

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 9, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, July 9, 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
Scott Armstrong
Absent: Brandon Simon

Non-members present: Adam Barga, Mary Jo Voisard, Craig Albers of FGKS Law, Matt Hoying and Kyle Siegrist of Choice One Engineering, and Danny Schneible.

- The minutes of the July 12, 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 Borchers and seconded by Goubeaux to approve the bills as presented. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Armstrong 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 53.1% higher than 2022.

She said interest received during the month of March was \$12,513. The current Star Ohio annualized rate is 5.6%. Voisard reported that the case of the counterfeit check for \$16,000 has still not been rectified. An affidavit was filed on July 5, but US Bank said it will be up to 90 days for the funds to be returned.

Police

The Sheriff's report consisted primarily of building checks and other routine activity.

CEMLEB-OSIP Grant

Voisard said that the OSIP grant still has not been received, as the owner of CEMLEB still has to verify additional information.

OPWC 2023

Matt Hoying said that the preconstruction meeting with Brumbaugh Construction for the West Main Street reconstruction was held on August 9th. He said that work is to begin on September 11, with the completion date to be on or about October 27, 2023. This would be in time for the driveways of the new condos to be poured after completion. Barga said they are asking for a quote to mill the grindings, and if the quote is reasonable, it would be nice to have the grindings for future town use. Hoying pointed out that the Grant would pay for 86% of the cost, so it would be a good time to stockpile them. That decision can be made at the September meeting.

Water Waste water grant

Hoying said that the Village did not receive funding from the Waste Water grant, but there are now additional funds available, so funding may still be received. It was decided to go ahead and apply for the Waste Water upgrade for OPWC 2024.

OPWC 2024

Hoying said that most of the 2024 OPWC funds will probably go to Township projects. He said the Village can still apply and hope to be awarded. Council decided to request \$400,000 for the project with a \$100,000 Village match.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad

Kyle Siegrist showed large posters with renderings of the Pavilion and splash pad. He said these can be displayed at the upcoming Alumni softball tournament, as well as the Russia Homecoming. Barga said he is still running tests to be sure the runoff from the splash pad has an acceptable chlorine level. He also said that he is also working with AES and Vectren on the electrical and gas service lines.

Tile Replacement behind Borchers St.

Barga said that Dan Paulus is not able to do the work for the tile replacement, and recommended MB Earthworks for the project. Barga had pricing from him, but no total project cost. Council approved hiring them for the trenching. The Village has already purchased the tile. Barga said he has had questions from some residents about replacing bushes or cost of moving temporary structures that are within the easement. Solicitor Albers said that if the items are in the easement it is the property owner's responsibility to cover any cost.

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

Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-15 to Amend the rules of the Village of Russia, Ohio relating to special or emergency meetings, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Albers explained that when the Village has to call a special or emergency meeting, notice has to be given to 24 hours in advance of the meeting. In the past, the Village notified the Sidney Daily News for publication. However, since the Sidney Daily News is now only published on Wednesday or Saturday, this method is no longer practical. Also, many residents are no longer subscribing to the Sidney Daily News for this reason. The Ordinance specifies that the Village will provide public notice of all special and emergency meetings at least 24 hours in advance by (1) posting the notice on the official Village website, (2) delivering notice to local media via email or facsimile transmission, and (3) sending the notice to all individuals or other entities on the Village email distribution list.

Commerce Drive Extension

Barga said that everything, including reseeding should be completed by September 14, 2023.

D P & L Easement

Albers said **D P & L** has requested an easement north of Superior Aluminum. He said they already have a 12 foot easement, but want this increased to 24 feet for substation upgrades. The easement is to the West of the Village lagoons. Albers said he will research it further before a final decision is made.

Miscellaneous

Danny Schneible showed a video that he had prepared for the Village of Versailles. It showcased the Village, and some of the activities, community highlights, and businesses. He asked if the Village of Russia would be interested in doing the same. Council made no commitment until pricing is firm.

Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion that Council enter executive session to discuss hiring personnel. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux moved and Armstrong seconded the motion that Council leave executive session. All yea, motion passed. No action was taken.

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 _____