

The Crosswell City Council met in Regular Session January 7, 2014, at the William Aitkin Memorial Library, 111 N. Howard Ave., Crosswell, MI. City Clerk Suzanne Dobson called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Present: Michael McMillan, Mary Willis, John. Geiger, Rob Butler, Cindy Fockler
Administration: City Administrator Sam Moore, City Clerk Suzanne Dobson
Guests: Jeffersonian Reporter Margaret Whitmer, EMS Director Jeff Dawson, Larry Pabst, Pat Dawson, Jamie Hill, Bill Parsell, Lyle Bialk, other EMS Volunteers

I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

II. **SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL:**

City Clerk Suzanne Dobson swore in Michael McMillan, Rob Butler and Lucinda (Cindy) Fockler.

III. **ELECTION OF MAYOR & MAYOR PRO-TEM:**

City Clerk announces the nominations are open for Mayor.
Mary Willis nominates Michael McMillan.

Moved by Willis and seconded by Butler to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Michael McMillan for Mayor.

Vote by show of hands – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion Carried.

City Clerk announces the nominations are open for Mayor Pro-tem.
McMillan nominates Mary Willis for Mayor Pro-tem.

Moved by McMillan and seconded by Butler to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Mary Willis for Mayor Pro-tem.

Vote by show of hands – 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion Carried.

City Clerk swears in Michael McMillan as Mayor and Mary Willis as Mayor Pro-tem.

City Clerk turns the meeting over to Mayor McMillan.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from the Regular Council Meeting of December 16, 2013
Willis moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013 as presented, second by Fockler. Motion Carried.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

VI. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Add under New Business item a. Boards & Commission – Board of Review.

Butler moved to approve the agenda as amended, second by Willis. Motion Carried.

VII. **N. HOWARD PROJECT:**

- a. Change Order #3: Change Order #3 addition of water main fittings, removal of unknown pipe, work changes as direct, locating sanitary sewer leads, adjusting catch basin grades and bituminous hand patching. Change order is for increase of \$64,598.61.

Willis moved to approve Change Order No. 3 for the amount of \$64,598.61, second by Butler.

Roll Call Vote: Willis, yes; Butler, yes; Geiger, yes; Fockler, yes; McMillan, yes. 5 yeas, 0 nays.
Motion Carried.

- b. T.R. Pieprzak - Pay Request #5: Payment request by T.R. Pieprzak for the amount of \$385,126.33.

Butler moved to approve Pay Request #5 from T.R. Pieprzak for the amount of \$385,126.33, second by Willis.

Roll Call Vote: Butler, yes; Willis, yes; Geiger, yes; Fockler, yes; McMillan, yes. 5 yeas, 0 nays.
Motion Carried.

VIII. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. Liquor Commission – Transfer of Liquor License: Transfer of Liquor License RAJ Holdings to Rob-Dar Inc., this is for the Thumbs Up Bar.

Butler moved to receive and file. Motion Carried.

IX. **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

- Fiber Optics – two companies are looking to pass thru town.

X. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT:**

- A. McMillan: Happy New Year; Nice job on snow
- B. Willis: Welcome Cindy to the Council
- C. Geiger: No report
- D. Fockler: Water and electric at the top of Riverbend Park is there plans for developing that area? Ans: City Administrator – D.D.A. and Parks & Rec have been reviewing that area.
- E. Butler: No report

XI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

XII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Boards & Commissions:
 1. Parks & Recreation:
 2. Board of Review:

Willis moved to appoint Ken Western, Maura McNichol, Linda Kettlewell, Jane McLane, Anna

Lee Degel to the Parks & Recreation for a 3 year term and Bonnie Miller to the Board of Review with term ending January 2016, second by Fockler. Motion Carried.

b. 2014 Poverty Exemption Resolution:

Geiger moved to adopt Resolution #01-07-2014 the guidelines for the 2014 poverty exemption for the City of Croswell, second by Butler.

Roll Call Vote: Geiger, yes; Butler, yes; Willis, yes; Fockler, yes; McMillan, yes. 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #01-07-2014
RESOLUTION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Croswell City Council; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of Croswell of Sanilac County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative

guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.

- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2014 Assessments

Number of Persons Residing in the Principal Residence

Poverty Guidelines Annual allowable income

Size of Family/ Household	Maximum Total Income
1	11,490
2	15,510
3	19,530
4	23,550
5	27,570
6	31,590
7	35,610
8	39,630
Additional Person	4,020

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the

Assessor and Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by City Council Member Geiger and supported by City Council Member Butler.

CERTIFICATION

I, SUZANNE DOBSON, City Clerk of Croswell, do hereby certify that Resolution #01-07-2014 was adopted by the City of Croswell at a regular meeting of the City of Croswell Council held at the Wm. Aitkin Memorial Library on the 7th day of January 2014.

Vote on this Resolution, 5 members being present was as follows:

AYES: Geiger, Butler, Willis, Fockler, McMillan

NAYS: _____

Suzanne M. Dobson, CMC
City Clerk

Michael McMillan, Mayor

- c. Sanilac County Data Base Agreement: Willis moved to approve the 2014 Agreement for Data Base Management/Printing Services with Sanilac County Equalization Department, second by Fockler.

Roll Call Vote: Willis, yes; Fockler, yes; Butler, yes; Geiger, yes; McMillan, yes. 5 yeas, 0 nays.
Motion Carried.

- d. Jeff Dawson: EMS Director Jeff Dawson reviewed his years of service with the City of Croswell. Jeff Dawson asked for his EMS Director contract to be reviewed and renewed.

Council Member Willis – this is a financial decision – the pension funding level has dropped considerably due to the retirements and not filling the positions, and now the employees have to contribute. City needs a person in that position that is paying pension.

Mayor McMillan – Transition – City is not looking at doing away with the EMS Service.

Audience members wanted to make statements.

Willis moved to allow open forum for EMS Director discussion, second by Butler. Motion Carried.

Larry Pabst – how do you improve on the highest service in the State?

Lyle Bialk – Dollars coming in by Medicaid and Medicare are controlled.

Bill Parsell, Jamie Hill and Pat Dawson – gave praises of the job Jeff Dawson does, hard work, dedicated to his job. Request that Council review the EMS Director contract with Jeff Dawson and to renew the contract.

Council Member Geiger would like committee to review EMS Director position.

No action taken.

XIII. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pat Dawson – Would like council to consider council member Geiger suggestion to turn around and review the contract with Jeff Dawson.

XIV. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Willis moved to approve the Accounts Payable for the amount of \$244,061.48 and the bills to be paid, second by Fockler. Motion Carried.

XV. **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business Mayor McMillan adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Suzanne Dobson, CMC
Crosswell City Clerk

Michael McMillan, Mayor