

**Village of Breckenridge
Regular Meeting
Breckenridge High School Room M-9
June 22, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Breckenridge Village Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Buchanan at Breckenridge High School Room M-9. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call was taken by Clerk Anderson

Councilpersons Present: Anderson, Chapin, Schaub, Sterling (8:20), Zimmerman and President Buchanan

Councilpersons Absent: Ostrander

Staff Present: Manager Jeff Ostrander, Clerk Anderson, Treasurer Suhr

Guests: Bob Smith, Carrie Schaub, Charlotte Simmons, Doug Sowle, Todd Stoneman and Bill Stoneman.

Motion by Councilperson Schaub, supported by Councilperson Chapin, to approve the agenda with addition committee reports, #5 Greater Gratiot and #6 County Planning. CARRIED.

Motion by Councilperson Zimmerman, supported by Councilperson Anderson, to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Anderson, Chapin, Schaub, Zimmerman and President Buchanan Nays: None. CARRIED.

Public Comments were received.

Treasurer Suhr reported that she and Auditor Christina Schaub from Roslund Prestage have been making the needed journal entries to the Revenue and expenditure report and she is very comfortable with the financials. Act 51 reports still need to be completed but the audit is complete.

Committee/Board Reports were received.

Manager's Report

Manager Ostrander read from his report. Pump Station #1 will be complete with the new pumps come in, approximately August 15th. He reported that Well #5 continues to be on hold at this time. A decision will need to be made on whether to put in the new circuit breaker or to put in an exterior manually controlled disconnect. Due to budget constraints, President Buchanan recommends waiting.

Bid packets have been sent out to 5 contractors for demolition of the old Village Hall building and a bid solicitation has also been posted for 14 days per Village ordinance. Preliminary installation of the BS & A software has begun and training is slated for July 20 -24. Bridget will look into our back-up system.

There have been several instances of vandalism in the cemetery. Manager Ostrander has asked the police to step up their patrol of the cemetery.

A water main break was discovered. This break has existed for quite some time and is responsible for the 10 million gallons of water we have been losing and that has been monitored by DEQ as far back as 2005. He has decided to address this problem when the new water project begins since the area is slated for new mains anyway. Wireless communication between the water treatment facility and tower pumps is another ongoing problem that he will be discussing with Layne Northern.

Planning Commission

Councilperson Schaub detailed from the June 8th regular meeting and the June 17th special meeting. In an effort to stay current the commission has issued and intent to plan to update the Master Plan. A special meeting was held to discuss a zoning issue to revise phase one zoning to Industrial for Stoneman Production Services. He also shared that a joint meeting with Wheeler will be held July 13th at the Fire Hall.

Library Meeting

Councilpersons Chapin and Anderson attended the June 1st meeting. Librarian Simmons was on hand and read from the minutes of their June 1st meeting.

Fire Board

Councilperson Anderson shared that at the May 20th meeting the auditors were available and presented their report.

Tree Advocacy

No information available

4th of July Committee

No information

Other Committee Reports

Greater Gratiot

Councilperson Schaub stated that the budget for next year was approved and that major cuts have been made. They still see a \$33,600 shortfall for the year.

County Planning

The master plan is being finalized. This is a unique plan because it is being written by municipalities and townships in collaboration. The final plan is still one year away. The county survey has been completed and results are available on line. They will also be available at the Village Office and a link will be available from our website.

Public Comments were received

Todd and Bill Stoneman expressed concerns about the zoning change to their property. Primarily, their concern was with the cost factor. Manager Ostrander commented that he had spoken with Township assessor, Jerry Rohde, who told him it would just be the assessed value. He also said that the benefits of changing from commercial to industrial would afford them benefits they wouldn't otherwise have such as flexibility. Councilperson Schaub outlined some of these, stressing that there were no exclusions, only additions with this change and that they foresee no increase in cost at this time per discussions with Jerry Rohde. The Stoneman's also questioned the Bott property. It is excluded from the Renaissance Zone. They also wanted to know the Village timeline for getting water to their property. Total completion is slated for June 1, 2010 with construction beginning this fall. Manager Ostrander stressed that there is no guarantee, but that is their intention. They also wanted to know if they would be mandated to tie into our water should they put in their own well. Councilperson Schaub said that they would be once they do any maintenance. They will await further information in August.

