

Village of Concord Council Minutes

The Village Council of Concord met on February 13, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Village Office.

Council Members Present: Jeremiah Bush, Jason Mockeridge, Tom Norris, Jeff Jackson, Tim Casey, M. Lovitt and Ashley Meeks.

Council Members Absent: None

Public Present: A. Losey, K. Wyatt, Deputy L. Jacobson, DPW Director J. Blossom, and Village Clerk J. Lefere.

For their review, Councilmembers were e-mailed or given: Bills to be Paid in Amount of \$21,762.61; 1/23/2018 Village Council Meeting Proposed Minutes; January Fire Board Minutes; February Village Voice; Tim Casey Robo-Call Information Email; Water Ordinance Amendment Suggestions from Lawyer Fred Lucas Email; G. Miller Complaint Against Councilmember J. Mockeridge-Finding of No Wrong Done Email; G. Miller Response to Finding of No Wrong Doing by Councilmember J. Mockeridge Email; Revenue & Expenditure Report through 1/31/2018; 2/13/2018 Council Meeting Agenda.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Jackson, to accept the minutes from the 1/23/2018 meeting, with the correction that T. Norris was not in attendance for the closed session as stated by J. Mockeridge. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Wyatt asked about donations to the Town Clock Fund in memory of Halsey Jenks. J. Bush stated that there have been no donations as of yet.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$21,762.61 was presented. Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by M. Lovitt, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$21,762.61. Motion approved by all.

Deputy L. Jacobson discussed his January Blotter. He also wanted to mention that it was Andy Fritz that plowed sidewalks on both sides of Main St from Hanover St. to Third St. He informed the council that he would be attending a training on Thursday. Deputy L. Jacobson discussed keeping sidewalks clear of snow and that he handed out approximately eleven reminders/warnings on Monday and that when he stopped at one house to put a flyer on the door to address the sidewalk needing shoveled the resident happened to be pulling in the driveway and as he exited his vehicle and started walking towards the resident he said "hey, your sidewalk" at this point the resident said "tell the Village to do it because I'm not doing it." He then informed the resident that if it were not done there would be a fine of up to \$500.00.

Councilmembers T. Norris, J. Jackson, and M. Lovitt discussed another resident they had received a call from concerning his sidewalk clearing and to discuss snowmobiles riding on his sidewalks. Deputy L. Jacobson stated that if a person sees a snowmobiler riding on their sidewalk or through their yard to call 911 and get a description of the sled and he can ask around and usually find out who it was.

Deputy L. Jacobson also mentioned a traffic stop he had made earlier in the day. The person was doing 49 in a 25 mile per hour zone, Deputy Jacobson pulled him over, the man admitted to speeding, Deputy Jacobson was about to issue him a reduced ticket for ten over. The man asked when his perfect driving record would come into play. Deputy Jacobson reminded the driver that he was going almost double the speed limit in front of a school, the motorist called Deputy Jacobson an A**hole, at this point he received a ticket for the full offense.

J. Blossom on behalf of himself and the DPW Department thanked A. Meeks for coming to their defense on a negative Facebook post about how often they plow the streets. J. Blossom also wanted to make it clear that the DPW crew is never paid triple time as was insinuated. He also discussed the replacement of the cast iron water infrastructure project. The cost estimate per the Village's engineer J. Ripstra for the project came in at roughly \$4.1 million dollars. He met with Jack from Ripstra & Schepelman to discuss the amount of work that will need to be done and also spoke with B.J. Haire from the USDA about securing the loan to complete the project. Haire emailed the substantial paperwork that will need to be completed and Blossom and Lefere are moving forward with filling out the paperwork for the project. To receive the loan, it will involve a lot of paperwork and physical work such as going out to determine where every valve in the Village is located. J. Bush stated that the Village Council plans to hold an informative public hearing in the future to inform the residents of the plan.

