

**Village of Shepherd  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 20, 2022**

Regular meeting of the Shepherd Village Council held on Monday, June 20, 2022. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President DeGraw.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: M. Davidson, Maloney, Reynolds, Roth (L), DeGraw  
Absent: Coughlin, Myers  
Present: DPW – Davidson                      Police – Chief Sawyer  
              Attorney – Bill Shirley            Treasurer - Wilmot

Motion by Reynolds, second by Maloney to approve minutes of meeting held on June 6, 2022. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Motion by Reynolds, second by M. Davidson to approve the treasurer and investment report for May 2022 as presented. Carried by roll call vote 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by M. Davidson, second by Reynolds to open the public hearing at 7:02 pm for the 2023 water project plan. Carried by roll call vote 4-0.

Gary from Michigan Rural Water Association discussed the proposed project plan that needs to be submitted by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Cost is \$10.2 million for 4.8 miles of old water main from 67-87 years ago.

Trustee Roth arrived.

Public: Merlene Koutz Jr, 280 E Orchard, asked about new wells and confirmed that there will be 3 wells.

Council Trustee Reynolds asked about applying for other specific grants.

Motion by Roth, second by Reynolds to close the public hearing after no further comments at 7:10 pm. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Gary from Michigan Rural Water Assoc. discussed grant applications and that the Village is classified as disadvantaged.

Motion by M. Davidson, second by Maloney to approve the resolution adopting the final project plan for water system improvements and designating an authorized representative. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion by Roth, second by Reynolds to open the public hearing at 7:17 pm for the notice of intent of the USDA grant filing. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Public: Merlene Koutz Jr, 280 E Orchard, commented that he feels this is a good idea and to apply for the maximum as the Village needs it.

Motion by Roth, second by Reynolds to close the public hearing after no other comments at 7:18 pm. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Grant will be submitted.

**Public Comment:** Craig Nelson, 310 N Chippewa, has concerns about a zoning permit application that he submitted with no answers yet after the Zoning Board of Appeals met stating that there is no variance required and that the Council supposedly approved the permit and a refund of \$100. Council discussed the application and the communication the Clerk has been having with the Zoning Administrator and the Village Attorney regarding the possible set back issue and language of the zoning ordinance. The Village Attorney sees no issue in approving the permit. Council will review the ordinance language changes being proposed by the Planning Commission once they are received.

Motion by Roth, second by Maloney to approve a new shed at 310 N Chippewa as presented in the zoning application and to refund \$100 to Mr. Nelson. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Merlene Koutz, 280 E Orchard, asked the status of the old gas station sign and if it is going to be removed. Will be discussed from the agenda.

**Committee Reports:**(Capital, DPW, Festival, Finance, Fire, Personnel, Police, Planning Commission; ZBA and Zoning)

Trustee Roth arrived.

Capital: Trustee Reynolds asked input on the language that was provided previously and wanted to know exactly what is being suggested for the number of days for temporary car ports and storage containers. It was asked that the committee generate each one in full of suggested timelines so that council could tweak it. This will be discussed at the July 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

DPW: Trustee Roth informed council the met to discuss seasonal employee as per the agenda

Festival: Trustee Maloney stated they discussed grant funding, trees, capital projects committee and that they are taking the next few months off.

ZBA: Trustee M. Davidson stated they met over the shed from 310 N Chippewa and that the Chair was very upset that he was not informed of the situation prior to the meeting. No minutes have been received at this point to discuss the language changes to the zoning ordinance pertaining to accessory buildings. Table until next meeting.

**Old Business:**

Purchase Requisitions: None

Sign at 305 E Wright status: per DPW Supt. Davidson he has been in contact with the property owner who stated that the sign will be down some time in July and there is a possibility the property could be sold but part of the stipulation from the buyer is that the sign is taken down.

Turkey buzzards: Chief Sawyer received information from Wildlife Services that could help with detouring the turkey buzzards in the Village. The cost would be \$475 for a "fake" buzzard that they would come in and set up, that is also moveable and can be put in other locations if re-occurrences happen. Or the Village could send someone to Owosso to pick up a frozen buzzard and go through a small training on placement that should help too.

Motion by Maloney, second by M. Davidson to purchase the "fake" buzzard for \$475 and have Wildlife Services place in an area to help remove the buzzards and to have the DPW pick up 2 frozen birds in Owosso to place as well. Carried by roll call vote 4-0, Reynolds abstained.

**New Business:**

Seasonal employee/DPW: Trustee Roth informed Council that DPW Supt. Davidson, Trustee Reynolds and himself held interviews with 3 candidates and after reviewing that information with Trustee Maloney, also from the DPW Committee, their recommendation is to hire Thomas Krafft III at \$15.00 as a seasonal employee for the Village, based on the time allowed in the budget. Motion by Roth, second by Reynolds. Carried by roll call vote 4-0, M. Davidson abstained.

Gear games/Rotary: an event form was presented for the Rotary's Gear Games being held on July 30<sup>th</sup> on private property of the Shepherd Festival Committee. Clerk Gross spoke for Chief Sawyer who indicated that he is good with the people involved and the set up they have, along with the liquor license. Council is good with their event.

July 11<sup>th</sup> is the Historical Society Ice Cream Social in the Village Park and the Splash Park Committee had discussed also having their grand opening at that same time with them. DPW Committee suggested that the splash park opening be postponed until all parts are installed so that the features are working before having any type of opening. Splash Park Committee meets on Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and DPW Committee was hoping for the first part of August.

Shepherd Rotary would like a letter of approval from the Village to apply for a grant to purchase 2 benches for the Shepherd Veterans Memorial Park. Council agree that Clerk Gross could write a letter stating that if the benches are of like nature to the existing Village benches, they would work with them in getting those placed and Thank You Shepherd Rotary!

DPW Supt. Davidson reported they are working on their lead & copper sample requirements for the next years CCR report. There are about 25-35 samples that need to be provided to Lansing; continuing to work on the Salt River Bridge that is so close to being completed.

Minutes        June 20, 2022  
Page 4        new business cont'd...

Thank you to Morbark for providing the paint and the painting services of the bridge and to Clint Oswald of Clint's Auto Body, for the painting and painting of the Shepherd banner and maple leaves that will be on the bridge.

Clerk Gross reminded Council of the upcoming election in November and the terms that are expiring: President, Treasurer and 3 Trustee seats. Nominating petitions must be turned in no later than 4:00 pm on July 26, 2022 to the Isabella County Clerk.

Motion by M. Davidson, second by Maloney to approve invoices in the amount of \$38157.07. Carried by roll call vote 5-0.

Motion approved to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Gina L Gross  
Village Clerk