

VILLAGE OF VERNON
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL
November 15, 2017 **7:00p.m.**

Meeting was called to order 7:00 p.m. by President

Present: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen

Absent: None

Approval of minutes of regular meeting October 18, 2017

Moved by Ethington, Seconded Winkowski to approve the minutes of October 18, 2017 as written.

Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen

Nays: None

Carried.

Approval of bills and accounts

Moved by Mac Neill, Seconded by Winkowski to approve the bills and accounts as submitted.

General Fund	\$12,038.83
Major Street Fund	\$2,213.00
Local Street Fund	\$1,250.00
DDA Fund	\$750.00
Sewer Fund	\$7,264.10
General Fund – Payroll	\$17,369.91

Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen

Nays: None

Carried.

Call to Audience

Brandon Marks, County Commissioner, was present to discuss the county budget. Marks commented that the only real change would be additional staff in the Clerk office. Marks was hoping that the office would return to full time hours now that they are putting additional staff. Marks expressed his disappointment and felt that the commissioners were being ransomed by the Clerk. Discussion ensued between Trustee Rosser and Commissioner Marks regarding raises for the commissioners and cutting staff.

Regular Meeting Items of Business

1. **Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition** – Moved by Mac Neill, Seconded by Winkowski to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition.

Memorandum of Understanding
Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition

Parties to the agreement are:

The Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition, referenced hereinafter as the “Coalition”
(Includes public and private organizations)

The Coalition members are listed on the attached signature page.

Purpose:

This agreement formalizes the relationship between members of the Coalition and allows the Coalition to speak with one voice for the mutually agreed-upon goals set forth below.

Water Trail Definition: A Water Trail is a stretch of river, or other waterway, that has been mapped, and contains facilities that enable access, campsites, and informational resources. The intent of a Water Trail is to create educational, scenic, and environmentally rewarding opportunities for canoeists and kayakers traveling on the waterway.

Mission Statement for the Coalition

The Mission of the Coalition is to improve and promote public use of the water trail as a valuable resource for low impact recreation and tourism and to support and enhance river conservation and stewardship.

History of the Coalition

The Coalition began in 2016 with support from organizations, such as the Friends of the Shiawassee, Headwaters Trails, Inc., City of Linden, and Keepers of the Shiawassee which are dedicated to improve conservation, education, and recreation opportunities along the Shiawassee River. They received assistance from the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, The University of Michigan Flint, and the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to create a Shiawassee River water trail plan, develop public information to promote paddling recreation and apply for National Water Trail Designation.

Shiawassee River Water Trail Vision

In the year 2027, the Shiawassee River flowing from Holly to Chesaning, is a superlative water trail recognized in the Great Lakes Region as a destination for paddling and eco-tourism. The water trail provides a wide variety of paddling experiences and accommodates people of all skills and abilities. It provides close to home outdoor recreation opportunities and ties into the region's Saginaw Bay Water Trails and non-motorized trail systems.

The communities along the river consider it to be an important asset and integral part of their community. People can easily access the river and trail users are enticed to explore the heritage, businesses and services that the towns and villages along the trail offer. Visitors are attracted to the water trail and the many events and programs that celebrate the River's natural and cultural heritage.

The Shiawassee River's water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat continue to improve through increased public and private landowner stewardship and the efforts of local conservation organizations. Increased River recreation is creating greater awareness and stewardship of the river's natural resources and users practice Leave No Trace principles.

Goals for the Shiawassee River Water Trail:

- Promote and improve river related recreation, public access sites and user experiences
- Inform and educate the public on topics related to river health, safety, and Leave No Trace Principles
- Support local and regional efforts to increase water based recreation and tourism
- Enhance partnerships among water trail landowners and managers
- Preserve and protect river resources for future generations
- Increase connections between communities, public lands, and land trails
- Secure long-term sustainability of the water trail
- Maintain access sites
- Manage woody debris to support fish populations and allow for recreational access with minimal impact

Coalition Objectives

Our goal is to use the collective and cooperative energy of the Coalition to support projects that further our mission. The Coalition is committed to the following objectives, to the best of each member's ability, dependent upon policies, budgets, and agency procedures.

- Coordinate and cooperate amongst Coalition organizations to further the mission of the Coalition and vision for the Shiawassee River Water Trail.
- Offer mutual support and guidance on specific on-going projects.
- Investigate opportunities for increasing funding of conservation, restoration, and low impact recreation projects and improvements on the Shiawassee River.
- Increase community awareness of the recreational and environmental value of a healthy Shiawassee River.
- Encourage development of new canoe and kayak launches where gaps exist along the river and at facilities that are slated for improvements or renovations.
- Provide public information on the Shiawassee River Water Trail through partner websites, promotional and educational materials.
- Promote the Shiawassee River Water Trail as a valuable resource for low impact recreation, education, stewardship, and tourism.
- Encourage safe boating skills and outdoor ethics
- While the focus of the Coalition is to promote low impact recreation, the intent of this MOU is not to impede motorized use, or advocate for excluding motorized use on any section of the water trail.

Benefits

The Coalition agrees that the ability to achieve common and related goals can be enhanced significantly by working collaboratively to support projects that further our mission.

The Coalition agrees that each individual project that fits within the mission of this Coalition benefits all the communities along the river.

Responsibilities

The Coalition agrees to:

- Work together to respect and honor private property along the Shiawassee River Water Trail.
- Promote and inform Shiawassee River Water Trail users regarding the responsible use and respect of private properties, public lands, and all water trail facilities.
- Manage and maintain public access and launch site facilities within their jurisdiction.
- Cooperate to develop and distribute outreach, interpretive, and educational materials, tools and programs that enhance, enrich and or promote the Shiawassee River Water Trail.

