The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at the Village Maintenance Building, Russia, Ohio. Mayor, Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mary Jo High
John Grogean
Brandon Simon
Jake Borchers
Adam Barga (attended via Zoom call)

Absent: Cindy Goubeaux

Non-members present: Mark Shappie, Mary Jo Voisard, Craig Albers, Matt Hoying of Choice One Engineering, and Sheriff John Lenhart.

- The minutes of the August 12, 2020 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Grogean, and seconded by Barga to approve the meeting minutes. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Grogean and seconded by High to approve the bills as presented. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by Borchers to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yea, motion passed.

Police

The Shelby County Sheriff’s deputy reviewed the police report for the previous month. There was a case of credit card fraud resulting in $4,000 to $5,000 in fraudulent charges, but the bank covered the losses. He said things seem to be going well with the return to school. He said each school has a plan in place if there are outbreaks, and Russia School had gone to remote learning for the high school for several weeks for that reason.

Council members asked that there be extra surveillance of the area where the speed limit has been reduced to 25. Sheriff Lenhart said they would bring the speed trailer back, and will watch the area carefully.

Daugherty said that Goubeaux asked that he bring up the possibility of having the 25 mph speed limit start at 143 E Main rather than at Russia Road, as there are a number of young children in that area. Council discussed, but felt that the rationale for lowering the speed limit was because there are curves and business entrances in the area between Russia Rd. and Liberty St. The area east of that has good visibility, and they felt that 35 mph was the appropriate speed limit for that area. Council said that the area should be monitored to enforce the speed limit.

Finance

Voisard said that it is necessary to transfer funds from the Enterprise Improvement fund to the Water fund to meet debt payment and other upcoming expenses for 2020. Grogean moved, and High seconded the motion to transfer $100,000 from the Enterprise Improvement Fund to the Water Fund. All yea, motion passed.

Voisard said that although the Village has no voted millage, we are allotted 1.2 mills from the 10 mills that is divided between local entities. The estimated revenue for 2020 is $20,375. Borchers moved, and Simon seconded the motion to approve RESOLUTION 20-09-09 ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. All yea, motion passed.
Park Tournaments
Shappie said that the Park Board decided to charge $75 per diamond per week-end for outside teams asking to hold tournaments at the park. The Cannons Softball League had asked to hold a tournament in mid October, but he doesn’t think that will be allowed under the current State guidelines.

OPWC 2020
Hoying said that contracts for the project have been signed, and that Kinnison Excavating plans to start the project within the next week or two, with completion to be in November.

OPWC 2021
Hoying said that the OSIP Grant was not approved for this year. He said he had talked to the Shelby County Engineer about the amount he thought would be approved through OPWC. He was told that the Grants were primarily for repair and renovation rather than projects for new installations. He felt that when we applied 2 years ago, for the Commerce Drive extension, the requested amount was too high for a new project causing it to be denied. He recommended requesting no more than $200,000. The engineer’s estimate for the total project is $401,387. Hoying suggested requesting OPWC funding of $200,000, Village share of $80,278, and Loan of $121,109. OPWC Loans are 20 years at no interest, and can be paid off at any time. He also said that the Dayton Development Coalition is recommending that the Village reapply for the OSIP Grant if the OPWC Grant is approved. The DDC said that it would improve our chances for funding. Shappie said that CEMLEB is 99% sure that they will be building, depending on what the Village offers as incentive. They are considering one building now, and another in the Spring. High moved and Borchers seconded the Resolution to prepare and submit an application to participate in OPWC State Programs and execute the contracts required. All yea, motion passed.

Shappie said that CEMLEB wants to know what incentives will be offered for the first building. Council had previously decided that there would be no charge for the land for the first building in the new Industrial Park. In addition, council decided to grant 10 year 100% tax abatement, and a $20,000 PIRG Grant. There will be stipulations that the building be esthetically pleasing. There will also be a stipulation that the building is started within 6 months.

