



**Village of Sand Lake  
Village Council Regular Meeting  
April 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

2 E. Maple St., PO Box 139  
Sand Lake, MI 49343  
(616) 636-8854  
[www.villageofsandlake.org](http://www.villageofsandlake.org)

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES April 23, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

In-Person at VMF Hall and virtual meeting: Meeting ID: 662 019 5932 Code: 044356

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called at 7:03 p.m. by President Mollie Doerr.

Call to Order at 7:01 p.m. by President Mollie Doerr. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. Roll Call**

Trustees present: Mollie Doerr, Kim McNees, Kevin Wright, Marcia Helton, Stacy Rudicil, Rachel Gokey.

Trustees absent: None

**3. President's Report**

President Doerr presented the President's report.

President Doerr announced to the residents the unity back with Nelson Township. She also announced that the Village is financially healthy.

**4. Adoption of Agenda\***

Motion made by Doerr to amend the agenda adding (w.) Choosing a color for the DPW pole barn and seconded by Helton.

**AIF Motion Carried**

Motion made by Doerr to adopt the Agenda and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**5. Administrative Reports**

a. Minutes:

i. March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion made by Doerr to accept the March 15, 2021 regular Council meeting minutes and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**ii. March 25, 2021 Special Meeting**

Motion made by Doerr to accept the March 25, 2021 Special Council Meeting Minutes and seconded by Helton.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**iii. March 29, 2021 Special Meeting**

Motion made by Doerr to accept the March 29, 2021 Special Council Meeting Minutes and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**b. Financial Matters:**

**i. Accounts Payable \$ 74,460.40**

Council member Helton clarified to the public that the \$24,996.80 bill pertains to the USDA Road Bond, Village's Loan.

Motion made by Doerr to accept the Account Payables for \$74,460.40 and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**6. Department Reports**

**a. Fire Department**

**Fire Chief Holtzlander presented his report and answered questions to the Council.**

Motion made by Helton to accept the Fire Department report and seconded by Gokey.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**b. DPW Department**

Mr. William Cornelisse, OIC for the Water and Sewer Department Contractor labor, presented himself to the public. Mr. Cornelisse presented his report to the Council and answered public's concerns.

Motion made by Wright to accept and file the DPW report and seconded by Gokey.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**7. Old Business**

**a. Venman's Landscaping Services contract**

Doerr stated that the Village received only one bid for the Cemetery contract from Venman's Landscaping Services.

Motion made by Gokey to accept Venman's Landscaping Service contract and seconded by Doerr.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**b. Dean's Excavating: Porty Potty**

Chris Wall from Dean's Excavating stated the need of Porty Potty and handicap washing basin hand by the White Pine Trail and willingness to donate the renting cost during Summer.

Motion made by Helton to let Dean's Excavating to put one handicap with washing basin hand by the White Pine Trail and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**8. New Business**

**a. State Reports Requirements: ACT 51, Street Assets, Financial, EVIP, and Kent County Access Reports**

Village Auditor, Doug Wohlberg, presented himself to the public. He informed to the Council and the public the accounting process that needs to take place, in order to generate the State and County reports and the importance of submitting them. He emphasized that this process needs to take place every year regardless if the Village has audits twice-yearly.

**b. Square footage of building**

President Doerr stated that the President's office is not in use and, as a discussion, designate it for the Nelson Township/Village Assessor.

Motion made by Gokey to move Amanda (Township/Village Assessor) into the Presiden's Office and look into buffer the ceiling and seconded by Doerr.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**c. Nelson Township: Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission**

Doerr stated, as a discussion, to see if the Village would join with Nelson Township (NT) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA) and Planning Commission (PC). According to the Village Attorney, the Village has to have it. There are many seats to fill and NT have the experience.

Robyn Britton, NT Supervisor, stated that will discuss it with NT Board at their next meeting.

Helton stated that she would like to make a motion to NT ZBOA and PC to do the Village's ZBA and PC and they'll follow Village's zoning.

Laure Huffman, NT Clerk, proposed that the Village's zoning Ordinance would be adopted to the NT ones, and have it as a separated section. NT would pay their commissioners for Village's matters.

Made a motion by Helton as long it is in contingent with Nelson Township's approval of accepting the NT ZBOA and PC to do the Village's ZBA and PC and they'll follow Village's zoning and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**d. Street sweeping contract**

The Council received two quotes for the street sweeping service, Tri-us Services INC and West Michigan Sweeper.

Motion made by Doerr to accept West Michigan Sweeper contract at \$450 per sweep and seconded by Gokey.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**e. Salisbury Park: Mulch**

Carlos Rodriguez, resident and C and R Landscaping business owner, 65 W Oak St., donated the needed mulch for the park.

