

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

September 13, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, September 13, 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
Brandon Simon

Non-members present: Mark Shappie, Mary Jo Voisard, Craig Albers of FGKS Law, Sheriff Jim Frye, and Kyle Siegrist of Choice One Engineering.

- The minutes of the August 9, 2023 regular meeting, the August 26, 2023 special meeting, and the September 4, 2023 special meeting were read, and a motion was made by Simon, 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 Borchers and seconded by High to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All ye, motion passed.

Finance

Voisard reported that income tax received for the month of August was slightly lower than August 2022, but 2023 receipts to date are still 44% higher than 2022.

She said interest received during the month of March was \$12,979. The current Star Ohio annualized rate is 5.65%.

Voisard said it is necessary to transfer funds from the Enterprise Improvement fund to the water fund to meet current expenses. High moved and Simon seconded the motion to transfer \$200,000 from the Enterprise Improvement Fund to the Water Fund. All ye, motion passed.

Voisard said it is necessary to annually accept the amounts and rates of real estate tax.

Armstrong moved, and Seger seconded the motion approving **Resolution 23-9-13A Accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.** The current tax rate is 1.2 mills which will generate \$26,153. All ye, motion passed.

Police

Sheriff Frye gave the police report. There was one reported larceny, and one arrest, but consisted primarily of building checks.

Income Tax

Voisard said that due to the recent passage of Ohio House Bill 33 earnings and income of all persons under 18 years of age will be exempted from Village income tax. It will be necessary to amend the existing Income tax ordinance. This will be done at a future meeting. The change will be effective January 1, 2024.

Voisard said that the new contract will be coming up with the City of St. Marys for the administration of Village Income Tax. High moved, and Borchers seconded that the Village continue with St. Marys. The contract will be approved at a later date.

EMS

It was decided that the EMS levy will be on the March 19, 2023 ballot.

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

Borchers moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 23-9-13 Declaring it necessary to levy a tax for the Village of Russia Ambulance Service, Emergency Medical Service, or both, in excess of the 10 mill limitation and requesting certification of the County Auditor, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

CEMLEB-OSIP Grant

Voisard said that Mark Shappie, who originally wrote the OSIP Grant contacted Julie Sullivan, who he worked with during the grant process. She set up a zoom meeting with Mark Shappie, Mary Jo Voisard, Ed Luthman, and Adam Barga. She said that she feels most, if not all of the grant can be awarded with additional information from Ed Luthman. Voisard said she contacted Julie Sullivan several days ago, and she said she has received some information from Luthman, and has requested a few other items. She feels progress is being made toward finalizing the grant.

High said that Ed Luthman had contacted her about the fact that he did not receive a Pirg Grant on that property, which he said he was told would be awarded. She said in reviewing the minutes, she found that council had approved a \$20,000 PIRG grant in September 2020. There is no record of having received an application from Luthman for the Grant. Shappie said that he will have Ed file a valid application. Council agreed that since it was approved in September, it should be paid after receiving the application.

OPWC 2023

Daugherty said he has been checking the progress of the West Main Street reconstruction project daily, and he feels things are going well. Goubeaux mentioned that the August minutes said a quote was to be requested regarding milling the grindings for future Village use. Daugherty said he would check to see if that was done.

Daugherty said he had received a letter from Jim Heuing. Heuing said he was unable to attend the council meeting, but he had some concerns about the West Main Street Project. He said he owns the residence at 242 W. Main St., to the west of the new condominiums. He said he attended the council meeting when Dean Kemper, and Weigandt construction requested rezoning of the properties next to him from commercial to residential for the purpose of building condominiums. He said he was told at that meeting by Kemper, and Weigandt that they would make any water drainage issues on his property right. He said he later met with Adam Barga, and Dean Kemper regarding the westmost condo property elevation. He said they showed him drawings that showed that there was going to be a significant difference between his lot and the westmost condominium. He said Barga said the Village would do whatever is needed to satisfy him in that situation. Several options were discussed at that time. He wants to clarify the options now that Adam Barga is no longer the Village Administrator. He also had questions about the cost of extending the sidewalk to the East side of his driveway.

Daugherty said he will meet with Heuing to address these questions.

OPWC 2024

Kyle Siegrist said the grant for the Pump Station Rehabilitation is ready to submit.

