**Village of Cement City**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

September 8, 2011 7:00 p.m. Village Hall Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Cement City Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance: 20 Citizens present. Members present: James Ellis, Bill Bendele, Mel Cure, Michael Gavett, and Larry Babinger. Clerk Carol Ladd, Treasurer Chari Cure, and Deputy Treasurer Patty Lueker were present. Zoning Inspector Eric Trumble was absent but submitted a report. DPW Supv. Steve Fletcher was absent.

**Departments**

Police: Chief Elwell reported on police activity. Elwell reported that his officers are working with Donna Irelan to help with road closure for Cement City Days on September 17, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be a meeting of planners at the Village Hall on Monday at 4:00 p.m. Elwell suggested that the village borrow some barriers to mark the area clearly. Gavett is to meet with Irelan and the police to make a plan for road closure. He also gave an update on the investigation of the party at the Iron Coffins Club and stated that a warrant for the sale of alcohol was issued and the case has been handed off to the prosecutor.

Fire: No Fire Representative.

Guest Speaker-Dustin Krassny spoke on behalf of the efforts of Tim Walberg. He says creating jobs is a number one priority. Walberg has held over 100 town hall meetings to hear citizens and small business owners’ needs. Walberg is also concerned about Regulations and jobs sent overseas and out of state. Energy and commuting taxes are also concerns. Krassny asked if the council or citizens had any questions.

Complaints-The mother of the owner of the truck that has been parking at the school questioned the council as to why the council told the school that the truck could not be parked there when the owner had already made arrangements with the school to park there. Ellis reported that parking in that area is against village zoning ordinance. Gavett expressed concern that if exceptions are made for one, then other local drivers may want to park there too. Chief Elwell offered assistance in helping the owner find a more suitable parking arrangement.

Public Participation-Pam Dunham noted that the speed limit sign at Cary Road and Jackson Street is not visible due to overhanging tree branches. Another citizen noted that there are wasps in the park benches and asked for assistance. Ellis asked the audience if anyone knew of a resource for the purchase of metal basketball nets and a citizen offered MC Sporting Goods as a source. Lueker offered to look into the purchase of metal chains.

**Minutes Reviewed-** Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to accept the 8-11-11 minutes as presented. All Ayes, Motion Passed. Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to accept the 8-24-11 Special Meeting minutes as presented. All Ayes, Motion Passed.

**Receipt of Treasurer’s Report-** Motion made by Cure, second by Gavett to accept the Treasurer’s Report subject to audit. All Ayes, Motion Passed.

**Presentation of Existing Bills**- Motion made by Cure, second by Babinger to pay existing bills with late additions. Ayes all, Motion passed.

**Staff Progress Reports-**

Zoning: Eric Trumble offered a written report to the council as he was absent. He has been working with citizens on the cleanup of yards and removal of inoperable cars. Cure suggested that Trumble add his hours to the written report.

Building/DPW: No report given.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Council reviewed the quote from Snyr equipment for the need to ground the electric at the hall. We have had multiple losses of office equipment and have been told by Comcast that a ground was needed. The quote includes 3 man hours of work investigating the root cause. There was a discussion on whether to accept bids. Snyr and Davis were called to give quotes as they have worked with the village on recent projects. Davis did not respond. Motion made by Babinger, second by Cure to accept the Snyr quote. All Ayes, Motion Passed. Lueker to call Snyr and to ask for an hourly rate.

Council reviewed a quote to paint the lines from Jackson County Road Commission. Surque says we get a huge discount by contracting with JCRC since they contract many miles in the county. A discussion took place on the painting of the school lines and Ellis asked why that was done even though the school was closed. Surque stated he advised Chuck Waltz to proceed since at the time the school was open. Surque explained that there is no law to paint the lines; it’s the discression of the board. However, past boards approved the painting so as not to assume liability in the case of an accident. Babinger asked if the council should hold off on the painting until some road work is complete. Surque advised that it is late in the season to do road work. Motion made by Babinger, second by Gavett to have Surque survey the roads and to decide if the painting is necessary. Surque to contact Clerk and Clerk to contact Waltz if painting is deemed necessary. All ayes, motion passed.

Babinger asked Surque if he would be willing to advise the council on the need for road work. Surque agreed to assess the roads and rate them a 1, 2, or 3 for planning purposes.

Gavett spoke on the rumor of the closing of the Cement City Post Office. He reminded citizens that so far the changes have been transparent and that the office will remain open. He also pointed out that there are many improvements happening at the office including painting inside and out and updating the parking lot. Babinger asked Gavett to look into the parking lot construction and to try to avoid conflict with Cement City Days.

Gavett spoke on the need for replacement computer for the Clerk and recommended the use of a laptop. Council asked Clerk’s opinion and she expressed concern for security and offered to look into the pros and cons and to collect quotes. Gavett suggested the use of Gorilla wires to help with security and that the laptop could be utilized for digitizing records for the meetings. The topic of making minutes and forms more available to citizens was discussed with the possibility of a website or some sort of electronic accessibility. Clerk suggested that council budget and plan for those types of updates and pointed out that Woodstock Twp and other surrounding municipalities are currently accepting bids for that type of work.

Dunham stated she is still not happy with the flow of water to her home. She says the culvert has not made any improvements. She asked for a bump in her drive to channel water to the culvert. Bendele stated he thought the problem was resolved. Bendele and Gavett to look at the property.

**Good & Welfare**

A citizen thanked the council for work done at her Parker Street home and says it looks great and she is very appreciative. Motion to adjourn by Cure, second by Gavett. All ayes, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Ladd, Clerk Approved by James Ellis, President