

VILLAGE OF SAND LAKE
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 16, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the Sand Lake Village Council was called to order by President Roger Towsley at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2016, at the Sand Lake Municipal Building.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **ROLL CALL**
MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Ward, Thomas Norton, Adam Hill, Roger Towsley, Dave Dewey, Bette Towsley, Danielle Hardenburg
4. **AGENDA**
Motion made by D. Dewey and seconded by T. Norton to approve the May 16, 2016 Agenda.
MOTION CARRIED
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
 - A. **MINUTES: APRIL 18, 2016 REGULAR MEETING**
Motion made by D. Dewey and seconded by T. Norton to approve and file the April 18, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
 - B. **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**
 1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
Motion made by T. Norton and seconded by D. Dewey to approve and file the April 2016 Financial Statement as presented by Treasurer Brenda Arnold.
MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer Arnold stated that she is working on making the Sewer Bond Reserve & Sewer Repair account a Certificate of Deposit (CD) account. She requested for approval from the Council to use different financial institutions than the one the Village is currently using.

It was the consensus of the Council to authorize Treasurer Arnold to open a new CD account with any financial institutions that might offer a better rate.
 2. **BILLS:**
Motion made by D. Dewey and seconded by T. Norton to pay the April – May 2016 bills in the amount of \$70,128.52 (Seventy Thousand, One Hundred Twenty-eight Dollars and Fifty-two Cents).
MOTION CARRIED

I. CHART OF ACCOUNTS

Motion made by T. Norton and seconded by B. Towsley to approve the 2016-17 Chart of Accounts.

MOTION CARRIED

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacey Browe, Kentwood resident running for Kent County Sheriff position, presented herself to the public and Council. She made herself available for any questions and provided her contact information. She informed the Council about her career experience and education that makes her qualified for the position.

7. POLICE REPORT

A. MONTHLY REPORT

Motion made by B. Towsley and seconded by D. Dewey to accept and file the April 2016 Police Report as presented by Police Chief James Reamsma.

MOTION CARRIED

The explanation of the traffic citations and verbal warning as well as the income generated from citations was discussed.

8. FIRE REPORT

A. MONTHLY REPORT

Motion made by D. Dewey and seconded by T. Norton to accept and file the April 2016 Fire Report as presented by Fire Chief Edward Holtzlander.

MOTION CARRIED

For the Council information, the Fire Department (FD) is required to assist in the Kent County area if needed or if a major event occurs as well as in the state of Michigan.

FC Holtzlander informed the Council about the Fire Explorer Program in Cedar Springs. The FD will not carry the liability, but the Boy Scouts association will. Trustee Dewey requested to FC Holtzlander to suggest the person in charge of this program publish this event in the Cedar Springs newspaper. By doing so, the Village and Cedar Springs will make a good impact in both communities.

9. DPW REPORT

A. MONTHLY REPORT

Motion made by T. Norton and seconded by D. Hardenburg to accept and file the April-May 2016 DPW Report as presented by Mr. Jerry Dines.

MOTION CARRIED

The outside painting of the water tower was discussed.

The ditch that is on the Family Dollar property and the need to have a fence around it was discussed.

The Village's sign was damaged. The Chamber of Commerce might repair it. Mr. Dines brought the pieces to them.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Norton proposed to pass a motion to remove the fence on the boat launch after consulting a lawyer. President Towsley stated that the Council is not responsible to solve this issue unless there is an official Court Order. Trustee Towsley proposed to talk to the owner John Stephan and the Village lawyer Jeff Sluggett, then proceed with a special meeting to discussed the issue. Trustee Norton disagreed. Trustee Towsley expressed her concerns of Mr. Stephan suing the Village. Trustee Norton stated that Mr. Stephan will be obligated to pay the lawyer's fees and all other expenses to the Village.

Since the boat landing, known as the Sand Lake Boat Launch, is a long standing historical easement, maintained by the Village of Sand Lake, a motion takes place. Motion made by T. Norton and seconded by D. Dewey to remove any blockage, which restricts public access, to that long standing historical easement.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

J. WARD	YES
T. NORTON	YES
A. HILL	YES
R. TOWSLEY	NO
D. DEWEY	YES
B. TOWSLEY	NO
D. HARDENBURG	NO

MOTION CARRIED

President Towsley warned Trustee Norton that the Village will not be responsible if he was sued by Mr. Stephan. Trustee Norton stated that he will do it with the Council's approval. President Towsley requested to the Council to inform Mr. Stephan before his fence is removed. The Council agreed.

Since Attorney Sluggett failed to returned phone calls to Trustee Norton, Trustee Norton requested to the Council to hire a new attorney to specifically work with the Village on the boat launch issue. He stated that the cost will be lower than Attorney Sluggett's fees, \$199.00 per hour.

Motion made by T. Norton and seconded by D. Dewey to hire Steven Grimm to work on the Boat launch issue with the Village.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

J. WARD	YES
T. NORTON	YES
A. HILL	YES
R. TOWSLEY	NO
D. DEWEY	YES
B. TOWSLEY	NO
D. HARDENBURG	NO

MOTION CARRIED

Trustee Dewey read Michigan Supreme Court Decision on Cass County Park Trustees vs Wendt 1960 (CCPvW) out-loud to the Council and the public. It is regarding the bodies of water that are bordered by a street right-of-way and have long-standing prescriptive easements.

Trustee Towsley suggested to make a motion to discussed with Mr. Stephan the CCPvW before removing his fence. The suggestion was not accepted by the Council.

President Towsley stated that he can continue the negotiation with Mr. Stephan since Mr. Stephan is agreeable communicating with President Towsley reather than with Trustee Norton. The Council agreed that President Towsley should inform the Council about the communication between them before voting would take place.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

It was the consensus of the Council to approve the peddlers permission requested by the Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDAC) from Lansing MI. Police Chief (PC) Reamsma will obtain all the information necessary to provide to SDAC with the permit.

13. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Norton stated that he will instruct Attorney Grimm to word a letter for Mr. Stephan to officially inform him about removing the boat launch fence. The letter will be delivered by PC Reamsma.

Trustee Hardenburg stated that the Council should share information between Council members whether verbally or by letter before meetings. She recognized the need of better communication between Council members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council,
Motion made by T. Norton and seconded by J. Ward to adjourn.
MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Leticia Nielsen, Clerk