

**VILLAGE OF GOODRICH  
VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
April 11, 2005**

Call to order by President Chlebnik at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chlebnik, Clothier, McAbee, Baker, Keehn and interested citizens

Absent: none

Approval of Agenda:

**Motion** to Approve.

Moved by Keehn, seconded by Baker. Carried

Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 14, 2005

**Motion** to approve.

Moved by Baker, seconded by Keehn. Carried

Treasurer's Report for the month of March

**Motion** to accept report dated March 31, 2005..

Moved McAbee, seconded by Clothier. Carried

Bills and Transfer

**Motion** to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$117,799.08 for the month of March.

Moved by Keehn, seconded by McAbee. Carried

Public Inquiry: President Chlebnik explained the rules for public comment, See attachment #1

Tamara Carden, 12362 Coolidge Road

See attachment #2 (Letter on file with hard copy minutes)

Carol Christensen, 9458 Fair Oaks Drive

*I'm just going to comment on Sue Arnold's article because I liked it. She had a lot of good things to say. I just wrote it down like she did because I can read better. Sue Arnold stated I certainly would help with the cost of the village and she understands the concept well. We use it, it is only right to pay for it, which when scattered over the many Atlas Township residents would be close to nothing in cost. She had a scare near her home with a mobile home park and knows first hand what the majority of the village residents are going through right now. What I see are the majority of Atlas Township residents wanting all and not wanting to give up anything. I also see the low taxpaying residents of the village thinking the same way. It's not me, what do I care. Atlas Township residents would you put our charter to vote if you were in our shoes? Knowing you were getting nothing and everybody else were getting everything and things would go on the same? It would be a lose / lose for us and a win / win for you. The sewers would be in the total control of the village and Atlas Township would have no control whatsoever. Isn't this what the real disruption is all about? Do you think the very high taxpayers of the village care if we have a million dollar building or control of sewers when we cannot sell our homes and they are going down*

*in value? Sue Arnold I felt for you then and village residents with seven thousand and beyond taxes I feel for you now. If Atlas township residents agree to help us with our debt than maybe we can have a vote for a new charter. The only way that the educated residents of my village would go for it is if both were voting on in agreement and at the same time. All or nothing. This way our whole community would win. Thank you.*

Susan Taylor, 10352 Hegel Road

*I pay taxes to the village and I pay taxes to Atlas Township and I would I guess make a comment that I have seen the village council talk about what they want for the future. I have not seen anything from the atlas township board saying anything to what's going to happen and I guess I just suppose that publicly the only time I have seen anything is just last week when there was a sarcastic remark about being some type of lawyer to understand the financial end of the village. I am not a Philadelphia lawyer, the stuff that was in the paper this weekend, yes I need a fine tooth comb to try and figure it out because I don't have a finance degree but I think as a lay person if you ask the questions of the village they would be more than happy to answer those questions. Nobody has to feel sorry for me for the taxes that I pay, if the Headley act, which is a state issue were to be overturned, I don't know that much about government either, or changed and my taxes were to go up because I have lived in my house for more than fifteen years, obviously my taxes would go up and I would still want to live where I live. It has been a hard few months seeing everybody go through what they have been going through. I don't want to stand up here and preach but it's tearing the village apart, it's tearing Atlas Township apart and that's not what I want to see and if the Vacate the Village group has some information that the regular village, that we don't understand, I would like to see facts. I don't know if they presented any of those facts to the council or the interim council, I would like to see those published and I know that there are a lot of other village residents that would like to see that too. Maybe we aren't seeing what they are seeing. I don't know. I give them a lot of credit, but I also see how fast they move and how quickly they move on things and that's exactly what they are blaming the last council of doing also and I think that if we are to do this due diligence we need to find the facts and if that means that we wait six months and then we decide that we are going to dissolve the village I will stand behind that, there is always a silver lining. OK There is always a silver lining and these questions that they have raised have definitely put questions in my mind on where my taxes are going. We all need to be more aware of that. We need to be aware of that from the day that we step in to the community. Not three years after. And we need to be aware of that and teach other people. I hope that the interim council can do something to enlighten us to where some of the money is going. I don't have any specific questions and I know council always likes specific questions, I guess I was just here to make those few statements and I appreciate your hard work for the ninety days up until May third and I do hope more people will ask question because the margin of recall was not that much. And I hope that those people, who did not come out to vote, vote.*

Norman Bass, 10150 Hawthorn Ridge Rd.

