

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

July 12, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. Mayor, Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Non-members present: Adam Barga, Mary Jo Voisard, Craig Albers of FGKS Law, Matt Hoying and Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering, Scott and Andrea Borchers, and Sheriff Jim Frye.

- The minutes of the June 14, 2023 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by High, and seconded by Borchers to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by Seger to approve the bills as presented. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Seger to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All ye, motion passed.

Finance

Voisard reported that income tax received through the month of June continue to be higher than previous years. Receipts year to date are 55% higher than 2022.

She said interest received during the month of March was nearly \$12,000. The current Star Ohio annualized rate is 5.4%.

Voisard reported that there was a case of check fraud. A check for over \$16,000 was stolen somewhere in route to the vendor, and the payee was changed to a private individual. The check was electronically deposited to Chase Bank. Chase Bank later called and said that the check seemed suspicious. She said it had been stolen and altered, and they said they would not release the funds. She said she has filed a claim with U.S. Bank to have the funds returned to the Village account. Sheriff Frye said that there have been many cases like this in the area recently, and the postal service is investigating.

Police

The sheriff Jim Frye reviewed the activity report for the last month. The activity was routine. Barga asked if operators of golf carts had to have a driver's license. Sheriff Frye said that a driver's license is necessary to operate a golf cart in the Village.

Buschur's Market

Daugherty said that a private individual has offered to provide rent assistance if a market can be secured for the former Burchur's Market. Daugherty said he would contact possible tenants.

CEMLEB-OSIP Grant

Voisard said that another zoom meeting will be held with Jobs Ohio to try to finalize the OSIP Grant.

OPWC 2023

The contract agreement with Brumbaugh Construction for the West Main Street Project was signed, and work should begin soon.

Water Waste water grant

Hoying said that no decision has been received regarding this grant, but it a decision should be received later in July or early August.

OPWC 2024

Council previously discussed applying for Waste Water upgrade for the 2024 OPWC grant. Hoying 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 after the Waste Water grant is decided. Simon said he feels that additional parking by the tennis courts should be a priority.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad

Hoying said that the ODNR Grant for the Pavilion and Splash pad has now all been approved, and all agreements should be completed by October 1st. Since it is necessary to wait until November to remove trees due to ODNR regulations, work cannot move forward until after that. Hoying said they are also taking steps to meet the “Buy American, Build American” requirements.

Simon and Borchers discussed the possibility of additional funding and material donations.

Tile Replacement behind Borchers St.

Barga said that this will be done during dryer weather later this summer. He said that Dan Paulus is very busy, and asked if he could contact other contractors to be sure the project is completed this year. Council had no objection.

Commerce Drive Extension Phase 3

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. He said Sturm said he planned to plant the grass in September, and asked if it had to actually be up by September 30. Council agreed that as long as it is planted by that time, they would still have time to see if it is satisfactory by the time the maintenance bond expires on November 30, 2023.

EMS

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

Goubeaux moved and Simon seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 23-7-12 Declaring intent to proceed with election on the question of a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

The above levy will be for 1 mill for the period of 5 years which amounts to \$35 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value.

Farm Ground Lease

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

High moved and Seger seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-13 Authorizing the Village of Russia, Ohio, to enter into a lease agreement with Francis Farms, LLC involving the rental of 48 acres of farm ground, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Seger and seconded by Borchers.

High moved and Goubeaux seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-14 Adopting the updated countywide natural hazards mitigation plan prepared by the Shelby County Emergency Management Agency, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Solid Waste Management Plan

High moved and Simon seconded the motion to adopt **Resolution 23-7-12A the solid waste management plan for the Allen-Champaign-Hardin-Madison-Shelby-Union joint solid waste management district.** All yea, motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Barga said that he has applied for a Grant for a new generator for the water plant. If approved, it would fully cover the cost of a new generator, at approximately \$50,000.

Barga said that the Park Board has requested that the Park curfew be extended to 1 a.m. for the Alumni Tournament which will be held from August 11th to August 13. This would also extend the noise curfew to 1 a.m. on those evenings. Council approved. Daugherty said that the Park board should ask that noise be kept to a minimum after 11 p.m.

Barga said that he will be purchasing a new aluminum trailer with the Recycling grant funds. This will replace a wooden one that is very old. The cost is \$2,700 from Fullenkamp's Frenchtown Trailer.

Barga said that he feels it is necessary for the safety of employees to purchase a Hydrant Buddy and magnet. This is a tool to open hydrants and remove manholes that would make it much easier and prevent injuries. He said there are over 100 hydrants that need to be flushed twice a year. He showed videos of the tools. The cost for both is \$6,391. Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion to approve the purchase.

Daugherty said that there will be a total eclipse of the sun on April 8, and the center is around Minster. He said there will probably be a lot of people in the area to view it. He said he would like to purchase glasses for all residents of the village. He said that they are about 45 cents apiece, and an eclipse should not be viewed without the glasses to protect the eyes. He would like to purchase 1,000. Council had no objection.

Goubeaux asked whether we would be doing street sweeping this year. She said she feels that it is time to do it. Barga said he would get prices.

Daugherty said he is planning to get a pesticide license.

A discussion was held regarding advertising for a full time employee to replace Barney Francis, who will be retiring in June, 2024. It was decided that the position will be advertised on Indeed.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____