

**DEXTER VILLAGE COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, April 12, 2004**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Seta in the Dexter Area Senior Center, located at 7720 Dexter-Ann Arbor Street in Dexter, Michigan.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Present: J. Carson, P. Cousins, S. Keough, J. Semifero, T. Walters, and Vacant  
Absent: None

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Moved Cousins, support Semifero to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2004 regular meeting.

Ayes: Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Walters, Carson, Seta

Nays: none

Motion carries

**D. PRE-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION:**

*Pre-arranged participation will be limited to those who notify the Village office before 5:00 p.m. Tuesday of the week preceding the meeting, stating name, intent and time requirements. (10-minute limit per participant)*

Mill Creek Drive-Dexter business and Research Park regarding vacating Village property to accommodate business expansion.

For Detroit Door, Mile Wilt, for Rand Construction, Andy Klein.

Several concerned residents addressed this issue.

David Fall of 439 Cambridge Drive concerns include noise issues and trash.

Jennifer Rasmussen of 455 Preston Circle regarding how this proposal is a win/win for all concerned.

Jean Jankowski of 431 Cambridge Drive proposes a fence to control trash and unpleasant views.

Mary Bolg of 435 Cambridge Drive is concerned about a possible third shift, safety, and unpleasant views.

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Moved Carson, support Keough to approve the agenda as presented with removal of item 9 new business.

Ayes: Keough, Semifero, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Seta.

Nays: None

Motion Carries

**F. PUBLIC HEARINGS & SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS**

*Action on each public hearing or show cause hearing will be taken immediately following the close of the hearing.*

1. Public Hearing-Groundwater Ordinance-See item K-1  
-Utility Ordinance-See item-K-2
2. Show Cause Hearing- none

**G. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION:**

*Non-arranged participation will include those in the audience not listed on the agenda that wish to speak. At the Village President's discretion, members of the audience may be called on to speak at any time. Those addressing the Council will state their name, and address. This section is limited to 5-minutes per participant or 10-minutes for group representatives*

**H. COMMUNICATIONS – Spoken & Written:**

1. Scott Stivers letter, not dated, included in Packet
2. Comcast letter, March 5, 2004, included in Packet.

**I. REPORTS:**

1. Department Report
  1. Utility Department-Ed Lobdell, Test on fourth well will be run April 23, 2004.
  2. Zoning office-Allison Menard, sign issue update
2. Board and Commission Reports
  1. Western-Washtenaw Area Value Express (WAVE) formerly CATS  
Jim Carson-WAVE representative
  2. Dexter Downtown Development Authority  
Dan O'Haver-DDA Chairman
3. Subcommittee Reports-none
4. Village Manager Report  
Ms. Eureste highlighted areas of her written report as included in the packet.

**J. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Bills & Payroll will be a standing item under consent agenda. Discussion of the Budget and Financial matters will be covered under the Presidents Report as a standing item. Items under consent agenda are considered routine and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, and the item will be removed from Consent and added to the regular agenda at the end of New Business.*

1. Consideration of: Bills & Payroll in the amount of: \$ 97,061.20
2. Consideration of: Request from Dexter American Legion Post 557 to conduct

Poppy sales and host the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Parade.

Moved Semifero, support Carson to accept Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Semifero, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Keough, Seta

Nays: none

Motion carries

**K. OLD BUSINESS- Consideration and Discussion of:**

1. Groundwater Protection Ordinance-Regulation of Private Wells 3<sup>rd</sup> reading

Moved Semifero, support Keough for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

Ayes: Walter, Carson, Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Seta.

Nays: none

2. Amendment to the Village's Utility Ordinance-Chapter 58 of the Codified Ordinance 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

Moved Cousins, support Semifero for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

Ayes: Carson, Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Walters, Seta

Nays: None

Motion carries

**L. NEW BUSINESS- Consideration and Discussion of:**

1. Recommendation from the Department of Public Works to accept the bid from Wise International in the amount of \$55,483.11 for the new cab and from Monroe Equipment in the amount of \$35,597.00 for equipment.

Moved Cousins, support Carson to accept said bids.

Ayes: Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Walters, Carson, Seta.

Nays: None

Motion carries

2. An amendment to the January 28, 2002 contract between the Village of Dexter and Waste Management of MI.,Inc.

Moved Semifero, support Carson to approve the contract.

Ayes: Keough, Semifero, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Seta.

Nays: None

Motion carries

3. Proposed process for filling vacancies on the Village Council.

Moved Semifero, support Keough to adopt the proposed process excluding items 5 and 6.

Ayes: Semifero, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Keough, Seta.

Nays: None

Motion carries

4. Proposed amendment to Village Council rules.

Moved Carson, support Walters to adopt the amendment to Council rules.

- Ayes: Walters, Carson, Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Seta.  
Nays: none  
Motion carries
5. Resolution of Organizational matters.  
Moved Keough, support Carson to appoint Semifero as President Pro Tem.  
Ayes: Carson, Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Walters, Seta.  
Nays: none  
Motion carries
- Moved Walters, support Carson to adopt the resolution for the purpose of establishing organizational matters for the Village of Dexter as presented.  
Ayes: Cousins, Keough, Semifero, Walters, Carson, Seta.  
Nays: None  
Motion carries
6. Proposed improvements to the Dexter Business Research Park detention basin.  
Moved Cousins, support Keough to accept this proposal with the understanding that LDFA funds will cover the expense.  
Ayes: Keough, Semifero, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Seta.  
Nays: None  
Motion carries
7. Proposal for Engineering Services-Water System Reliability study.  
Moved Keough, support Semifero to postpone entering into an agreement with OHM until the scope of the study is acceptable.  
Ayes: Semifero, Walters, Carson, Keough, Seta.  
Nays: Cousins  
Motion carries
8. Proposed Amendment to the Agreement of Public Safety Services between Dexter Community Schools and the Village of Dexter,  
Moved Keough, support Carson to accept the Amendment to the Agreement for Public Safety Services.  
Ayes: Walters, Carson, Cousins, Keough, Seta.  
Nays: Semifero  
Motion carries
9. Recommendation from PC to approve the Special Use Application for the Foggy Bottom Coffee House.  
Moved Cousins, support Walters to approve the Special Use Permit as recommended by the Planning Commission.  
Ayes: Carson, Cousins, Keough, Walters, Seta.  
Nays: None  
Now absent: Semifero  
Motion carries
10. Proposed changes recommended by the PC on Article 22-Administration

and Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance.