Motion made by Gokey to let resident and C and R Landscaping business owner Carlos Rodriguez donate the mulch for the Salisbury Park and seconded by Doerr.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**f. Set a date for leaf pick up**

Motion made by Doerr to have leaf, mulch, and branches pick up every Monday from May 1st to Nov15th, if weather permits and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**g. Park and Rec Committee**

Helton informed the Council and public the need to clean up the Salisbury Park and the Cemetery. She welcomed volunteers.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> Helton and volunteers will be cleaning the Park and May 8<sup>th</sup> the Cemetery. Notices will be posted. **No motion was needed for this approval.**

**h. Appoint members for a Street Committee**

Resident Mervin Williams, 135 E Oak St., inquired on a need of a street sign on Oak Street.

Motion made by Doerr to appoint Gokey and McNees for the Street Committee and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**i. Appoint a Council member**

The Council received five letters of intent for the vacant Council member position. Maggie Merritt and Glen Baker introduced themselves to the Council and the public.

Motion made by Doerr to appoint Maggie Merritt as a Council member and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**Roll Call Vote**

**YEA:** Mollie Doerr, Kim McNees, Kevin Wright, Marcia Helton, Stacy Rudicil

**NAY:** Rachel Gokey

**j. Interim Clerk: Weekly hours and wages**

Interim Clerk's work hours and wages were discussed.

Motion made by Doerr to extend work hours from 18 to 35 a week for Interim Clerk Nielsen and seconded by Wright.

Nay: Gokey

**AIF Motion Carried**

Interim Clerk wages matter was tabled for May 17, 2021 regular meeting to be discussed with the requested documentation.

**k. William Cornelisse: Pay and job duties**

President Doerr informed to the Council that the Village could not afford to pay Infrastructure Alternatives company for the water and sewer services. The Village can afford to pay William Cornelisse whom is water and sewer certified. Cornelisse's contract with the Village needs to be reworded.

**l. Vegetation management on discharge field**

Cornelisse's report stated that Kent County will accept to plant corn on discharge field this year, yet not for next year. President Doerr suggested to plant alfalfa for next year.

**m. Facebook page**

President Doerr announced that the Village no longer has a Village page in Facebook. The official informational site will be only the Village website.

**n. Village Website: Post a link from testing.com**

Motion made by Gokey to post testing.com link into the Village website and seconded by Helton.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**o. Salisbury Park Gazebo reservation: Tri County Jr. Eagles**

President Doerr informed that the Tri County Jr. Eagles would like the reservation cost back since the snow was not removed from the Gazebo and they could not use it.

Motion made by Wright to reimburse the reservation cost of \$50.00 to Tri County Jr. Eagles and seconded by Doerr.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**p. Salisbury Park reservation: Auto sale from Autowest of Grand Rapids**

Some in-person residents made their comments on this matter.

Motion made by Wright to deny an auto sale from Autowest of Grand Rapids at any location in Sand Lake and seconded by Gokey.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**q. Possible address conflict for Genevieve's Plat**

The need to change the addresses from three to five-digit numbers on Ritchie Ave, over Genevieve's Plat was discussed. Some in-person residents made their comments on this matter.

Motion made by Helton to go with the five-digits number over Genevieve's Plat and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**r. Set price on exterior cameras**

Laura Hoffman, NT Clerk, informed the Council that six cameras and installation will be \$2,000.00.

The cost might be shared with the Village.

Motion made by Doerr to set a price for cameras for \$1,000.00 from the Village and seconded by Helton.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**s. Part-time DPW employee**

Ryan Shick introduced himself to the Council.

The wages, 35 hours a week and \$15 an hour, for the part-time DPW employee was discussed.

Motion made by Doerr to hire Ryan Shick as part-time DPW and seconded by Rudicil.

**AIF Motion Carried**

Gokey inquired if this position was posted. President Doerr responded that it was not voted on.

**t. Property foreclosed: 59 Lake Street**

President Doerr stated that Kent County emailed the Village regarding the 59 Lake Street foreclose property.

Gokey stated that the property's foundation is rotten.  
The Council will look into this.

The zoom virtual system stopped working at 9:15pm The Council stopped the meeting. The zoom virtual system started working at 9:20pm. The Council continued with the regular meeting.

Gail, Virtual attendant, wanted to participate. Yet, agreed to wait and participate during Public Comments.

**u. Sand Lake Chamber of Commerce: Summer Kick-Off event**

Helton informed the Council details of the event.

