

Village of Uby Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2010

The village of Uby regular meeting of January 7, 2010 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mark Brown. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: President Mark Brown, Trustees Shawn Wright, Mark Dropiewski, Lance Krueger, Jeremy Melnik, Adam Kain, Jeff Maikrzek, Treasurer Laura Kramer, Clerk Alger Lemke, Police Chief Matt Kuhl, and DPW Supervisor Carl Weber. There were 6 citizens in attendance.

The minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting were read and discussed. With no changes suggested a motion to approve the December 3, 2009 meeting minutes was made by Jeremy Melnik and seconded by Lance Krueger. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion among council regarding due dates of the water bills was next. It was felt by some that the bills came due too soon after mailing. Current practice is to have the 1st bills due 10 days after mailing, and stretching that time to 30 days was discussed. A motion was made by Shawn Wright and seconded by Jeremy Melnik to extend the due dates from 10 days to 30 days on the first billing. All in favor, motion carried.

Council also speculated that many of our water customers are accustomed to paying their water once a year as on the old system, and Alger said that anyone can prepay their bill if they want. The excess in a prepaid account will simply appear as a credit that the next billing(s) will deduct from.

Discussion on bills to pay for the month of January. Rio/SLC was discussed. New meter read software update from Rio Michigan Meter Supply was questioned as to need. Alger, Matt, and Carl shared what they believed to be the need as expressed by Rio representative Jim Reinhold. The new software was installed as an update rather than an entire program download to save the cost of a complete new program, and it is supposed to help with reading/uploading problems experienced in the past. A motion was made by Jeremy Melnik and seconded by Lance Krueger to pay the bills as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

The finance committee also expressed concern about how and what kind of bills department heads were allowed to pay without being approved at a regular meeting by the council. Alger shared that his practice is to pay bills that are come regularly (such as utilities, service contracts, payroll, etc.) especially if they are due before the next council meeting. The Finance committee said they would like to see and approve all bills before they are paid, regular or otherwise, unless a regular bill needs to be paid before the next council meeting. Alger said he would do this. No further action necessary.

Treasurer Laura Kramer presented her report for the month of December. O.K.'d as presented.

The council also requested to have Rio and SLC representatives at the next meeting to discuss the large credit we have at SLC, and the need to get that back since SLC lost it's franchise with Neptune Meters. The new local service provider with Neptune is Rio Michigan Meter Supply and representative Jim Reinhold. Carl said he would make the calls to have representatives from both companies available at the next council meeting.

General Fund Expenditures	\$	24,540.03
Water Fund Expenditures	\$	1,686.96

Sleeper Public Library Expenditures	\$	1,497.91
Major Street Expenditures	\$	935.56
Local Street Expenditures	\$	0

DPW

DPW Supervisor Carl Weber presented his report for December. The county will be repaving Atwater Road from the east village limits to Verona Road May 15 through September 15, 2010. He presented a bid from Tony Osentoski for removal of the downed tree tops on the Hoover farm. The proposal offers \$15.00/full cord and \$5.00/face cord, no brush removal, and requests 365 days to get the job done. A motion was made by Shawn Wright and seconded by Jeremy Melnik to accept the bid. Discussion. All approved. Motion carried. It was mentioned by Mark Brown that Jim Czewski will still be allowed on the farm to cut wood at his convenience, to continue a long standing arrangement.

POLICE

Chief of Police Matt Kuhl reported that he is seeking bids on a new police car, and that the new computer and the state program are up and running perfectly. He also presented his 2009 Ubyly/Bingham police report, noting that complaints were up from 1,467 in 2008 to 1,576 in 2009.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

DPW - Chairperson Jeremy Melnik - no report. Mentioned that he is still working on the newsletter and is looking for input for content.

Parks & Recreation - Chairperson Shawn Wright - reported that the ice rink at the park is flooded and frozen. He also said that Ubyly Community Schools Physical Education instructor Jim Becker is seeking to install a batting cage in the Veteran's Memorial Park, and that he will be getting with Carl Weber on it's location. A motion was made by Shawn Wright and seconded by Mark Dropiewski to allow the batting cage to be installed at the park and funded by Ubyly Community Schools. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

On the issue of the lighted sign discussed at previous meetings, Shawn reported that one that has both sides lit and is the size of the one at the school costs approximately \$18,000, and that one like Bay Port State Bank in Bad Axe has costs approximately \$30,000. Neither estimate includes footings or poles. No further decisions on the sign made at this time.

Water & Services - Chairperson Mark Dropiewski - no report

Police - Chairperson Lance Krueger - no report

Personnel - Chairperson Jeff Maikrzek - After checking into a possible buyout for full time village employees who chose to not take health insurance, it is determined that there is no cost benefit to the village and, in fact, it may even cost more to carry fewer employees on the plan. No changes to current policy will be made at this time.

Planning and Zoning - Chairperson Adam Kain - no report

OLD BUSINESS

Possible health Insurance buyout for employees already discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

President Mark Brown reported that there will be a special meeting planned before the end of February to

iron out the budget for the new fiscal year beginning March 1, 2010.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Mark Brown read a letter of intent from Jim Czewski offering to purchase 10 acres of land from the village at the Hoover farm if the village ever decides to sell. He also read a letter of thanks from the Jerry Herp family on his recently passing away, and one from Susan Schrader for the gift certificate she received for all her help in the past with the newsletter. Mark also reported that the \$767.50 Consumers Energy bill that he was investigating is now a done deal and to be disregarded.

Due to a schedule conflict Mark asked if the February council meeting could be changed from Thursday February 4, 2010 to the day before, Wednesday February 3, 2010. A motion was made by Jeremy Melnik and seconded by Lance Krueger to change the date of next month's regular council meeting to Wednesday February 3, 2010. Discussion. All in favor. Motion approved. Meeting time remains at 7:00 p.m.

Public Input

Jerry and Pam Grifka, owners of PJ's in Ubly, addressed the council and police department about a severe drop in their business. They said that they've lost customers because they feel their business is being watched by the village police and no one wants to risk having a couple drinks and getting stopped. They said that it's gotten to the point that even the locals no longer want to come in. Mrs. Grifka pleaded to the council and Chief Kuhl to do something about it. Chief Kuhl expressed that his department does not "sit on the bars" to stop people leaving there and ticket them. There is no benefit, financial or otherwise, to be making any stops other than those that are obviously unlawful and/or dangerous. He said the intent of the police department is to uphold the law as they are sworn to do.

Doug Ogozaly, owner of The Ubly Pub, the Lady Jane shared that he has been followed home a number of times, and that last week 3 of his customers that don't even drink were stopped coming from his bar. He cited that the reasons for stopping some of the people seem questionable (i.e. drifting over the center line, speeding 2 mph over the speed limit, etc.). He has been receiving multiple customer complaints about the frequent stops by the police.

Huron County Commissioner David Peruski shared that the county is seeking bids for the Senior Center, and the plans are to renovate the Davenport University property. The work should be complete approximately six weeks after approval and acceptance of the bids. He reported that that county-wide animal control is still in the research mode, and that John Deere Wind Energy conducted wind tests in the late summer/early fall of 2009, and that the county is still waiting for reports from them. Mr. Peruski also asked all to be aware of a recent resurgence of unfunded mandates from the state, and asked us to contact our representatives to let them know that state requirements that are costly, unnecessary, and lacking a way to pay for them is not acceptable. Lastly, he said that the county is seeking bids on the sale of 82 acres of farmland it currently owns.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Shawn Wright and seconded by Mark Dropiewski to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at the Bingham/Ubly Government center on Wednesday February 3, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alger Lemke Clerk
Village of Ubly