*I am a candidate for the dissolution of the village. I want to explain something OK? The first thing I want to explain is, we are for putting the dissolution on the ballot. We are after that if we are voted in we want to go ahead and put the facts on the table and put the plusses and minuses, but our ultimate goal is putting all major decisions back into the taxpayer's hands. We are so much against a million dollar building going up and say you got forty percent of the charter says it's okay. I'm sorry, I basically think it's about a change for the community I think there's been some good old folks here for years and years and we are on the side of putting the facts before the tax payers and letting them make the major decisions I understand the small decisions can not all be made on a day to day basis but the*

*major decisions need to be put back in the taxpayers hands and that's what we're standing for. Thank you.*

Pete Morey, 8006 Pontiac St.

*Norm, I'm a good old boy. (Mr. Morey is asked to speak to the board.)*

*My name is Ralph Morey, Ralph is my legal name, but everybody calls me Pete. The good old boys. The building? I was against that too, Norm, until I found out what we was paying in rent, for storing stuff, what we paid on our light bill. You wouldn't have built a house if you wouldn't have had any to put in the bank would you? Answer me that. (Mr. Morey is asked to address the council) Anyway the village decided instead of paying rent, high light bills and heat bills, to put the money into building. They were paying rent to Brown's. They had three storage building up there to store stuff, they had the road grader stored up there because somebody kept breaking the windows out, it got expensive, you go put a window in, two hundred bucks, two hundred bucks, two hundred bucks, so that's the reason they went up there. And another reason they went up there was all the violations that we had down by the creek. We couldn't build any more down there, we were in violation from the State, the DNR, we couldn't store salt down there. You've got to have a place to put it. And another thing is that building can't be sold until it's rezoned because it's on a municipal building, there's none in the township like it, it's thirty feet tall, it has to be specially rezoned to be sold, so it can't be sold tomorrow. I think they did right. At first I thought they did wrong. Maybe it wasn't in the right spot but it's there. They're putting money in it and you people own it. And when you start talking about turning that sewer away, Norm, you live on that side of town. You're going to get that thousand people. Those thousand lot's are out there. All they need are sewers. It's going. Once you turn it loose you cannot stop it, friend. You talk to any one from the sewers and they can tell you the state is on our side, we know we're going to court for a year and a half, we're going to pay for them to go to court, but we're going to win. That's the truth. Talk to the people from the trailer park, you will have one if you turn the sewer loose. Because the capacity is unlimited, we've got 650 taps that could be going anywhere at any time, and your school taxes are going to go up, big time. A thousand units, you get eight units per acre, you talk to your township people, they'll tell you they've had to rezone one hundred and fifty three acres, three quarters of a mile from where you people live. And MDOT has not completed that out there. Where are they going to go? You may have that in your back yard without your village. They haven't made that decision yet, but you need your village here to fight it because I'm going to tell you the township ain't going to fight for forty five people.*

Norman Bass, 10150 Hawthorn Ridge Rd.

*I want to just address his comment. (If it is addressed to the council.) I just want to indicate to the council whatever, ok, for what we're standing for is these facts and figures that he was bringing up, ok, we want to get the facts and figures to the taxpayers and let them make the decision not just because the council finds that paying the rent was too high or they had problems with all the, the problem was this building was not brought before the taxpayers for a major decision and that's a stand that we're taking. And whether they want to dissolution or not, ok, we want to do it through the taxpayers and for the taxpayers. (Mr. Clothier asks Mr. Bass to comment on a letter.) I sent a letter to be on the finance committee, ok, and I was under the understanding it had to be brought before a vote, but I read in the paper that I have been chosen for the finance committee. I'm curious am I on or am I not? And who made that decision in the paper? I don't know where it came from. (All persons sending letters by the 21<sup>st</sup> would be placed on the committee per council decision at last council meeting. Letters were received from Norm Bass and Carol Christensen) OK, that answers my question. Thank you.*

Sue Arnold, No Address given

*I am going to speak on the charter amendment, but I would like to clarify just one thing because people seem to be confused about it. I worked very hard on the fight against rezoning of the property near our house and I met with every state and county and drain official, people who approve mobile park development, and I was told by the Michigan State Department, not the DNR, the DEQ that grants the sewer permits, for mobile home park sewer treatment, they said to me, listen, if you've got sewer within a mile of your property we will do everything we can to force the village to allow that mobile home park to use your sewer, the village sewer. Luckily because the village is a separate entity and the village is involved in an insurance contract, the insurer won't let the village, to my knowledge, what I was told by the Fenton people, the insurer will not let the village sell its sewer taps to other people. Now that's what I was told by the supervisor at Fenton because they are also a part of the same thing, so I just wanted to clarify that. The only thing that stops a mobile home park from being able to tie into the sewer system is that right now it's under the ownership of the village and the village is a separate entity from the township and I think that you know, I think that from all the investigation that I did, I am very clear about that.*

Phil Jackson, 7191 Hawthorne Circle

*I really had no intentions of getting up here today but just couldn't resist after some of the comments that were made. (Please address the council and not the audience.) When we talked earlier, in some of the comments that were made, it was talked about how we had not done a lot of research and I'm saying vacate the village and addressing as myself. We did all kinds of research, and we made that information public to all the voters and those voters took that information and went on and voted to remove the council. Now there are some things that have been said that are not true. First of all I think we're trying to now use trailer parks as scare tactics and it's ridiculous. Atlas Township has zoning laws that you cannot build in Atlas Township on less than one acre of land. People are interrupting me. (Will the audience please be quiet?) Now the second comment that was made which I really think is kind of ludicrous was how the, it was costing so much money in rent. For the council, for the village to be located right over here which is a very nice building by the way and so we built a new building, by the time the building was built, I did a little math and the break even point is about 66 years, now that's without interest .now by the way all over this county everywhere you look people are talking about reviving down town areas and one thing they are certainly not doing is moving there offices out of the village, out of the downtown areas. What we did here it didn't make any sense. But it's done, that's a fact. Aaaaa I also wanted to say we talked about a few of the things about not bringing the information forward, Paul Amman addressed along time ago, six months ago, a complete document was printed on how everything would be addressed with the township. We're just bringing back dead horses all over again. So let's quit and just go forward from this point.*

Sandra Jenkins, 7263 Hawthorne Circle

*I really would just like to remind everybody here that we are all neighbors and friends and that our job as peaceful adults is to support each other whether we actually agree on every issue here or not. I don't agree with some of the things that have been said but someone else won't agree with things that I think and that's our privilege as free citizens so I would call for everybody here to cool it a little bit. Let's get our heads together and let's think and not (?) direction.*

Becky Cummings, 9442 Green Road

*I pay Atlas Township taxes. What I would like you all to know is you people are up here fighting about your Village, has any one of you stopped to think about your Atlas Township taxes? They just took away your 911 paramedic calls. Your all worried about you Village taxes, are any of you worried about your kids lives, your lives or anything else when you have a heart attack? You people are going after the wrong board.*

George Mansour,

*I live in Clarkston but I own 75 acres here in the village limits. I've been developing properties since the early '80s with my family. We develop properties in the Genesee county area, Oakland County area, Livingston County area, even the Washtenaw county area. I think that the council that were on here before, what they were leaders in trying control development, do smart growth and they were proactive to try to revitalize the village. Unfortunately whether we agree or disagree with what happened with spending of the money with the new facility, regardless, you, the council had at hand and at heart the benefit of the residents of the village. Don't blame it on taxes because you can't sell. I have several properties, we have developed more than one hundred million dollars in real estate since I have been developing. It's not because they can't sell because of taxes. It's slow in many other areas that we're developing in and it's not because of taxes. If they need to see what they're taxes are going towards then they're more than welcome. It's an open forum every time you come with your council meeting it's an open door policy at the village you can take a look at where your taxes are going to. I feel like they are going in the wrong direction with trying to remove the council and trying to dissolve the village. If I have to end up going to the Township to try to develop my property and they stop me from developing, not just me, I'm a land owner but I'm also a developer. Several other land owners here in the village, I'm sure will be taking a law suit to the township. Who's going to cover this? Who's going to cover the legal fees and the settlement? Because believe me there will be several million dollars spent to compensate me for not being able to develop my property and many other people in the area for not being able to develop their property, as it is right now. The taxpayers here in the village and in the township are going to end up having to pay for the lawsuits that are being brought forward. The people on the village here are here for a purpose whether you agree or disagree with it, you have a council here that looks at everything as much as possible to try to make a decision It can't always be up to the property owners it has to be up to the village. We elect them. We want them in a position to look after our best interests. They do the best job that they can. I respect they're position. I do not want the position. I was in a position like that, there is too much grief and aggravation for it. I respect your positions, I wish you well and again, they need to understand that if it gets turned over to the township and it stops the growth they will be paying, the same ones who wanted to dissolve the charter, will be the same ones who have to pay for the lawsuits and the ramifications in the future.*

Diane Tankersly, 10224 Mill Pointe Drive

*I live in the area so my concern is that if you bought a million dollar building, what are we doing in this library? Why aren't we in the building holding the meeting? If your trying to save money, why did I receive a letter saying that the signs that the opponents are putting out are so many feet from the road, they have to be back so many feet, can't be by vacant buildings, but yet, all the other signs real estate signs, business owned signs, are all right on the curb, If you're gonna be fair you should be fair to the other side that's trying to do they're campaign, (?) no different than the business's that are out in the area. There signs should be the same or don't waste your stamps, your letters and your time to send me something that does isn't effective for everybody in the village. Don't just point fingers at the other side.*

*And I 'm not saying that one side is wrong and the other side is right. It just upsets me that you pointed fingers to one red and white sign but you didn't point them to everybody else in the township. I came from another little town and I came here because I thought this was a nice little town. I walk here and it's a filthy down town. You have rented houses with shrubs that are laying all over the place. You are not up with your renters. You've got vacant buildings. It's dirty. You need to have people on the board, if you're not far from work, walk down that street, instead of driving, and see what it's like. I mean it's not a clean little town and a lot of these renter houses, they should have landlords take care of them.*

**Dennis Gauthier, 8390 Greenridge Drive**

*I have lived in Goodrich for almost six years. When I moved into Goodrich six years ago I moved up from Indiana and when I lived in Indiana I only had to pay one tax and that was to the City of Anderson Indiana. When I moved up here, moved into my house, I researched the taxes my mortgage went up four hundred dollars a month because the taxes for the village were not included when I closed on my house. I guess it's my fault, I should have known that there was two taxes that I was supposed to pay but I know of at least four houses in my subdivision that were on the market for over a year and didn't sell so I don't think it's a true statement that people won't move up here because the taxes are not a problem. The taxes are a problem, they are not equitable, and I would be in favor of keeping the village if the taxes were fair and equitable and right now they're not fair and equitable.*

**Scott Pierson, 10137 Erie Street**

*It's goofy; I didn't want to come up here. I was trying to be nice to everyone and I'm going to leave as soon as I say what I have to say This village is the village and I'm one of them good old boys that you're all talking about, but I don't care (Please direct comment to the board) When all these people that are trying to vacate my town that my Grandpa brought here, this is my grandpa's, we're talking about six generations. When you guys moved into this town, we provided you a park; we provided you a place to play. My question is why (Please direct comment to the board) why so I see people, people that don't own my land, why are they on my land?*

**Donna Beers, 7241 Hawthorne Circle**

*Whether we vacate the village or don't vacate the village the issue is, it's one mile long, one mile square, the Township of Goodrich, the Village of Goodrich, The taxes do not reflect for that size of space whether atlas takes us up or whether we stay in the village the issue is the taxes are out of line.*

**Carol Christensen, 9458 Fair Oaks Drive**

*I just wanted to say that the best thing that ever happened are when the old council decided to have a finance committee because I think that there is investigating that needs to be done and it's not just the village, actually probably less with the village I have been told by three different real estate brokers not from this village area at all from flint all over that it is our taxes that's the only thing why these houses aren't selling I even had one real estate broker tell me that somebody needs to investigate it because something is being calculated wrong in our taxes because nobody's are as high as ours. I've taken it on and I'm not going to say anything right now because I don't have all the proof but I'm in the finance committee and it will come out. And there's a lot of funny stuff going on in Goodrich, not just the village, Atlas Township.*

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police Report – Genesee County Sheriff Department, PAB No report
2. Committee Reports: Finance committee will set a meeting date after regular meeting
3. Community Development, No report
4. Administrative, Contract approved at previous council meeting for cutting of tree has been completed. Recreation plan has been approved from the DNR so we can go forward and work on grants or work on the park, Composting for village residents starts April 20. June through August, Seventh day Adventists will be walking through the village. Bridge inspections are scheduled for next week. There will be an ad placed to notify residents of the lowering of the water level for a short period of time. Recent low levels were due to tree jam at the dam site.
5. Municipal Complex, no report
6. Sidewalks, Letters went out to homeowners Bike path project starts on April 18.
7. Code Enforcement, Property owner with brush piles, south of town has been notified that they must be removed by April 20<sup>th</sup>.
8. Resolution 2005-08 Charter Amendment  
**Motion:** To pass resolution 2005-08  
Motion by Keehn, seconded by Clothier  
Motion opens to discussion:  
Henry Wartella, Susan Arnold, Keith Walworth, Suzanne Taylor, Dennis Gauthier, Chris Doll, Angie Adamec, Jim Ellis, Diane Fredericks and Gary Velascas were allowed to comment from the audience.  
Roll Call Vote, McAbee, Nay; Clothier, Aye; Keehn, Aye; Baker, Aye; Chlebnik, Aye.  
Motion carried.

( A brief recess is taken while most of audience departs room.)

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Division Application Lee Steinhoff, Parcel 92-22-502-048, 8074 Seneca, Goodrich, MI  
**Motion** to approve with the following conditions: 1. The applicant must provide the required submittal information. Drainage improvements must comply with the Village of Goodrich and Genesee County Water and Waste guidelines. Approval of the requested land division does not guarantee the ability to obtain access to the public sanitary sewer system.  
Motion by Baker, seconded by Keehn. Carried
2. Household hazardous waste collections Day, Saturday, May, 14.
3. Extension of the Great Lakes Waste Contract  
**Motion** to extend contract for one more year.  
Motion by Keehn, seconded by Baker. Carried
4. Resolution 2005-12, Law Day  
**Motion** to pass.  
Motion by Keehn, seconded by McAbee. Carried
5. Resolution 2005-13, National Crimes Victim Week

**Motion** to pass.

Motion by Keehn, seconded by McAbee. Carried

**Motion** to adjourn

Motion by Baker, seconded by Keehn. Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Schierup, Clerk

Approved 5/9/2005