Easement
Albers said that Francis Manufacturing has requested an easement to install and maintain a storm sewer line running between Superior Aluminum and L&J Cable to the detention basin. Simon moved and Grogean seconded the motion to approve the easement. All yea, motion passed.

Garage Sales
The Wellness Committee Garage sales that are usually held in May were postponed until September 24-26th due to Covid concerns. Daugherty said he has guidelines issued by the Health Department for garage sales, but this is not a Village sponsored event. He said he would share the guidelines with the Wellness Committee if they wished. He said he would not put his stamp of approval on it, but since it is a Wellness Committee function, he hopes that mandated guidelines are followed. He said he doesn’t want the Village name associated with it since the Village is not the sponsor.

Water Billing Software and New Meters
Shappie said that about 10% of the Village meters are not reading, and there are no spare meters. He said that he recommends purchasing 30 new meters and new software at a cost of $13,000. The defective meters would then be sent for refurbishing, and could then be used if other meters later need to be replaced. The meters and software are eleven years old, and have an estimated life of 10-15 years. High moved and Grogean seconded the motion to purchase the meters and software. All yea, motion passed.

Zoning
Shappie said that there was a Planning Commission meeting recently to discuss rezoning of 2 lots on the corner of Liberty and Thomas Streets from R1 to R2 for condos. He said the Planning Commission denied the request, because changing zoning to R2 could result in apartments rather than condos. Grogean said he felt that there is a need for nice high end condos in the Village, but there would have to be strict guidelines in place before this could be approved. Shappie said he will check into the possibility of having the zoning remain R1, with a conditional use clause for condos. It was decided that there will be a public hearing at 6:45 on October 14th prior to the regular council meeting.
**Cares Act**
Shappie said that it is necessary to apply for Cares Act Funding before October 15. These Funds can be used for any Covid 19 related expenses. The Village has already spent some on touchless hand sanitizers at the Park, as well as other protective supplies. He said that since the Village has had a serious outbreak, he would like to get a laptop computer for use at home and a second ipad so that he and other employees do not have to share the device. He said he felt that air hand driers in the Park restrooms are a good idea. Council agreed to apply for the funds.

**Miscellaneous**
Shappie said that the Village has an EPA inspection coming up, and they will recommend that the Village grind the branches at the sewage plant. Grogean moved and Simon seconded the motion to approve the expenditure of approximately $3,500. All yea, motion passed.

Shappie said that the cost of the concrete work for the Gazebo is approximately $9,100. The construction will be done by Kevin Drees, Village employees, and volunteers. The Ed Borchers Family has agreed to pay for materials for the Gazebo, with the Village doing the construction.

Shappie said that the RCJAA has several planned projects that they will be financing in the park. They include:
- Dugout Fence change
- Enlarging South batting cage
- Improvements to North Announcers Booth (in conjunction with Matt Zircher’s family)

Shappie said that it is again time to do crack sealing of pavement in the Village. During the past few years, Village employees have purchased the sealer and applied it themselves at a cost savings. The cost last year was under $4,000. Simon moved and Barga seconded the motion to do the project. All yea, motion passed.

Council set Trick or Treat for Thursday, October 29th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Council approved the purchase of 10 new trees for the park up to a total of $2,000. Several trees recently planted have died, and some were damaged in the recent storm.

Shappie said there will be two more annexations coming up: Paulus subdivision Phase II and O’Reilly Machine Tool for an expansion. Council agreed that they would cover the cost of these 2 annexations, as they would be adding jobs and new homes.

Simon said that he is noticing more uneven sidewalks throughout the Village and asked when these would be fixed. Shappie said the project is on the list, and hopes to get to it soon. The bad areas will be identified, and the homeowner will have the option of fixing it themselves, or having the Village do the repair and bill the homeowner.

Simon moved and Borchers seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. All yea, motion passed.

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Council President, Mary Jo High

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard