

COLON VILLAGE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – April 12, 2022

Meeting Call to Order at 7:00 PM – The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

PRESENT: Sharon Craun, Dick Delp, Eddie LeBoeuf, Marilyn McManus, Linda Norton, Michael Malmberg, Jodi Gross

Also Present: Carol Ritchie, Guests: Dave and Vicky Senkewitz, Dan Earl, Casee Earl, Pam Gilbert, Dawn Furney, Jeff Capman, Ed Bell, Carl Thornton, Keith Stickley, Tamara Sterlini, Attorney Thall, Julie Decker, Billie Farrand, Chief Brinker

Approval of Agenda with additions –
Added items to the agenda under New Business

- a. Should be Performance Resolution
- e. Green Egg Fest
- f. Firework Permit
- g. Decker Properties
- h. Posters
- i. Fire Agreement

Linda made motion to approve the agenda/Jodi second
Motion passed

Minutes from March 2022 Council Meeting

It was acknowledged that the March meetings would be approved at the next council meeting.
Marilyn made a motion to table the minutes/Mickey second

Dave Senkewitz – Resident of Colon

He read a statement regarding his concern and disappointment of one council member who made remarks to another council member during a meeting and an online social media post.

Vicky Senkewitz – Resident of Colon

She read a statement regarding his concern and disappointment of one council member who made remarks to another council member during a meeting and an online social media post.

Dawn Furney – Owner of Dawn’s restaurant voiced her concerns about the Green Egg Fest. She indicated that last year when this event was going on, all of her parking spaces that her customers use, was taken by people who were cooking at the Green Egg Fest. She had to close her business early, which cost her money, due to lack of business.

Carl Thorton – Business owner and resident of Colon expressed his disappointment in building decision. Never received an answer about general fund, no update on financial meetings, very disappointed about the way Linda has been treated by another council member. He feels that the council member should be forced to resigned.

Eddie made a negative comment while Carl was speaking and Village President, Sharon Craun, told Eddie he was out of line

Keith Stickley – Colon Resident. He was very concerned with the nonsense that is going on in this Village. His family has invested in this community. Heartbroken to see the nonsense that was posted on social media. The present pro-tem was out of line with the comments that he made on social media about another council member. Social media post was personal not political. Liable and Slanderous. He expressed that there were more important issues at hand that we should be focusing on. Trees in the right of way, sewage plant is an issue, etc. Supposed to be a representative of all of us. Step up and be a leader. Change to do better. Apologize to the Village.

Brandon Baker: He thinks Green Egg Festival is a good event for Colon and he feels that the Village missed an opportunity on Marijuana – he brought some numbers for the council to review.
Kurt Kuhlmann – Vacancy Pastor at the Lutheran Church. Would like to see sidewalk to connect from the apartments to the burr oak road intersection. He sees a lot of litter along the roadway.

Monthly reports

Matt Barrett – DPW Supervisor was not present, but the council was provided with his report.

Police Chief Report

Chief Brinker – He proposed that we put the 2007 squad car up for sealed bids
Eddie made the motion/Linda seconded
Motion Passed

He would like to replace a 19-year-old radar not to exceed \$1,995.00
Dick made the motion/Linda seconded
Motion passed

The police chief reported he was \$21,000 under budget for the year. He requested to put \$7000 towards new car fund, \$3000 towards equipment/building, and the balance to the general fund.
Linda made the motion/Micky seconded
Motion passed.

Office Manager Report

Billie – Submitted her report. Comment about sidewalk fund in the amount of \$10,000 non-motorized construction. Doesn't have to do with roads. We haven't spent any at this point. Cathy, Auditor, said it can come from the local roads.

Fire Board Report - Marilyn

88 calls total (Fire – 8, Good Intent calls – 8, Hazardous Condition (No Fire) – 1, Rescue & Emergency)
New Fire Truck inspection is complete. Fire Department will be picking the New Fire Truck up soon.

Lake Board – Ed Bell

Jim Crawford – was in a severe snowmobile accident so it was good to see him at the meeting.
Approved contracts with Progressive A & E and for weed control. We are considering a chemical that deals with algae – it is on a test basis. It is a costly expense, but we are taking it into consideration. If approved, then we will do this in warmer weather. Our next meeting is Saturday, April is 9 am board at 10 am. We approved to change our meeting to August 20 so there was not conflict of interest with the Green Egg fest. Our revenue – still total of 480460 is our revenue total. Sidewalks – there is a clear pathway to school is a program where there was a lot of funds for Colon. This still might be an option.