J. Bush discussed Water Ordinance Amendments recommended by Village Attorney F. Lucas and how they will work. If a landlord would like to have the utility bill in the tenants name the tenant will be required to pay a \$1,000.00 deposit. The deposit amount was decided on after reviewing the Village's water bill history and taking into account the largest amounts of water bills billed in the past to residents. The deposit will be refunded to the tenant when they move from the rental as long as there is a zero balance on the account. The landlord will provide a copy of the lease and a signed affidavit to the Village Clerk. These amendments will take effect 30 days after published in the salesman.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to adopt amendment to the Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Ordinance #171. Roll call vote as follows: J. Bush – aye, J. Jackson – aye, T. Norris – aye, T. Casey – aye, A. Meeks – aye, M. Lovitt – aye and J. Mockeridge – aye. Motion approved.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to adopt amendment to the Water Supply System Ordinance #170. Roll call vote as follows: J. Bush – aye, J. Jackson – aye, T. Norris – aye, T. Casey – aye, A. Meeks – aye, M. Lovitt – aye and J. Mockeridge – aye. Motion approved.

Motioned by J. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks to adopt amendment to the Water Supply System Ordinance #111. Roll call vote as follows: J. Bush – aye, J. Jackson – aye, T. Norris – aye, T. Casey – aye, A. Meeks – aye, M. Lovitt – aye and J. Mockeridge – aye. Motion approved.

Clerk J. Lefere brought to the Council's attention that she discovered the Village has been charged by Granger for commercial recycling for an unknown number of years. The cost each year exceeds \$10,000.00. The Council is having Clerk J. Lefere contact Granger to see if they would be willing to pick up commercial recycling at no cost as they do for our residents. If that is not an option Clerk J. Lefere will contact our commercial recycling customers to see if they would like to continue recycling at their expense or if they would like to cancel.

Clerk J. Lefere also discovered when making the changes for the water and sewer rate increase effective 1/1/2018 that back in 2014 when rates increased the usage rate was not increased. Therefore, every resident has been receiving the first 1,000 gallons of water free for four years. This has been corrected to adhere to the Village Ordinance that reads \$1.90 per thousand gallons beginning with the first gallon used for water and \$1.82 per thousand gallons beginning with the first gallon used for sewer. Clerk J. Lefere stated that the amount not collected in usage charges was approximately \$24,000.00 per year for four years.

Council Comments:

T. Casey asked about the brown water issue on Homer Rd and in the Brigham subdivision. DPW Director and Clerk J. Lefere stated that they had not received any phone calls so are under the assumption that the water issue has been cleared up. He also asked DPW Director J. Blossom if him and his crew would be interested in comp time vs overtime when snow plowing. J. Blossom stated that he would ask his guys and get their thoughts on it.

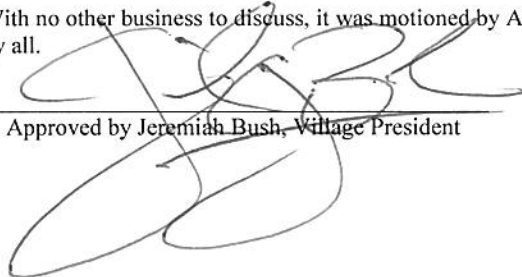
T. Norris complimented the DPW crew on how well they kept the streets cleared during the recent snowfall.

J. Bush discussed the MEDC Training that he and J. Mockeridge had recently attended and that the Village is ahead of other communities in attendance. He also discussed working on the Master Plan and that he has invited the Township to work together with the Village on a shared Master Plan. He is waiting for a confirmation. This is something that will be worked on during the Planning Commission meetings to avoid scheduling special meetings which are an additional cost.

J. Mockeridge asked Clerk J. Lefere to check with Village Attorney F. Lucas if we can have a non-resident on the Parks and Planning Commissions as we have been advertising for members with no response from Village residents. This practice was suggested at the MEDC training Mockeridge attended.

J. Bush discussed a phone call complaint and email correspondence from resident G. Miller in regards to Councilmember J. Mockeridge possibly accessing confidential Village information and disseminating it to the public. After completing a thorough investigation J. Bush determined the information was public information anyone can access through a simple internet search and the information was not accessed using Village resources as this information is password protected with Clerk J. Lefere and Treasurer C. Gibbs only able to access BS&A Software. As far as dissemination of the information Mockeridge denied he did it and it was a classic case of he said vs. he said. The incident supposedly occurred at G. Miller's wife's and J. Mockeridge's place of employment and Bush recommended the issue be addressed there. J. Bush noted as far as a Village issue there has been no wrong doing by Councilmember J. Mockeridge.

With no other business to discuss, it was motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by T. Norris, to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Motion approved by all.


Approved by Jeremiah Bush, Village President

2/27/18
Date