Since games will be played during the event, Gokey advised not to forget to have the license for the raffle. She enquired if the Chamber will pay the fee of \$15.00.

Wright disagreed on charging Sand Lake Chamber of Commerce (SLCOC) for the license after all the work they do to organize the event.

Resident Marty Helton, 550 W Lake, donated the fee for SLCOC.

Motion made by Doer to accept the SLCOC Summer Kick-Off event on June 5<sup>th</sup> and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**v. Sand Lake Chamber of Commerce: Parade of lights**

Motion made by Helton to accept the SLCOC Parade of lights event on June 26<sup>th</sup> and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**w. Choosing a Color for the DPW Pole Barn**

Motion made by Doer to have the DPW pole barn sides light blue color and seconded by Wright.

**AIF Motion Carried**

**09. Public Comments**

Aaron McLaughlin, 202 W Lake St., stated that he is trying to hook up to the city water. He requested a legal document called public domain to show that he is not responsible for any damage on the road. Helton stated that the Council will get in contact with Dean's Excavating company.

Paradise Cove Manager, Mike Hancock, inquired whether to turn the water on to do his maintenance work, since Paradise Cove is going through a lawsuit from the Village. He would like to turn it on, on Monday May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Wright to have Mike Hancock continue doing business as usual for Paradise Cove and seconded by Helton.

Abstain: Doerr

NAYS: Gokey

**AIF Motion Carried**

Cherie Camilleri, 101 W. Lake St., spoke in behalf of her father Nile Hayden regarding an article posted on April 8th newspaper. Gokey replied to the statement.

Wright reminded to the public about the three minutes allowed to speak.

Brenda Rodriguez, 65 W Oak St., inquired about the trees on Oak street marked to be cut down. Wright will look into it. Gokey stated that the Village put out bids on 2020, yet no one submitted bids.

Theresa Jerome representing the Chamber of Commerce, requested cleaning up the area by the water tower for the 4th of July events. Also, it was requested police cover for the 4th of July week. The additional hours will be paid by the Chamber. President Doerr recommended to email Lt. Johnson the schedule. She stated the Village will set up time to clean up the place.

Linda Minser, W Lake Street, informed the Council that the new Christmas tree at the park is decayed around the bottom.

The price paid for the tree and its warranty was discussed.

Mervin Williams, 135 E. Oak St., expressed his proudness to live in the Village.

Robyn Britton, Nelson Township, requested Council member Gokey an answer of why \$6,000 grant for the Fire Department was reversed. She also inquired in the value of the water tower and why the rights were sold for almost half of its value. She was concerned about the Water Tower maintenance. She was concerned about the high wages paid to the previous Clerk (Gokey).

Britton clarified to the public that Nelson Township purchased the VFW building for the community to hold events, and it is self-funded. Nelson Township is not planning to move its offices there.

President Doerr reminded Britton the three minutes allowed to speak.



Darcey Strpko, Nelson Township, stated that according to the president's report, \$70,000 was to support the Clerk (Gokey) to do the clean up in the books plus her wage. Then, the Clerk position wage was at \$60 an hour and Gokey is denying \$23 (to the new Clerk).

Glen Baker, 105 Oak St., commented on Shaner drain's bad condition. He stated that the \$6,000 Fire Grant and the \$17,000 from the accounting firm was not all happened during Gokey's term.

Chris Elliot, 46 W Lake St. Mr. E's Pizza, commented through Zoom on the foreclosure building Family Food. It would take \$250,000 to rebuild the bottom. He recommended the Council to think about the cost, if they're considering to buy it.

#### **10. Council Comments**

McNees thanked Marty Helton for helping around the Village. M. Helton was accused from the previous President of doing work over the DPW barn. McNees stated that this needs to stop.

Wright, McNees and Marty Helton volunteered to worked in the DPW for the past weeks. People applaud.

President Doerr stated that Marty Helton signed a release form. Therefore, there is no liability issues.

McNees reported that the Village purchased a push mower and was missing. Gokey informed him where it used to be.

McNees reported that the proper maintenance on the equipment was not done by the previous DPW Supervisor Armstrong.

Motion made by McNees to give permission to Marty Helton to show Shick the DPW job responsibilities and seconded by Doerr.

**AIF Motion Carried**

Wright suggested to use the electronic sign only for the Village purposes and not for advertisement, due to the work it comes with it. Gokey insisted that it was purchased for that reason. President Doerr emphasis that the sign is not a top priority.

Margaret Merritt, 45 6<sup>th</sup> St., suggested to have a person designated to do it and have guidelines in place.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion made by Helton to adjourn and seconded by Doerr.

**AIF Motion Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Leticia Nielsen  
Interim Clerk

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