



MINUTES

**Monday, December 17, 2018
7:00 P.M., Barber School
102 West Exchange Street
Spring Lake, Michigan**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Duer, Miller, Petrus, Powers, TePastte, Van Strate.

Motion by **Petrus**, second from **Miller**, to excuse the absence of Council Member Hanks.

Yes: 6 No: 0

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by **TePastte**, second from **Van Strate**, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yes: 6 No: 0

5. Consent Agenda

A. Approved the payment of the bills (EFTs 19-20 and checks numbered 60236-60293) in the amount of \$437,517.28.

B. Approved the minutes for the November 12, 2018 work session and the November 19, 2018 regular Council meeting.

C. Approved an extension to the Shared Planner Contract with the City of Grand Haven.

D. Approved the appointment of Mark Powers and Christine Burns to the Spring Lake District Library Board with terms expiring 12/2022.

E. Approved the 2019 Board & Committee meeting dates as presented.

- F. Approved the acquisition of Commercial Cards for DDA Director Angela Stanford-Butler and DPW Director Wally Delamater.

Motion by **Miller**, second from **TePastte**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Yes: 6 No: 0

6. General Business

A. You Make the Difference Award – Mr. Lou Draeger

Subject: Lou has been instrumental in countless efforts to improve the Village. His list of accomplishments is long and distinguished. Lou chaired his last DDA meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2018 and is deserving of recognition for his community service over the past 4+ decades.

President **Powers** presented Mr. Lou Draeger with a You Make the Difference Award, listing the long and distinguished list of boards and commissions that Mr. Draeger had chaired and/or sat on. **Burns** said that Mr. Draeger was a great role model and a pleasure to have worked for and with. Mr. Draeger received a standing ovation for his service.

Mr. Draeger said that it took a lot of people working together and it was so rewarding to work in Spring Lake with all the people that were willing to jump behind a project and make things happen. Mr. Draeger thanked Council and the people in the Village that were not in attendance for their work.

B. Public Hearing – Water & Sewer Rates

Subject: Council will be contemplating significant rate increases in order to pay for necessary improvements to the Village's water & sewer system. While a public hearing isn't a requirement, Council should consider input from residents regarding the increases.

President **Powers** introduced this item and Manager **Burns** shared a power point explaining the issues and costs involved in the repairs and maintenance that needed to be done. **Burns** said that this would mean a considerable increase in water bills and, at this point, the cost was approximately \$3 per day and would continue to increase as they looked at ways to pay for this, likely through bonding. **Burns** said the question for Council and residents was, should the burden be placed on the utility bills, which was user based, or placed on the taxes in the form of a millage, or a highbred of both, and if option 3 was chosen, what would that look like. **Burns** said the amount needed was approximately \$10,000,000 so 5.31 mils. would need to be generated to pay this back which was half of what residents were paying now, so it was significant. **Burns** said

that Hinga had done calculations to determine how this would impact home owners in the hundred-thousand-dollar home range and found that it would be much more impactful putting the charges on the utility bill verses splitting it 50/50 with the taxes or putting it all on the taxes which was considerably less burdensome. **Burns** said the opposite was true with a million-dollar home, where putting all the charges on the utility bill would be an increase of approximately \$745 versus a tax increase of about \$2,600. **Burns** said she wanted to point out that there were a significant number of tax-exempt parcels that would not be impacted at all if the larger portion of the burden was put on the tax payors and that needed to be taken into consideration. **Burns** said that the school would have a 66% increase if the burden was placed on the utility bill but there would be no impact if it was placed on the tax bill because they did not receive a tax bill and the library would be the same. **Burns** shared a utility bill from the City of Ferrysburg and how they included a complete breakdown of charges and felt this warranted looking at as an option for the Village.

President **Powers** opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

The following people spoke during the Public Hearing;

Darcy Dye – 114 N Fruitport Road, encouraged a highbred that included the tax-exempt entities.

Lee Schuitema – 408 W Exchange St., said he knew these repairs were a necessity and felt that the tax-exempt entities should also be responsible for the burden of cost.

Elizabeth Wheeler – 120 N Lake Ave., asked that the cost be kept as reasonable as possible.

Kathy Richards – 206 W Exchange St., said she understood the increase was necessary, but also wanted the costs to be shared equally.

John Nash – Spring Lake Township Supervisor, said he agreed the idea of a highbred was a good idea.

Lou Draeger – 736 Fall St., encouraged a user fee and challenged the Village staff to work with the State legislature because he had seen these kinds of projects being funded by the State.

Burns shared that Spring Lake Townships Manager Gordon Gallagher had worked with Senator Arlan Meekof and Representative Jim Lilly to secure a grant towards the force main.

President **Powers** asked about packages that would allow the payments to be spread out over time at a lower interest rate.

Hinga said they were exploring a revolving fund with the State and a possibility of borrowing from USDA, which would allow a 30 to 40-year payoff instead of 20 to 30 years. **Hinga** said in addition, you would be paying as you borrowed the money, unlike conventional bonding, this would be like a line of credit that was drawn on as it was needed.

Motion by **Van Strate**, second from **TePastte**, to close the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m.

Yes: 6 No: 0

TePastte thanked the audience for their feedback. **Burns** shared with the audience that Council would be contemplating this issue at their Strategic Planning and Goal Setting session that takes place after the 1st of the year.

President **Powers** said he has had his thinking changed on 2 issues recently with the first being RMJ after the Sheriff explained experiences in Colorado, and the second was after talking with Hinga on several occasions and learned that usage rates were perhaps a more attractive feature than he had first thought. President **Powers** said he was very glad to have Burns and Hinga available to them since this would be very complicated.

7. Department Reports

A. Village Manager – Burns announced that the Judges Choice 1st place award in the Window Decorating Contest went to Amy’s Hair Hideaway and 2nd place went to Little Lakers Leaning Center and the People’s Choice 1st place award went to On the Path Yoga with 119 donations and 2nd place went to Little Lakers with 104 donations. All donations would go to the People’s Center.

B. Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director

C. OCSO

D. Fire

E. 911

F. DPW

G. Building

H. Water

I. Sewer

J. Minutes from Various Board & Committees

1. Historic Conservation Committee

2. DDA

8. Old Business and Reports by the Village Council – No Old Business

9. New Business and Reports by Village Council – No New Business

10. Status Report: Village Attorney – Attorney Sullivan had nothing to add.

11. Statement of Citizens – There were no Statements of Citizens.

12. Adjournment

Motion by **Van Strate**, second from **Petrus**, Village Council adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Yes: 6 No: 0

Mark Powers, Village President

Maryann Fonkert, Deputy Clerk