Borchers moved and Seger seconded the motion approving **Resolution 23-9-13B Authorizing the mayor to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement and/or Local Transportation improvement program(s) and to execute all contracts as required.**

All yea, motion passed.

Shappie said that there had been a question about who would be responsible for the cost of the Sewer line installed by Paulus Excavating, LTD. Weigant had requested that it be installed to the rear of the buildings, rather than the front. Shappie said that it was probably a less expensive alternative for the Village, and he felt that it should be the Village's responsibility to pay the bill. Daugherty agreed. Armstrong moved and Seger seconded the motion that the Village pay the bill for \$16,014.52 for sewer line installation to Paulus Excavating, LTD. All yea, motion passed.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad

Kyle Siegrist said RFQ's (Request for Qualifications for Design Build Services) for the Pavilion and Splash pad were received from Level MB Construction, 226 S. Market St., Troy, Ohio, and Westerheide Construction Co, 1120 Milligan Court, Sidney, Ohio. He said they evaluated both contractors, and they both scored high. He said the score sheets of rankings will be sent to the Village soon. He said he feels that either company would do a good job. He said on or about September 18th, they will request prices from both, which will be due October 9th, 2023. The bids can then be reviewed at the October Council meeting.

Brandon Simon said he was recently informed that Wilson Hospital will donate a total of \$10,000 toward the project. \$5,000 will be received in 2024, and \$5,000 in 2025.

Salaries

Daugherty said that Mark Shappie has agreed to help out with duties of the Administrator until a new one is hired. His current salary is \$50 per hour for acting as Wastewater Operator of Record. He said that since Mark will have increased responsibility, he recommends a salary of \$60 per hour to cover duties of the Administrator as well as Wastewater Operator of Record. High moved and Seger seconded the motion to set the salary of Mark Shappie at \$60 per hour effective September 4, 2023. All yeas, motion passed.

Daugherty said that Barney Francis has agreed to increased duties also, and he feels a change in salary is necessary for him also.

Simon moved and Goubeaux seconded the motion to set the salary of Barney Francis at \$29 per hour effective September 4, 2023. All yeas, motion passed.

Tile Replacement behind Borchers St.

Shappie said that the MB Earthworks had completed the project, and cleaned up the yards. He said he feels that there is excess dirt on the trench, and feels that some should be removed. He said he feels that about 8 to 10 inches of dirt would be adequate for settling. He said if a little has to be hauled in before reseeding, that will be easy to do.

Commerce Drive Extension

Kyle Siegrist said that Matt Hoying said the work that needed to be completed by Sturm Construction has not yet been done. It was to have been completed by September 14, 2024. Siegrist said he will have Hoying move forward with this.

Buschur's Market

Daugherty said that he feels it is time to advertise the former Buschur's Market building for sale. He said he has exhausted all leads for anyone interested in starting a new market in the building. Council agreed.

Story Walk

Daugherty said that Julie Phlipot had contacted him about the story walk project. She said she will take care of ordering the supplies, but she would like a timeline for when to order. Daugherty said he will tell her to wait until Spring to get a possible date for installation.

D P & L Easement

Albers said D P & L has requested an easement north of Superior Aluminum, and that is still being worked out.

Hiring

Daugherty said that the position of Village Administrator has been advertised, and he feels that this position should be filled before hiring the replacement for Barney Francis. He thinks the new administrator should have input on the other position. Council agreed.

Trick or Treat

Council set the date and time for trick or treat as Thursday October 26, 2023 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Leaf Pickup

Shappie said last year there were requests to pick up leaves twice a week rather than just on Mondays.

It was decided that Leaf pickup will begin Monday October 2nd, and continue until December 1st. Pickup will be on Mondays and Fridays throughout this period.

Miscellaneous

Daugherty said he had been contacted by A&M Pallet to see if the Village would be interested in purchasing a Toyota forklift for \$5,000. He said that he doesn't feel that the Village would use it often enough to justify the expenditure. Shappie agreed.

Shappie said that the power supply at the water plant failed today, and that it is currently on manual operation. This requires checking on it day and night to see that it is operating properly. He said it would probably be OK until it is repaired unless there is a fire or other large increase in water demand. Several council members and Daugherty said they would be happy to assist in checking on it through the night if needed. He said they are in the process of finding a replacement for the power supply as soon as possible.

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 _____