.

Drorit Gelbard, 17712 Tamarack, Grand Haven, spoke again regarding short-term rentals.

Gordon Gallagher, Spring Lake Township Manager, said how much he appreciated the amazing, positive working relationship that had developed as a broad community and that it had a lot to do with the elected officials leadership and that should be celebrated. **Council** thanked Mr. Gallagher for his kind words.

Michelle **Hanks** reminded Council that the Village Adventure would be held on May 4th from 4:00 pm. to 7:00 p.m. and asked that as many Council members as possible to participate in this community celebration.

17. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at **8:34 p.m.**

Mark Powers, Village President

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk