

Monday April 8, 2019

*PORT AUSTIN VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
17 West State Street, Port Austin, MI 48467*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andreski, Brecht (6:35pm), Bruce, Maschke, Polega, Murawski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jobe (via telephone)

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Amanda Nienaltowski, Dale Hartsell, Mealissa O'Brien, Thomas Rapson

GUESTS PRESENT: Terry Ross, Mary Brosnan Peters, Daniel Novak, Helen Ranger, Chris Parsons

President Murawski called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call was taken.

Walking ramp at Veteran's Park and Ken's Sewer were added as agenda items.

**Public Comment:**

Members from the community were present to express concern about the military training planes and military operations area.

Dan Novak: addressed his concern about the planes. Can we do anything before this goes through? He presented many scenarios that he thought could be a negative for the area and its residents; startling small children, could it affect the livestock and its production, etc.

Mary Brosnan Peters: also addressed her concern about the quality of life with the frequency of the schedule.

Terry Ross: updated the council with a FAQ sheet, contact list, and a sample flight schedule that he had found in his research. He stated that the Bad Axe area would be exempt due to the airport. He also addressed his concern about the frequency and intensity of the proposed schedule. There is a 45 public comment period coming up, but an exact date was not scheduled.

President Murawski explained how these planes can already fly at 500 feet in our area. He presented a map of the current flight area.

**Agenda:**

1. **Port Austin Township Police Contract: Motion Bruce, Support Maschke** to approve the 2019-2020 Port Austin Township Police Contract. **Ayes: All**

2. **DPW:** A letter of resignation was received from current DPW Chief, Chad Parrish. **Motion Bruce, Support Polega** to accept Chad Parrish's letter of resignation. Ayes: All

Employee committee met and interviewed Joshua Kidd and recommends him for the position. He has mechanical and small engine repairs skills. He is also willing to obtain a CDL license.

**Motion Maschke, Support Polega** to hire Joshua Kidd as DPW Chief starting April 22, 2019 at the current DPW Chief pay rate and benefits according to the DPW handbook. **Ayes: All**

3. **Police Sergeant Benefit Recommendation:** Bruce explained that currently Sergeant O'Brien receives three (3) personal days for benefits. Committee recommends adding twelve (12) vacation days to her package.

**Motion Polega, Support Andreski** to add twelve (12) vacation days per year to Sergeant's benefits. Discussion was had regarding the multiple ways to calculate how she would earn the vacation days. Brecht asked if this will be adjusted each year based on hours worked. Andreski rescinds previous motion.

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**Motion Maschke, Support Bruce** to allow Sergeant O'Brien twelve (12) vacation days starting 4/8/19 and accruing again on her anniversary date based on actual hours worked. **Ayes: All**

Maschke also commented that additions to the employee handbooks need be made regarding doctor's note requirements after being off after three (3) days.

4. **Kayak Lease – Veteran's Park:** Port Austin Kayak would like to put a hut at the beach and do transactions for his kayak business. The current lease with this business at veteran's park does not allow this. Polega commented that this would fall under a peddler's permit. Discussion was had as to why the current lease was set up to not allow financial transactions. Topic was tabled.
5. **DIA Art Placement/Birdhouses:** **Motion Bruce, Support Brecht** to allow Building and Grounds Committee to approve placements of the DIA Artwork and birdhouses for 2019.
6. **Veteran's Park Ramp:** Veteran's Park walking ramp needs to be closed due to do having some issues that need to be looked in to. DPW to tape it off with caution tape and signs. Buildings and Grounds committee to get with contractors and obtain repair estimates.
7. **Ken's Sewer:** Bonnie Prill submitted a letter regarding an issue with the storm drain being plugged near her home at 152 Union St. **Motion Maschke, Support Bruce** to contact Ken's Sewer to locate the issue. Ayes: All

**Correspondence:**

1. **Complaint Form:** A complaint form was received from Mr. Terry Kelly regarding his lawn/road right of way that was destructed when there was excavation and driveway installation at the previous Port Austin Motel in the fall of 2018. Discussion was had and Clerk Nienaltowski will forward the complaint to the Port Austin Area Sewer and Water Authority.
2. **Special Events Forms:** **Motion Bruce, Support Brecht** to approve PACP 2019 Great Event with street closure for Railroad Street from North Street to the Davis' driveway and to approve liquor license.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Motion Bruce, Support Brecht** to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**Public Comment:** Helen Ranger discussed her involvement with the feral cats in town. She has been providing for them and has been working with a vet to get them spayed and neutered. Ms. Ranger was looking for support and funds to get more of them spayed/neutered, as it is costly. There are approximately 15 cats that still need to be fixed. Discussion was had. The Village cannot donate funds to this. Bruce suggested speaking with the local businesses for support.

**Bills:** **Motion Bruce, Support Maschke** to approve the bills in the amount of \$7972.14. **Ayes: All**

**Attorney:** John Holmes Letter & Update. The attorney sent a letter to Mr. Holmes regarding his outstanding invoice for the 2018 Dock Rental. April 8, 2019, the Village did received \$500 towards that invoice, leaving a balance of \$750.

**Department head report/requests:**

**DPW:** All is good. Thomas Rapson is learning all he can. The previous DPW workers seasonal lists of duties

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are still available and will be utilized.

Police: Dale Hartsell is willing to help DPW if needed.

Clerk: The Kayak Symposium will be using the Bird Creek County Park for their event June 21-23. Nienaltowski inquired about the charge for this event. Previous discussions with the chair of this event stated that last year the county charged around \$300-\$350 for their usage. **Motion Brecht, Support Maschke** to charge the Kayak Symposium \$350.00 for 2019.

Treasurer: NA

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance, Grants, & Insurance:** Nienaltowski updated the council on the grants that were being worked on. The Category B MDOT grant was submitted for Independence Street reconstruction. Awards should be sometime in May. The USDA Community Facilities Grant for the snow plow truck is still be worked on.

**Buildings, Grounds, & Streets:** Committee will continue working on the sidewalk repairs program. Discussion was had on the lifespan and budget for this.

**Council Member Comments:**

Bruce: Thank you to Chad for his years of service and welcome to Josh Kidd.

With no further business; **Moved Bruce, support Polega** meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

**Clerk Certification**

I the undersigned, Amanda Nienaltowski, the duly qualified and appointed Clerk for the Village of Port Austin, Huron County Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the forgoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Village of Port Austin,

At a regular board meeting conducted on the  8  day of  April  2019.

\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda Nienaltowski, Village Clerk