

Village of Martin
Regular Meeting
July 13, 2020

The Martin Village Council met for its regular meeting on July 13, 2020 at the Martin Village Office, 1609 North Main Street, Martin, Michigan.

Call to Order and Pledge to Flag: President Brinkhuis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was recited.

Roll Call: Members present: Brinkhuis, Rambadt, Doezema, Kelsey, Hunt, Dykstra, Flower, Deputy Clerk Brinkhuis. Absent: None

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Member Rambadt and supported by Member Flower to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 8, 2020, as presented. Motion carried.

Recognition of Visitors: Visitors present were: Rick Cain, County Commissioner and Jeff Brinkhuis, resident. President Brinkhuis asked each visitor to state their purpose for attending and to discuss any issues they had for the Council to consider. Both will wait until later in the agenda.

Approval of Agenda: Member Doezema presented the agenda. Motion made by Member Rambadt and supported by Member Dykstra to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Communications: Clerk Doezema reviewed the following received correspondence:

1. J.C. Wheeler Library newsletter

Financial Items:

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Member Doezema gave the report, reporting that all bills were paid and taxes are coming in. Motion made by Member Flower and supported by Member Doezema to approve the report for June 2020 as submitted. Motion carried.
2. **Payment of Bills:** The bills were reviewed by Deputy Clerk Brinkhuis. Motion made by Member Doezema and supported by Member Hunt to pay the bills and any forthcoming utility bills. Motion carried.

Department Updates/Reports:

- 1. Public Safety:** Member Rambadt reported that there are still some adjustments being made on the speed signs. Residents comments have been positive, saying that they have seen people slowing down as a result of the signs.
- 2. Public Works:** Member Hunt had no report. Member Doezema discussed a property where the weeds and poison ivy are coming through the fence and over the sidewalk. She will send a letter, informing them that they are not in compliance with the ordinance and that they must trim.
- 3. Streets:** Member Hunt had no report.
- 4. Sewer/Water:** Member Flower reported that the annual water quality report has been sent to customers, EGLE, and the county. The September Sewer meeting is still scheduled although the June meeting was cancelled. Member Flower discussed the resolution to increase sewer rates, as prescribed by the USDA and necessary before we get the loan and work on the lift stations starts. Resolution 2020-7-3 raises sewer RTS to \$12.60 (from \$12.23) and the sewer only flat rate fee to \$54.60 (from \$52.50). The commodity charge will increase from \$8.75 per thousand gallons to \$9.10 per thousand gallons. This rate increase is necessary to match or slightly exceed the increase from Plainwell and to ensure there is enough revenue to pay for the lift station project loan. Motion by Member Flower, and supported by Member Doezema, to accept the rate increase and adopt Resolution 2020-7-3. Roll call vote: Ayes – Brinkhuis, Rambadt, Kelsey, Dykstra, Flower, Hunt, Doezema. Nays – None. Absent – None. Resolution declared adopted. Resident Jeff Brinkhuis and Deputy Clerk Brinkhuis discussed their desire to leave the Village water system and hook up to a private well. President Brinkhuis abstained from voting and from the discussion. Member Doezema explained that for billing they would still be paying RTS for both sewer and water, and the flat rate fee for sewer, which actually makes their bill higher. As well, they will continue to pay the assessment for both services. They understood and would still like to disconnect. Motion by member Flower, supported by Member Kelsey, to allow the residents to disconnect from the water system. Motion carried.
- 5. Finance:** No report.
- 6. Ordinance and Policy:** No report.
- 7. Civic Affairs:** No report.
- 8. Five Year Planning:** No report.
- 9. County Commissioner:** County Commissioner Rick Cain discussed problems with the county resulting from the COVID pandemic. He reported that Governor Whitmer has offered some grants to help make up for budget shortfalls. Cain also reported that some

areas are looking at new rules to allow for quad and 4-wheelers on streets. Many areas have already rejected such proposals. Member Rambadt asked about the new entrance and Sally Port for the jail and whether the funding of it would be affected by recent events. Cain said the money has been saved and put aside for decades so the projects will move forward.

Old Business: River to River Trail – Member Doezema reminded the Council that last month they received a document proposing the creation of a trail commission to manage the creation of the bike trail. At this time, the group needs municipalities to opt-in to being a part of the commission and to assign delegates or representatives. Member Doezema offered to be the elected representative and that resident Denise Dykstra would like to also be a representative. Motion by Member Dykstra, supported by Member Doezema, for Martin to join the trail commission with Denise Dykstra and Darcy Doezema as the village representatives. Motion carried.

New Business:

Recent Community Deaths: The following names were submitted: Barbara Townsend, Dr. Janis Pone, Tracie Holden, Robert DeJong, Dennis Snyder

Adjournment: Motion made by Member Doezema and supported by Member Flower to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Darcy Doezema, Clerk