

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 8, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Village office at 232 W. Main St. Mayor, Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Cindy Goubeaux
Ron Simon
Greg Borchers
John Grogean
Larry Platfoot
Mary Jo High

Non-members present: Mark Shappie, Mary Jo Voisard, Adam Barga, Sheriff John Lenhart, Justin Spillers, Steve Rose, Adam Barga, and Tom Hemmelgarn.

- The minutes of the October 11, 2017 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Borchers, and seconded by Simon to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Platfoot and seconded by Goubeaux to approve the bills as presented. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by High and seconded by Borchers to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All ye, motion passed.

Police

Council reviewed the police report for the previous month. Sheriff Lenhart said that the report showed vandalism occurring on October 27, when pumpkins were thrown at mailboxes, with damage occurring. The responsible parties have not been identified, but it is believed that they were from out of town. The Sheriff also said that, in light of the recent shooting in the church in Texas, the Village might want to consider whether concealed carry should be allowed in the Church or businesses. He said that the Archdiocese had recently decided that guns would be permitted if the parish priest signed an agreement. Only authorized persons would be allowed to carry a gun. He said that presently, six churches in the county have this agreement.

Sheriff Lenhart said that they have not raised the rate they charge the Village for police protection during the three years of the agreement, but due to higher costs, there would have to be an increase for 2018. He will bring information next month. He also said that the Village is free to hire their own officer if that is preferred.

Bridge Project/New Industrial Park/Liberty Street Repaving

Shappie reported that the Liberty Street repaving has been completed. The project was not completed by the October 31 deadline, and the Village could charge a penalty of \$450 per day for the 7 days delay. Council decided that since the delay did not cause hardship, and the work was satisfactory, they would not charge the penalty. Shappie reported that the bridge project is nearly complete. It will be paved on November 9, and guardrails will be installed next week.

Well Field Project

Shappie reported that the well project is currently being rebid.

Playground

Shappie said that we have now received the contract for the playground grant of \$143,260. He said that now Miracle has advised him that they require 50% of the payment when the order is placed. Previously, they had said that they just required a purchase order. He will contact them again to see if the payment can be made in the Spring. The expected installation date is early April, 2018. High said that the committee had discussed installing several benches, which could be memorial benches. It was suggested that picnic tables would also be a possibility. Shappie said that the installation will be over a 4 day period, and since it was quoted as "self install" they will need 30 to 40 volunteers each day. Miracle will provide 4 supervisors.

Council discussed what will be done with the old equipment. Shappie said he has had 2 potential buyers contact him. Council said they want to look at the old equipment before deciding what could stay, and what should be sold.

Income Tax

Justin Spillers said he has been contacted by Angie Brown of City of Saint Marys Tax Department regarding correspondence with Larry Elsner, CPA, representing Francis Manufacturing and Superior Aluminum. Larry Elsner is questioning whether the deduction they take for contributions to their profit sharing is taxable under Village Income tax. In previous years, St. Marys has not allowed the deduction. The amount in question is approximately \$3,000 per year. Angie Brown has asked Elsner to provide documentation that it is not a qualified plan in order to allow the deduction. Council decided to let St Marys Tax Department continue to handle this.

The City of Saint Marys has decided to go to a flat rate for income tax collection. The contract for the Village for 2018-2020 would be a flat rate of 3.25% on gross collections. The total fee is similar to the fee charged to the Village under the previous fee schedule.

Grogean moved and Simon seconded the motion to approve the contract with the City of Saint Marys for Income Tax Collection from January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020 for a fee of 3.25%. All yea, motion passed.

OPWC 2018 Project

Shappie said that he was in contact with Bob Guey and Matt Hoying, and both said that the Village is the number one project for OPWC for 2018, and should receive the grant. Shappie said, with this in mind, the Village should be speaking the property owners regarding easements and right of way.

Paulus Subdivision

Shappie presented a map of the proposed layout of the subdivision. He said it is necessary to run a 24" tile from 126 S. Liberty to the proposed Paulus detention basin. This was part of the proposed OPWC project, but that project cannot be bid until July 1, 2018, and Paulus wants to have the street put in by June 1, 2018. Council agreed to install the tile.

Council discussed the location of the sewer line in the subdivision. Paulus planned to run the line through the center of the subdivision, which would be the shortest route to serve the homes. Council felt it would be better to run the line along Liberty Street, which would give better gravity, and would be easier to extend to the South. Council decided that Shappie should meet with Paulus, and tell him that the Village would pay the difference in the cost to relocate the line. This plan would be contingent upon the agreement of the property owners of adjacent properties.

Shappie said that Paulus had asked if 2 lots at the entrance of the subdivision could be zoned as R2 to allow the possibility of condominiums. He said he has had some interest in condos, and they would be high end buildings. Council did not object, but would want to be sure that they were nice.

Industrial Drive

Shappie said that Council had agreed to provide utilities to the Luthman building on Industrial Drive. He has now gotten a quote of \$11,629.26 from Dayton Power and Light to install 3 phase electric service to 113 Industrial Drive. Platfoot moved, and High seconded the motion to enter into the contract with DP&L for the above amount. All yea, motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Steve Rose, Russia School Superintendent, gave a report on the results of the 2016-2017 School District Report Card results. He said that Russia School ranked 7th of all Ohio Schools. He said that he is not a fan of the testing because of the way the results can be skewed, but since Russia School always does well we should celebrate the success.

Mayor Daugherty reported that Adam Barga has agreed to be appointed as Council Member for the 2018-2021 term.

Shappie reported that the Park Board is currently working on Phase I of the Baseball Field Project. Barga said that they have received donations adequate to complete this phase of the project, so a cash advance will not be required from the Village.

Shappie said that he thinks the Village should promote the new Industrial Park. He has contacted Miller Valentine, a company who specializes in constructing spec. buildings, and attracting businesses. Council agreed that the park should be promoted, and signage should be installed. Platfoot said that he heard Crown is looking for a new location, since their building in Celina was destroyed by the recent tornado. Shappie said he would check it out.

Simon gave an update on the proposed Veterans Park on the Schwartz property. He said that they have ordered five monuments, one for each branch of the service. He said that the Wellness Foundation would be collecting the funds, and asked if the project would require competitive bidding, since it will be over \$50,000. Spillers said that if the Wellness Foundation raised the funds, and paid the bills, no competitive bidding would be necessary. Funds already collected by the Village will be remitted to the Wellness Foundation.

Daugherty said that he contacted Todd Francis to see if the Russia Inn was going to be renovated and reopened. Francis replied that the project will be moving forward.

Daugherty said that he and Shappie had met with Jon Heffner about the sale of the property at 201 W. Main St. Heffner said that the building was being purchased by Brian, Brent and Steven Schulze, and the closing would be on November 21. Heffner said that the Building will still be used by the Gathering Place, with possible other uses by the Church or School. He asked if the Village would consider a lease of the building. Daugherty said he told him that the possibility of a lease had been discussed by Council earlier, and had not been approved, but if the Schulzes would like to discuss other possibilities, they should arrange a meeting.

Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Ron Simon _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____