Resident Bob Smith questioned the demolition of the old Village Hall building. Further discussion will be held on the matter and no decision has been made at this time. He also had concerns about the state of the lagoons. Resident Carrie Schaub stated that she would like the public to be informed on what has been found at the lagoons and the problems that are left over from past management.

OLD BUSINESS

Well #5 Update

Since the state inspectors will not allow us to hook the well up at this time without the expense of a new circuit breaker, Manager Ostrander is recommending that we wait for money from the new water project to do the upgrade.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Handbook Revisions

Consensus was that it is the manager's job to interpret the handbook and any problems should be referred to personnel committee so that recommendations can be made to council.

Clerk/Treasurer ordinance

These are appointed positions at this time. Manager Ostrander would like to see a contract for these positions. President Buchanan referred this issue to Finance and Personnel for further review.

Utility Ordinance

Some of the pricing is outdated in our current utility ordinance. Finance committee will meet to review and make recommendations.

Water Treatment/Salt Quote

Information was presented regarding the salt expense. Quarterly expense is approximately \$4339.00 from Morton Salt. The manager has made inquiries into a cheaper supplier but was not comfortable with the method of transportation.

Zoning Changes

Councilperson Schaub detailed a map showing the proposed Village parcel. The recommendation from planning is to change this from C-2 to Industrial. Councilperson Schaub will look into what we need to do and what the public hearing requirements are for such a change.

Resolution to adopt a credit card policy

Motion by Councilperson Anderson, supported by Councilperson Sterling to adopt the resolution for a credit card policy as presented. CARRIED.

Retirement of Bob Mecomber

Chief Mecomber has requested a buyout of \$27,000 to retire early as of November 1, 2009. This amounts to \$1000.00 for each year of service. Councilperson Anderson will look into the financial aspects of such a move and report back to council. He is still awaiting the MERS report.

457B Deferred Retirement Plan

This is basically a 401K that was put into effect when Don Eichorn retired. It is not in use by anyone but Don. Manager Ostrander spoke with representatives of the company and recommends terminating the plan at this time.

Motion by Councilperson Anderson, supported by Councilperson Chapin to terminate the 457B Plan as recommended by Manager Ostrander. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Anderson, Chapin, Schaub, Sterling, Zimmerman, and President Buchanan. Nays: None. CARRIED.

Fourth of July Sponsorship

The Chamber of Commerce would like the Village to donate to the fireworks display.

Motion by Councilperson Schuab, supported by Councilperson Sterling to approve a \$200.00 out of community promotions as a donation to the Chamber of Commerce for fireworks. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Anderson, Chapin, Schaub, Sterling, Zimmerman, and President Buchanan. Nays: None. CARRIED.

Cemetery Policy

Due to several reports of vandalism in the cemetery and 7 stones that have been overturned, Manager Ostrander was approached to consider making changes in the cemetery policy to restrict by age who can be in the cemetery. One suggestion was to have a policy that states anyone 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Police have increased patrols in the cemetery and no other incidents have been reported lately. Cemetery committee will take the matter under consideration. Councilperson Chapin would like to have pictures as a record of the damage.

Appointment of Public Information Officer

Motion by Councilperson Chapin, supported by Councilperson Sterling to appoint Manager Ostrander as the public information officer for the Village. CARRIED

Public Comments were received

Bob Smith commented on the problems at the lagoons and felt that the public needs information on the lack of proper maintenance that took place in the past. He also stated that he stands by what he proposed in the past that Wheeler needs to buy into the lagoons.

Announcements

President Buchanan reviewed Manager Ostrander's contract and will be conducting a review. He would like the personnel committee to look into extending the contract for a 3 year term to fall in non-election years.

Discussion was held on the railroad repairs at Eaton Street. The railroad will not allow the Village or MAC to make improvements to this crossing even though their repairs are not sufficient.

President Buchanan said he has directed Manager Ostrander to look into possible civil action over several alleged issues concerning past employee behavior such as erasing Village computers.

President Buchanan read from a personal letter concerning the state of the Village.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Buchanan at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny L. Anderson
Village Clerk