

**The Village of Lexington Common Council held a Special Council Meeting Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Lexington Community Center 6964 Huron Avenue, Lexington, MI 48450**

**Called to order** at 6:00 P.M. By Village President Elva Mills

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by President Elva Mills

**Roll call taken by** Clerk, Beth Grohman.

**Present:** Babisz, Dickinson, Kaatz, Klaas, Beardslee, Mills, Thibault

**Absent:** None

**Others present:** Beth Grohman and 52 citizens

**Public comment:**

Bob Balan -5203 Main Street – Commented Chief Jarosz has Village’s best interest at heart. Ed is a man of high integrity and loyalty. States it would be in the Village’s best interest to keep Jarosz in the position he is now as Police Chief.

Tootie Reckinger – 5203 Main Street – Commented in support of Chief Jarosz, Jarosz had done a lot for the Village when he was a Village Manager. The Village Council needs to start working together instead of for themselves.

Pastor Barry Sheldon – 7165 Huron -Commented in support of Chief Jarosz and Village Manager Jon Kosht. Does not agree with the fancy innuendos made in the news article in the Times Herald about Chief Ed Jarosz and Jon Kosht. Ed Jarosz protects the public, I am honored to stand by his side.

Sheila Klaas – 5408 Union – Commented in support of Chief Jarosz. Moved here 18 years ago due to the safe community. Our Police Chief is a large asset to this community, he does countless hours of volunteering and helps when he is need. He is a large part of the community we moved here for. What I witness here are personal attacks, I completely support our Police Chief and Village Manager. I hope our leaders can start respecting each other, and our Police Chief.

Betty Harvey –5111 Lakeshore Commented in support of Chief Jarosz. Worked with Ed in the fine arts fair where he attended and diffused situations promptly. We could not have been happier with his confidence and his professionalism, it was a pleasure to work with Ed Jarosz. Please reconsider.

Mike Kettlewell –7318 Huron- Commented in support of Chief Jarosz. Experiences with Jarosz have always been positive and professional. Jarosz is not selfish or self-servicing, he is always helping someone in need. Jarosz has common sense and always has the best interest of the Village. We need to focus on the positive and make Lexington a great place to work and live. Please reconsider.

Larry Tyson – 5203 Main Street -Commented in support of Chief Jarosz and Jon Kosht. Believes that Jarosz is a great cop and believes much of this is slander. The Mobile Home Park has never looked better since Jarosz has become involved. Council also needs to think twice about the witch hunt of Jon Kosht. Apologizes for personal disagreements in the past. Kosht is a very qualified person to serve as Village Manager due to extensive business experience. Recommends council not terminate Kosht’s contract at this time.

Jean Simon – 5203 Main -Commented in support of Chief Jarosz. Runs bike parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Jarosz helped make it a great experience that the kids will never forget. Marty Meloche – 5203 Main Street- Commented in support of Chief Jarosz and Village Manager Jon Kosht. States the two people being questioned deserve all the support that we can give them. I got involved with the trailer park 4 years ago, we have been able to accomplish a lot in part of Jon Kosht and Jarosz, thanks to their contributions to making the park a better place to live. Jon and Ed have contributed to a positive culture in this Village.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

- 1. Council Procedures- Keith Zick, Village Attorney** – Explained the policy and procedures and following these policies. Village Council are policy makers and Personnel issues should go through the Village Manager first, then Village President and on to the Personnel Committee. Also discussed the Open Meetings Act and the quick adjournment of the Village President at a previous meeting. Zick stated it should have a motion and vote, but is not illegal. Zick also pointed out that the Village Manager is in charge of hiring employees.
- 2. Police Officer Hiring Policy and Procedures** – Kaatz presented a draft of hiring procedures from the MML, and screening employees. Included was items regarding Ethics, Hostile Work Environment, Sexual Harassment, and Employees creating liability issues for the Village. Follow up by the Personnel Committee.
- 3. Hostile Work Environment/Sexual Harassment** – Discussed under item 2
- 4. Employees Creating Liability Issues for the Village** - Discussed under item 2
- 5. Police Chief Contract** – Discussion on the incident on March 13, 2016 when a part time officer was placed on duty before actual hire and before a background check was done, and before being sworn in. This issue was taken to the Village Manager, and was addressed by Jon Kosht and Village President Elva Mills. Kaatz felt this was putting the Village at a liability risk. Zick, Village Attorney stated once he the officer started to work he was hired and it was not a liability risk. Zick also stated that any complaints should be given to the Village Manager in writing. If it is not followed up on, take it to the Village President. Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Klaas dismiss the actions against Chief Jarosz.  
Ayes- 4  
Nays- 3  
Motion carried
- 6. Village Manager Contract** – Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Klaas, to send to the Personnel Committee for further discussion.  
Roll call  
Ayes -Dickinson, Klaas, Babisz, Kaatz, Beardslee, Thibault, Mills  
Nays- None  
Motion carried

**Public Comment**

Michael Fulton-5727 Union- Publicly apologize for being incorrect. Everyone needs to learn and abide by the policies.

Larry Tyson – 5203 Main -If it is not written as policy it does not exist.

Motion by Dickinson, seconded by Beardslee, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Beth Grohman, Village Clerk

APPROVED