

Draft: December 30, 2008

Village of Bingham Farms
Council Meeting
December 22, 2008

Approved: January 26, 2009

The regular meeting of the Village Council was called to order by President Pro-Tem Leckie at 8:00 p.m.

Present: Ettenson, Freeman, Leckie, Gollnitz & Tripp

Absent: Bauer & Kesley

Also Present: Police Chief Browne, Fire Chief Averbach, Hagaman, Ludwick & McDermott

Agenda

Motion by Gollnitz, second by Tripp to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Gollnitz, second by Ettenson to approve the meeting minutes of November 24, 2008 as submitted.

Motion carried.

Public Comments not listed on the agenda

There were no public comments.

Police Chief

Police Chief Browne briefed Council on activity in the office buildings during the month:

*Suspicious activity was reported in a suite in the 30800 Telegraph Rd. building. Nothing appeared to be missing.

*An individual attempted to cash a fraudulent check at the Bank of America branch on Telegraph.

The Chief announced that Officer George Krajewski has been hired part time to assist in coverage due to the uncertainty whether Officer VanLacken will be able to return to work from his accident.

Fire Chief

Chief Averbuch referred to his written report.

He also advised Council that the ladder truck is out of service, awaiting parts.

Financially, the department is working within the approved budget. As of January 1, the fire station will be staffed with one firefighter on the overnight shift. This will reduce response times during the early morning hours.

A new reporting procedure will also go into effect on January 1. The state is now mandating more information (more than 240 pieces of data) to be detailed for every run.

ARC Resolution

The Alliance of Rouge Committees has recommended that municipalities adopt a resolution in support of the Alliance's Stormwater Management Plan. This is not required, but it will show

the MDEQ that the Village is committed to improving water quality in the Rouge River. The Resolution states that “where feasible”, the Village will implement the Plan.

RESOLUTION 2008-30 OFFERED BY FREEMAN, SUPPORTED BY GOLLNITZ to implement, where feasible, the recommendations in the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan to address point and non-point sources of pollution as identified in the Plan.

AYES: Gollnitz, Freeman, Ettenson, Tripp & Leckie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Bauer & Kesley

Resolution passed 5-0.

Wastewater Discharge Ordinance Amendment

Mrs. Hagaman stated that the proposed ordinance regarding wastewater discharges will bring the Village in conformity with regulations of the City of Detroit and the NPDES Permit. The Village attorneys have drafted the amendment which has been shortened from the draft submitted by the City of Detroit Water & Sewage Dept.

Motion by Gollnitz, second by Freeman to adopt Ordinance #212 to bring the Village in compliance with wastewater discharge regulations of the City of Detroit and the NPDES Permit. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

The November 2008 Financial Report had a General Fund balance of \$3,302,897.71 with income for the month of \$24,594.76 against expenditures of \$179,573.75. The Gas & Weight Fund balance was \$520,645.78 with income for the month of \$6,382.21 against expenditures of \$59,292.01.

Motion by Ettenson, second by Tripp, to accept the November 2008 Financial Statement as presented.

Motion carried.

The Bills to be Paid for December 2008 were in the following amounts: General Fund, \$264,997.61; and Gas & Weight, \$157,276.13.

Motion by Gollnitz, second by Leckie, to approve payment of the December bills as presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Ludwick reported that monies will be drawn from the pool funds to meet this month’s expenditures.

In response to a question regarding bank ratings, Mrs. Ludwick assured Council that all Village CD investments are FDIC insured up to \$250,000 per bank until 12/31/09. However ratings for Huntington Bank and Flagstar Bank, which have Village investments, have dropped to a Bank rating of “1”. Both are heavily rumored to be targets for a buy-out. Both ratings dropped well after the Village invested in FDIC insured CDs with them.

Treasurer’s Memo attached to original minutes.

Clerk's Report

The Road Commission will begin setting meeting dates in 2009 to discuss their Strategic Plan. This is a time when the Village receives information on the status of road projects.

Life Style magazine has offered the Village the ability to place an advertisement in this annual publication. The cost for full page municipal ads is \$900. It would be a 1/4 page ad with the remainder to include free editorial about the Village. Given the current economic condition of the state and anticipated further reductions in state revenue sharing, Council passed on the offer.

Council had asked staff to get competitive pricing for snow removal costs in surrounding communities. The Village of Franklin has a comprehensive maintenance contract with Greenscapes that does not break down the cost of winter maintenance. Comeau Construction, which performs all of Beverly Hills year round maintenance did not provide a quote.

Bingham Farms receives very good service from Johnson Landscaping, where we are a priority customer. During the last big snowfall, the Village roads were quickly cleared and passage maintained throughout the storm. In an effort to control the costs for salting, the Village will have the police department make the decisions on the need and they have the authority to call for salting.

The cost for AEW engineering services continues to climb, especially in the oversight of new home construction. If there is any problem relative to the construction, the new homeowner could see engineering costs in excess of \$6,000. The Village will see if this work can be transferred to Beverly Hills under our existing agreement.

There are several trees in the Village that are dead or dying. It is recommended that the Village go out for bids in the spring.

As an update to an ordinance violation at 32270 building on Telegraph, the management company will work with the Village to resolve the situation. They are to meet with the Village after the first of the year.

Clerk's Report attached to original minutes.

Trustee Reports/Comments

Mr. Gollnitz addressed a letter from the property owner at 29975 Bristol Ln. requesting an extension of time to resolve the ordinance violation issued by the Village. Given the quick onset of winter which limited the owner from resolving the violation, he recommended that the Village approve the extension request.

Motion by Gollnitz, second by Ettenson to grant an extension to May 1, 2009, for the property owner to bring the violation into compliance with Village ordinance.

Motion carried.

Mr. Ettenson commented that the Village is receiving franchise fees from the AT&T U-verse product, a sign that residents are interested in a competitive TV and internet provider. There is no information on where or when AT&T will expand its service to other areas of Bingham Farms.

Old Business

Mr. Ettenson updated Council on the status of the Feasibility Study for broadcasting Council meetings. Certain issues have been raised regarding the size of the meeting room and the loss of seating for residents and others wishing to attend the meetings. He asked several residents to respond to a brief survey but received no response. Given these facts, he believes the issue should be closed. Council concurred.

New Business - None

There being no further business to conduct, President ProTem Leckie adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.