Moved Carson, support Cousins to adopt the proposed changes as per the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Ayes: Keough, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Seta.

Now Absent: Semifero

Motion carries

11. Proposal for office Re-organization.

Moved Carson, support Walters to approve the reorganization plan as submitted by Ms. Eureste.

Ayes: Keough, Walters, Carson, Cousins, Seta

Nays: None

Now absent: Semifero

Motion carries

**M. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION**

*Same as item F. Those addressing the Council will state their name, and address. This section is limited to 5-minutes per participant or 10-minutes for group representatives.*

Rosemary Boyle of 3215 Boulder Court expresses her opinions regarding the proposed sign ordinance. A copy of her notes will be available in the next packet.

Ray Tell of 3539 Hudson expressed his apology to Mrs. Boyle of 3215 Boulder Court. He also relates that zoning board members represent all people in the Village of Dexter. Mr. Tell also inquired about the method by which a person might be considered for the open council seat.

**N. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Reminder: Next meeting April 26<sup>th</sup> will be held at Copeland in the old School Board meeting room.

Suggestion: Joint meeting of the DDA, Planning Commission, and Village Council.

**O. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved Cousins, support Carson to adjourn at 9:32p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Boyle, Village Clerk

Filling Approved: April 26, 2004

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
April 12, 2004

Last week, Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Dave & I attended the planning commission meeting.

We showed up at the meeting to follow-up on the past discussion of the sign-ordinance issue, primarily the sandwich board signs.

As discussed at the council meeting approx 1 month ago, we had informed council that we had a petition in our shop

We collected approx. 70 or so signatures from customers in favor of the merchants being able to advertise on these type of signs. While we didn't ask customers to sign the petition, most saw the petition lying on the counter and inquired. All of the people that asked about this issue were surprised that such a issue was even up for discussion in the village. Many people remarked "How Ridiculous, doesn't the village want customers to know what's going on here?"

Sandwich board signs are used to attract potential customers into the shops. It is for advertising use and in no way are the signs intrusive to the eye. Our customers love to see what our daily specials are and it is a way to advertise. With the price of running ads in the local papers, it is hard to afford this in anyone's budget especially with the economy today.

We also visited the merchants. We discussed the issue of the new sign ordinance and the affect that disallowing sandwich board signs would mean to their business. All merchants that we spoke with are in favor of including sandwich board type signs in the new ordinance.

Along with the petition that was placed in our cookie shop were letters that were presented to the planning commission meeting last week and also the village council this evening. The letters were signed by 18 merchants in Dexter in favor of sandwich board signs. All merchants feel the same We need every advantage possible to keep our doors open in Dexter. The economy has been hard on all of us and if a sign helps bring customers into Dexter with their pocketbooks open, then that's great news for the merchants and everyone living in Dexter.

One of our planning commission members, Mr. Ray Tell, asked how long the petition was running in our shop. I told him approximately 4 weeks. His comment was extremely rude and offensive to me. He stated that as far as he could see by the petition, about 25 to 30 were non-Dexter residents and as far as he was concerned, those names should be discounted. I stated that he should be concerned.

Anyone who walks through our door, Dexter resident or not, I don't care if they are from Timbuktu, they are all important in our shop. If they spend money at the cookie store, then it's possible that they are frequenting other businesses as well. Ask any merchant in town if out of

town guests are most welcome in their places of business.

I ask council to approach Mr. Tell on this subject, and I would expect an immediate apology for his behavior and treatment at a meeting open to the public. He acted as if he were an attorney and would only accept a one word answer. He asked and I told him. He claimed I was out of order!

Also, Mr. Cousins approached the podium to speak on this issue.

He introduced himself as the newly-elected trustee to the village council. He talked about how the signs are wrong and an intrusion. He went as far as telling the planning commission that anyone who places these signs in front of their establishments are breaking the law. In other words, we're all criminals in this village.

Mr. Cousins was not at this meeting as a resident of this village but as a newly elected trustee. He stated that had this issue been placed before him, he would have voted no!!! He also went on to say that when this vote comes back to council he will vote NO against sandwich board signs.

I ask you Council, isn't this considered influencing the planning commission on how to vote this issue? Think about it! He's already told the planning commission his view on the whole subject. I'm opposed and every merchant should be appalled by his behavior.

I ask Mr. Cousins, did you ever have a sign in front of your business?

The planning commission continues to work on this issue. They have decided to form a sub-committee to review what should be done. One of their answers is to allow a sign but make it so uncomfortable, with the permit fees and only allowing the sign to be placed out certain times of the year. They only want signs out 8 or 9 months of the year. I guess that this means that businesses aren't open all year.

We are striving to keep our doors open, can't you please put this whole discussion to rest and allow the merchants to succeed? Otherwise, disallowing simple things such as these signs could mean failure to the merchants and the village of Dexter.

Rosemary Boyle  
3215 Boulder Ct.  
Dexter, MI 48130  
(734) 424-0836  
(734) 424-3002 # at shop  
The Cookie Momster