- Appoint a minimum of one representative to act as a member to the Coalition and attend each meeting, averaging two meetings per year. Meetings may be attended in person, or can be attended by telephone or by any telecommunication method available to the Coalition.

Decision Making Process

Actions in support of specific projects will be made during regularly scheduled meetings. The Coalition will strive to make all decisions at meetings by consensus of the members at the meeting. If a consensus cannot be achieved, then the members attending the meeting may decide to vote on the action by majority vote. A quorum of more than 50% percent of voting members present is required for any decision of the Coalition. Each Coalition member is encouraged to have multiple representatives attend the meetings; however, each Partner only has one vote.

Modification, Termination and Other Conditions

This MOU is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving funds between Coalition members will be made in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and procedures. Such endeavors, if any, will be outlined in separate agreements.

Coalition members will be notified in writing of any proposed changes to the MOU at least 30 days prior to the vote. This MOU may be modified through the decision-making process for this MOU. In such case, all agreeing partners will re-sign the MOU.

Any partner may terminate its involvement in the Coalition at any time by providing written notice to the facilitator of the water trail group. Any additional members may be approved by utilizing the decision-making process in the MOU. New members may be added without the then-current Coalition members re-signing the MOU. The full list of Partners to the MOU will be kept by the Shiawassee River Water Trail Coalition facilitator, currently the Friends of the Shiawassee River. This MOU becomes effective when signed by the signatory Coalition member and remains in effect until modified or terminated.

Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen

Nays: None

Carried.

2. **Feral/Stray Cat Program** – Lori Bailey was unable to attend. Trustee Mac Neill explained the program and what the impact would have on the community. Discussion ensued regarding the program. Lori Bailey will be in attendance at the December 20 meeting to discuss the Community Cats of Owosso program.
3. **Redevelopment Ready Community Resolution** – Moved by Kimmer, Seconded by Winkowski to approve the resolution for RRC Certification.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE
REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES (RRC) CERTIFICATION FROM THE MICHIGAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MEDC).**

WHEREAS, the Village of Vernon has engaged in the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities Program, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the MEDC and undergoing an evaluation of the Village’s redevelopment practices as reported in the Redevelopment Ready Communities Report of Findings dated September 2017; and
WHEREAS, the MEDC has developed a program for certifying Redevelopment Ready Communities and the Village of Vernon desires to achieve that certification by implementing best practices and recommended strategies for redevelopment; and
WHEREAS, the program includes evaluating the strong partnerships with Village boards and commissions related to development including the Village Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Downtown Development Authority; and
WHEREAS, after review of the Redevelopment Ready Communities Report of Findings, the Village of Vernon is willing to proceed with the Redevelopment Ready Communities Program, to continue to implement actions toward certification, and to submit quarterly progress reports in order to obtain Redevelopment Ready Communities certification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Vernon, through its Village Council, authorizes the implementation of recommendations necessary to receive Redevelopment Ready Communities certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen

Nays: None

Carried.

4. **Consumers Energy Contract Resolution**– Moved by Kimmer, Seconded by Winkowski to approve the one-year contract resolution with Consumer Energy for the street lights throughout the Village.
Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen
Nays: None
Carried.
5. **Downtown Development Authority**–Moved by Mac Neill, Seconded by Winkowski to approve the parade route and closure of Main St. for the Christmas in the Village December 2.
Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen
Nays: None
Carried.
6. **Employee Handbook**– President Van Dusen advised that MML is providing support in updating the handbook and will hopefully have final draft in December.
7. **Financial Software**– Moved by Winkowski, Seconded by Ethington to approve the proposal for financial software from BS&A in the amount of \$34, 740.00.
Yeas: Trustee Ethington, Kimmer, Mac Neill, Pfeiffer, Rosser, Winkowski, President Van Dusen
Nays: None
Carried.

Correspondence

1. **Resident Frank Davis Proposal**– President Van Dusen informed Council Frank Davis was unable to attend tonight’s meeting but will be in attendance at the December meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal from Mr. Davis to add Credit Cards to our forms of payment for taxes and sewer billings. Clerk will research options for next meeting.
2. **Paul Hubble, Police Chief**– Council reviewed the October 2017 Police Report.
3. **Trevor Graves, DPW Superintendent** – Council reviewed the October 2017 DPW Report

Reminders

Christmas in the Village

December 2

CALL TO AUDIENCE

Trustee Ethington asked who is responsible for maintaining the bump outs. Would like the DDA to address the issue.

Clerk Glass updated Council on the following items:

Landlocked parcel: Still waiting on clarification from Mid State Title. Once we have clarification we should be able to have a quick claim deed drawn up and split the property.

119 Maple St: A show cause hearing has been set for December 8 at 1:15 p.m. in Circuit Court.

Citizen Recognition Award: Will do presentation at the December meeting

Emergency Management Training: Kristin and Clerk Glass attended the meeting that Shiawassee County Emergency Manager Trent Atkins put on for public officials. They suggested we start with the Do 1 Thing program over the course of a year. Will hopefully start in January working on areas we have gaps.

Welcome Sign: Property owners are discussing monetary compensation. We did advise them we would not be able to barter with Village trees and the wood from them. Attorney advised that we would be able to do a lease option with the owners if they were ok with that. DDA is seeking out additional companies on a sign design.

Saw Grant: Submitted final documentation and waiting on final payout.

Forestry Grant: Have not heard outcome.

Moved by Mac Neill, Seconded by Pfeiffer to adjourn meeting at 8:29 p.m. All yeas. Carried.