

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

June 14, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. Mayor, Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Scott Armstrong
Alex Seger
Cindy Goubeaux
Mary Jo High
Absent: Brandon Simon
Jake Borchers

Non-members present: Adam Barga, Mary Jo Voisard, Craig Albers of FGKS Law, Kyle Siegrist and Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering, and Sheriff's Jim Frye.

- The minutes of the May 10, 2023 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by High, and seconded by Seger to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Armstrong to approve the bills as presented. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Seger and seconded by Armstrong to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All ye, motion passed.

Finance

Voisard reported that income tax received through the month of May, 2023 was slightly lower than May of 2022, but the year to date receipts are still 58% higher than at the same point in 2022.

She said interest received during the month of March was over \$12,000. The current Star Ohio annualized rate is 5.33%.

Voisard said that council has to decide whether to increase the street lighting assessment, so the change can be certified to the Auditor. After reviewing the income and receipts for the last 5 years, council decided that the amount currently assessed is adequate. Annual assessment rates are:

Residential	\$ 75.94 (with auditor's fees)
Commercial	\$125.74 (with auditor's fees)
Industrial	\$167.66 (with auditor's fees)
Church	\$845.34 (with auditor's fees)

A motion to suspend the rules was made by High and seconded by Goubeaux. All ye, motion passed. Seger moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-11 setting the annual lighting assessment on all lots located within the Village of Russia, Ohio and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All ye, motion passed.

Police

The sheriff Jim Frye reviewed the activity report for the last month. The activity was routine.

Buschur's Market

Barga said that the Buschur family has asked if they could have the sign on the market. Council had no objection.

CEMLEB-OSIP Grant

Voisard said that a zoom meeting was held on May 15. It is necessary for Ed Luthman to request a change in the grantee from Cemleb Properties to Luthman Concrete. He has been notified that he needs to do this.

OPWC 2023

Kyle Siegrist reviewed the bids that were received on June 1, 2023 for the West Main Street Reconstruction Project. The engineer's estimate was \$428,218. Bids were received as follows:

Brumbaugh Construction, Arcanum \$391,808

Finfrock Construction, Covington \$399,000

Goubeaux moved and Armstrong seconded moved to approve the notice of award to Brumbaugh Construction. All yeas, motion passed.

Water Waste water grant

Barga reported that he had applied for a Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Program Grant, that had been denied. He said he was recently contacted saying that there are now additional funds, and asking if he wanted the Village to be considered. He told them that he did want to apply again. The original project amount was \$247,500, with the original match to be \$24,750, and the grant to be \$222,750.

The project has been revised, and with inflation and additional upgrades the new amounts are:

New estimate \$489,500

New match \$266,750

Grant Request \$222,750

Siegrist said there is some chance that the project would be fully funded, but if not, Voisard said that the Enterprise Improvement fund has money that can be transferred to the Sewer Fund to fully cover the Village match.

OPWC 2024

Council previously discussed applying for Waste Water upgrade for the 2024 OPWC grant. Siegrist said that if the above grant is approved, council will have to think about a different project to for in 2024. A decision should be made in July or August. Simon said he feels that additional parking by the tennis courts should be a priority.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad

Siegrist reviewed renderings of the pavilion and splash pad. Council agreed that the placement of each was good. Siegrist said there will still be possible changes in the colors on the building, and some fine points. It was reported that \$976,000 has been awarded and or pledged toward this project to date. The total estimated cost of the project is \$1.1 million.

Simon said that construction on the splash pad could possibly begin this fall, with a 2 month completion. The pavilion would probably begin in early 2024. Siegrist said that a few trees need to be removed, but that can't be done until November due to requirements regarding protection of endangered bat species.

Zoning Code-wind turbines and solar panels

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Armstrong and seconded by Seger. All yeas, motion passed.

High moved and Goubeaux seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-12 Amending the official zoning regulations of the Village of Russia, Ohio, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yeas, motion passed.

Tile Replacement behind Borchers St.

Barga said that this will be done during dryer weather later this summer.

Commerce Drive Extension Phase 3

Barga said that he has talked to Dan Paulus, and he said that if the Village purchases the materials for water and sewer extensions, he could do the excavating for under \$50,000. It was decided to proceed with the project that way.

Daugherty asked whether Sturm has agreed to reseed and repair the north side of the detention pond to correct the drainage issue. Barga said that he has agreed to do it this fall. Siegrist said the maintenance bond doesn't expire until November 30, 2023, so it can be pulled if the job is not done to council's satisfaction.

EMS

As discussed at previous meetings, EMS charges paid to Versailles have risen dramatically over the past few years. The cost has increased from \$10,000 to \$35,000 between 2022 and 2023. Mike Busse, Versailles Village Administrator explained that costs have increased dramatically, and the Russia payments did not cover the cost of their services. In order to help offset this cost, it is necessary for the Village to propose a tax levy. Most surrounding

Villages already have EMS levies. A 1 mill levy would generate approximately \$21,794 based on the 2023 valuation.

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Armstrong and seconded by Goubeaux. All yea, motion passed.

Seger moved and Goubeaux seconded the motion to approve **Resolution No. 23-6-14A declaring it necessary to levy a tax for the Village of Russia Ambulance Service, Emergency Medical Service, or both, in excess of the ten-mill limitation and requesting the same to be an emergency. All yea, motion passed.**

This levy will be for 1 mill for a period of 5 years.

Recycle Ohio Grant

Barga said that he recently applied for an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Community and Litter Grant, and it has been approved.

The total budget is \$43,750 and would provide a Grant of \$35,000 with a Village match of \$8,750.

This would cover new recyclable cans, lids, and garbage bags for the year, signage to promote recycling, and a collection vehicle. Council approved moving forward to purchase the equipment.

Miscellaneous

Barga said that the Park Board has applied for a NatureWorks grant to complete additional walking paths around diamond 5, with lighting.

High moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve **Resolution No. 23-6-14 of Authorization to approve the filing of the application for financial assistance.** All yea, motion passed.

Barga said it is necessary to purchase 3 new fire hydrants (2 for Paulus subdivision, and 1 spare), at a cost of \$3,700 each. Council approved.

Daugherty said that a community member has asked about possible projects to make donations toward. Barga said that bleachers in the park need to be upgraded. The insurance company has cited safety issues.

High said she feels that there should be a paved path, or at least a sidewalk from the east end of town to Kelch Rd. She said there are constantly walkers or runners on the road, and it is a safety hazard.

Barga said that Julie Philipot has asked about pest control for the library. He will check companies and pricing. He said he is also checking pricing for Mosquito fogging several times a year.

Barga said that Fitness Doctor has requested a PIRG grant. He said he will email it to council members to consider for the next council meeting.

Barga said the American flags around town are faded, and he feels they should be replaced. Council approved.

Daugherty said it is time to treat ash trees again. He checked with private companies, and he said the Village can purchase the material and do it ourselves more economically. The Village will also provide the service to Village residents at the cost of the product, plus employee time to treat the trees.

Daugherty said that he has again noticed that coaches are not removing teams from the ball fields when there is lightning and thunder. He said that often coaches feel it is safe as long as they do not actually see lightening, but he wants everyone off the fields and under shelter if a storm is approaching and there is thunder. Armstrong said he agrees, and will bring it up at the next RCJAA meeting.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____