Planning Commission - Kurt Kuhlman

We would like to add Kelsey Lynch to our planning council. If she is appointed to the position, they would like to change the meeting to the 4th Monday of the Month @ 6:00 p.m. starting April 25th.

Eddie – motion to Appoint/Dick – second

Motion passed

Kurt – handed out the printed red folders with the master plan and gave the invoice to Billie to pay.

DDA – needs to have the planning commission on the DDA

Advertising – this is for the whole village of Colon.

Colon Community Park – Jodi

Nothing to report as they have not had a meeting. We need to discuss opening the park because it is winterized. The park will be open this week – Brad Hartman was contacted to make sure the park was open (electricity, plumbing) he was planning with the DPW. Jodi will reach out to Edie to make sure she knows that.

DDA – Micky

6 to 7:30 pm SBEI – is a vision project – not a master planning specific project. Give us a visual to use grant from the RRC program. Here is what you can do, not what the master plan does.

April 26 – at Curlys from 6 to 7:30 pm. We need as many people as possible. We will meet in small groups. Ruth Ann has stepped down. We would like to appoint Tad Davis

Edie – motion to appoint Tadd as the DDA president/Dick – second

Motion passed

Pop ups - paperwork is in the office to request to rent the pop ups

We have discussed changing the price. It is a cost of \$30 to keep the electricity boxes. Linda questioned why they were opening early then we are supposed to. Micky said they made a special exception due to the nature of the business that wanted to go in. Marilyn suggested that we send Jim Avery a thank you note for putting up the pop ups this year without cost.

Micky said the DDA would like to have their own bank account with Sturgis bank to streamline our efforts. Sharon suggested that we need to have this discussion with Billi to see if this process will work for us. Billi said that she has already had discuss with them on this. They need to figure out how to get Circa into their account. They would like to have their DDA meetings @ 5:30 second Tuesday of the month before council meetings.

This will be determined month by month as the personnel committee, and other council uses the Village Office prior to meetings.

Blight Report – Report in Packets

Sharon expressed disappointment – Sharon indicated that we have more blight going on in our Village that isn't noted. She will request a meeting with him.

Zoning Report – No Report

Sharon will ask Doug to come to meeting and planning commission meeting

Fleis – No report

Village Attorney (Rob Thall) gave us an update on the Lift Station property on Catherine and North – proposed new lift station USDA loan – determine ownership or right of way. Behind the last parcel. Title company could not determine ownership. Looking at moving it over so it is in the right of way. If not, we could possibly get an easement. Go to court and get approval. There is a lift station at the end of the street – he will check to see if we can use this.

Unfinished Business

Handbook review – we have changes that will be sent to the attorney for review.
Marilyn motion to table handbook review/Micky seconded
Motion approved

Ambulance Service – The county with adjoining townships and villages formed a committee as they work through the new proposed contract that they are working on to benefit all of us. The committee has a lot to discuss on this as our price will be based on how many participate.
Linda made the motion to table until next moth/Micky seconded
Motion passed

New building – our offer has been accepted – we are moving forward with the process.
Linda made a motion to table the new building discussion until next month/Jodi seconded
Motion passed

Signs -- Sandi Jackson, Township Supervisor, said the township board agreed to give us \$750 toward the new signs (\$2,200 approx. amount to replace) coming into the Village.

New Business

Performance Resolution for Municipalities—Micky, read the right of way municipality.
We must decide who has authority to sign. It was suggested the Village President, DPW Supervisor, Office Manager, and Chamber President
Linda made a motion to accept all four/Dick seconded
Motion passed

Marilyn made a motion to adopt performance resolution for principalities/Linda second
Motion passed
Roll-call – all were yes

Standing committees

Christmas decorations – Dick Delp, Linda Norton, S. Craun
Jodi made Motion to approve the standing committees as presented
Micky seconded it
Motion passed
Equipment—D. Delp, E. LeBoeuf, S. Craun
Motion made by Jodi/Micky second
Motion Passed
Finance & Insurance – M. McManus, J. Gross, S. Craun
Motion made by Jodi/Micky second

Motion Passed

Police—L. Norton, M. McManus, S. Craun

Motion made by Jodi/Micky second

Motion Passed

Sewer & Water—E. LeBoeuf, M. McManus, S. Craun

Motion made by Jodi/Micky second

Motion Passed

Wages & Personnel—L. Norton, M. McManus, S. Craun

Council Representatives to Community Boards

Colon Community Fire & Rescue Board—M. McManus, S. Craun

Motion made by Jodi/Micky second

Motion Passed

Colon Lake Board—Ed Bell

Motion made by Linda /Dick second

Motion Passed

Park Board—J. Gross

Motion made by Eddie/Linda second

Motion Passed

Downtown Development Authority—M. Malmberg

Motion made by Dick/Eddie second

Motion Passed

Planning Commission—E. LeBoeuf

Motion made by Micky/Dick second

Motion Passed

Village Boards

Planning Commission—K. Kuhlmann (Chair), Dave, E. LeBoeuf, Kelsey Lynch

Motion made by Jodi/Micky second

Motion Passed

Colon Community Park Board Advisory Comm—E. Doenges, C. Thrans, M. Smoker, A. Anderson, M. Blackman

Motion made by Linda/Dick second

Motion Passed

Lake Board Advisory—E. Bell (Chair)

Motion made by Linda N./Dick D. second

Motion Passed

Police Chief—Mark Brinkert

Motion made by Eddie/Dick second

Motion Passed

Clerk/Treasurer--Carol Ritchie
Linda made the motion/Micky seconded
Motion passed

Zoning Administrator & FEMA Mitigation Manager—Doug Kuhlmann
Motion made by Eddie/Dick second
Motion Passed

President Pro Tem—Linda Norton
Motion made by Marilyn/Jodi second
Motion Passed
Roll Call Vote – yes/Dick, Jodi, Micky, Marilyn, Sharon, no/Eddie, Abstained/Linda

Street Administrator—Linda Norton
Motion made by Marilyn/Jodi second
Motion Passed

Blight officer – Eddie
Move to table until Sharon meets with Mike Hayden
Motion made by Eddie/Linda seconded
Motion Passed

Depository of funds—Sturgis Bank and Trust, Century Bank and Trust, Southern Michigan Bank and Trust, Omni Community Credit Union
Linda made a motion/Dick second
Motion Passed

Repeat recurring bills – Village Office Manager
Motion made by Eddie/Jodi second
Motion passed

Village of Colon Employee Uniform Cleaning
I'd like a motion that the Village of Colon Employee Uniform Cleaning Allowance be set at the amount of \$1900 -- Chief \$700; Full Time \$500 each; and Part-time \$100 (\$200 total) -- during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
Motion made by Linda/Micky second

Attorney Balkem & Sparks
Motion made by Eddie/Linda second
Motion Passed

Building inspector—Joe Wickey
Motion made by Jodi/Micky second
Motion Passed

Electrical--Chancy Hackenberg
Motion made by Eddie/Linda second

Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector—John Dobberteen
Motion made by Linda/Jodi second
Motion Passed

Planning Commission Chairperson—Kurt Kuhlman
Motion made by Eddie/Micky second
Motion Passed

DDA Chairman—Tad Davis
Motion made by Dick/Eddie second
Motion Passed

Lake Board—Ed Bell
Motion made by Linda/Dick second
Motion Passed

Keith Stickley – has offered the Lamb Knit Building for the placement of the Pop Ups.

Green Egg Fest – Mikeal Smoker

Mikael Smoker – Third annual Egg Fest. Would like to shut down the parking lot behind the Village Office from Friday August 12, at 5 pm until Saturday night at 8 pm. After much discussion, it was tabled.
Motion to table made by Eddie/Marilyn second
Motion Passed

Firework Permit

Sharon needs to sign it
Dick – made the motion to approve the fireworks paperwork to be signed by Village President
Motion made by Dick/Linda second
Motion passed

Decker Property - Sharon suggested putting the Decker property for sale and putting the proceeds toward the new building. She also suggested that we ask Kathy Earl to put it up for sale.
Linda made a motion to put the property up for sale/Jodi second
Motion passed

Posters – Village recommended that we do not put any more posters up in the Village without speaking to the MML.
Dick – made the motion to not allow posters/Linda second
Motion passed

Township – Fire Agreement

Micky - made a motion to table the fire agreement/Eddie second
Motion passed

Public Comment:

Carl – the best place I have ever lived. No other community has what Colon does. Purchase of the new Village Building is beyond ridiculous.
Tear down the file

Brandon Baker – We should consider selling the Decker property perhaps as a quick sale without a realtor to save on commission. Parking is a problem in Colon and always has been. American Legion could consider paying Dawn to close her business for the day.

Correspondences - None

Micky – made a motion to adjourn/Jodi Second
Motion - Passed

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Ritchie, Clerk/Treasurer