

**VILLAGE OF HOLLY
COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of December 15, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Holly was called to order by President Clemens at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Council Chambers located at 315 S. Broad Street, Holly, Michigan.

Councilmembers Present

Tom McKenney
Sandra Kleven
Pauline Kenner
Don Winglemire
William Kuyk
Reisa Hamilton
Peter Clemens

Staff Present

Marsha Powers
Susan Nassar
Rollie Gackstetter
Suzanne Perreault

Others Present

See attached sheet

Council Members Absent

Clemens opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Agenda Approval
2. Approval of the regular Council Minutes of 12/1/09 and special meeting of 12/8/09
3. Approval of Bills for Payment \$250,715.81
4. Routine Reports: None
5. Resolution 2009-62 Amending FY09-10 budget
6. Resolution 2009-63 Changing the Tri-Party program project
7. Resolution 2009-64 Requiring building permits for re-roofing, window replacement and residing

Changes:

- Add Fire Department Presentation before Public Comment

Motion Winglemire, second Kenner to accept the agenda as amended. Motion carried by a voice vote of seven ayes and no nays.

PRESENTATION: FIRE DEPARTMENT

Perreault presented a commemorative photo to the Fire Department for their Holiday Fire Truck display to the community during the Dickens Festival and Kleven gave them a music box.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeff Miller of 318 E. Sherman:

- Village is facing serious financial problems
- Furloughs should not have been rejected by the Council
- Council needs to make some tough decisions and make the cuts necessary to make the Village solvent

- Need to represent all 6,000 in the Village, not just a few

Barb Rice of 317 Crescent Ave.:

- Village employee
- Read a letter that gave suggestions to complete union negotiations and balance the budget

Lisa Clark of 602 S. Broad:

- Spoke in support of the DDA and the DDA Director position
- Main Street will allow a part-time Director if necessary

Janet Leslie of 460 Otter Run:

- Speaking on behalf of the Holly Area Economic Task Force. Supports DDA, made a lot of progress and improvements in the Village
- Has the ability to improve the tax base
- Do not postpone hiring a new Director

Bob Hoffman, local building owner:

- Times are tough but not a time to retreat
- Holly needs a DDA Director to compete with other local towns who have DDA Directors and other people out soliciting businesses

Gwen Walters:

- Village employee and Union steward
- Read a letter that gave suggestions to complete union negotiations and balance the budget

Larry Lilly of 110 Clarence St:

- Would like the Village to be a general law

- Cuts are serious, cutting jobs hurts the whole community, understands the Union
- Should focus on saving costs and don't duplicate services

Jeff Miller of 318 E. Sherman:

- 1982 Village residents voted yes on a Charter that made us a home rule Village. According to state law, the Village will never be allowed to go back to general rule and cannot be dis-incorporated

Chief Gackstetter, Village Police Chief:

- PD has historically been the most difficult bargaining unit in the Village
- Same bargaining team that is now working with the Teamsters accomplished a wage freeze, insurance changes and 52 language changes in only 5 meetings
- For the Teamsters to try and conduct negotiations during the Public Comment time is unwise for both parties

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) **Charter Amendments** (*next available election August 2010*)
 - Remained tabled
- b) **FY09-10 budget discussions**
 - Everyone is making concessions
 - Kenner suggested management take a 4.5% cut across the board, and employees take a 2.5% cut
 - Hamilton agreed with Kenner saying a 2.7% cut for everyone, minus the \$16,331 from Parks would balance the budget

Powers comments:

- Savings and cost of insurance plans for Police and Administrative employees have a \$1,500/person \$3,000/family deductible paid by 3rd a party administration

Council comments:

- Kuyk noted that by reducing hours, people can easily start working more if the economy improves
- A pay cut would accomplish the same thing but is not as easily or as quickly changed
- The PD set a good example for others to follow, and the Teamsters need a reality check. There are no other jobs out there
- Labor negotiations should not be done in public meeting, but the Union lists contained some good suggestions
- Few expenditures mentioned would affect the General Fund
- Need to be looking ahead several years when working on the upcoming budget. Rough calculations show there will be \$300,000 less in revenues next year

Mike Gould of 926 Running Brook Dr.

- Heard on the radio that revenues will drop 11%
- In the interest of both parties to get this settled as fast as possible to avoid cutting both jobs and services to get the budget balanced

Council comments:

- If the contract was settled, the Jan. meeting would not be necessary

- Perhaps negotiations could resume before Jan 29 with a different union rep and mediator

Kevin Durgan of 3195 Quick Rd:

- Barrett is an advisor only
- Union can talk without him being present. Perhaps Council can sit in on the negotiations?

Council comments:

- Labor negotiations are an Executive function and legally the Council cannot negotiate
- Administrative duties are to be done by staff who we hire for their experience
- The union contract states there can be no discussions without the business rep being present

Bob Hoffman:

- Village needs to cut costs immediately
- Can't imagine a bargaining unit objecting when they will have the same benefits, no one will lose their job and it will save \$90,000 in this budget year

Jeff Miller:

- Charter states individual council members will not interfere in day-to-day affairs of the Village but the Village is in a perilous situation and it's doubtful anyone would object to a Council Member helping negotiate a contract

Council comments:

- McKenney had expected to see a list of cuts. Is not prepared to vote on anything with the current information

- Clemens said things need to move ahead, and soon
- Should not negotiate in a public meeting

Motion McKenney, second Hamilton to have the Village manager proceed with the pending insurance change for the Teamsters bargaining unit beginning in January 2010. A roll call vote was as follows:

Voting for: Kleven, Kenner, Winglemire, Kuyk, Hamilton, McKenney, Clemens

Voting against: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Motion McKenney, second Kenner to invite the bargaining unit, in advance of the scheduled January meeting, to meet with Powers and Clemens for a negotiating session.

- Union members should take this suggestion back to their rep and see if this is agreeable
- If the union is negotiating in full faith, they will not file an unfair labor suit

A roll call vote was as follows:

Voting for: Kenner, Winglemire, Kuyk, Hamilton, McKenney, Kleven, Clemens

Voting against: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

Council comments:

- The DDA previously passed a resolution asking that they stay in place. They do economically contribute to the community.

- Salaries can't be cut unless union negotiations are reopened
- A 4-day work week would save on heating/cooling and electrical and water costs, a 10 hour day would allow residents who work late to come into the office
- All suggestions should be brought forward, and have an ala carte list

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Appoint Council members as Sencog delegate and alternate

- Kenner and Hamilton volunteered to be the delegate and alternate

Motion McKenney, second Winglemire to appoint Kenner and Hamilton as the Sencog delegate and alternate. Motion carried by a voice vote of seven ayes and no nays.

b) Authorize Public Works Committee to meet on Ordinance language for the process of water/sewer final billings for accounts and unbilled accounts

- Final billings are often unpaid. Need to review procedures
- Unpaid balance often stays on the books until it goes on the tax roll the following July, communities do an estimate at the time. Some turn the water off and only turn it back on once the final bill is paid
- Ordinance does not address this issue other than to say it can go on the taxes

Motion Clemens, second Kleven to authorize Public Works to meet on Ordinance language for the process of water/sewer final billings for accounts and unbilled accounts. Motion carried by a voice vote of seven ayes and no nays.

REPORTS:

Village Manager:

- Suzanne has come a long way since she joined the staff as the DDA Director and will be missed
- Last payment was made on the police department renovations
- Sold the 1978 Fire Dept. tanker truck
- Received \$2,100 in rebates on the new HVAC system
- Taco Bell will meet with the PC to ask about an extension on their site plan
- Sending out letters to remind businesses about sidewalk snow removal
- Figura said he cannot look into the work rules unless instructed to do so by a vote of the Council
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays on behalf of herself and the staff

Attorney:

- Was not present

Clerk – Treasurer:

- Jeff Wren was working on specs for the new home, and spent time visited some of the Oak Park NSP homes
- Looking for gaps in the water billings

Council & Staff Comments:

- An additional refuse container can be leased for \$36 a year, an extra one may not be needed if people recycled
- People who fail to comply with the cart instructions may not have their trash picked up in the future
- Community is looking much neater
- Kuyk wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their service
- McKenney appreciated those who showed up and spoke at the meeting
- Clemens wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and save New Year

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further to discuss, Clemens adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Peter Clemens, Village President

Susan Nassar, Clerk-Treasurer

Sheri McGee, Transcriber