

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 8, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. In the absence of Mayor, Terence Daugherty, Mary Jo High, council president 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: Mark Shappie, Mary Jo Voisard, Craig Albers of FGKS Law, and Brad Walterbusch of Choice One Engineering, and Sheriff Jim Frye.

- The minutes of the October 11, 2023 regular meeting and the October 25, 2023 special meeting were read, and a motion was made by Seger, and seconded by Armstrong to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Borchers 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 for the month of October were 33% higher than October, 2022, and the year to date income tax receipts are 43% higher than 2022. She said interest received in October from Star Ohio was \$13,282 with an annualized yield of 5.71%, and that year to date interest receipts are \$115,528.

Police

Sheriff Frye reviewed the sheriff's log from October. Most of the activity was building checks. There was one traffic citation, a domestic case, and a juvenile complaint reported.

EMS

Armstrong moved and Goubeaux seconded the motion to approve the contract with the Village of Versailles to provide EMS services to the Village from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 at a cost of \$38,500.00. All ye, motion passed.

CEMLEB-OSIP Grant

Voisard said that Carson Bock of Jobs Ohio told her that she has now identified over \$462,000 as being potentially eligible for reimbursement under the grant. The total possible amount is \$462,000, and she needs a few items from Ed Luthman for final approval. Hopefully this information will be provided this month.

OPWC 2023

Voisard said that the Contractor's Application for payment has been received from Brumbaugh Construction for the West Main Street Reconstruction Project. The Village responsibility is \$61,126.15, with OPWC paying \$328,212.38. Voisard said that all prevailing wage requirements have been met, and Choice One Engineering has approved the application. Armstrong moved and Seger seconded the motion to approve the application for payment. All ye, motion passed.

OPWC 2024

Walterbusch said the grant for the Pump Station Rehabilitation did not receive priority points at the County level, so approval is doubtful. The Village will be notified by December whether it is approved. Shappie said that the Village will have to move forward with replacing at least 1 pump next year at a cost of about \$19,000. He said new funding is to become available in January of 2024 which we can apply for if the OPWC grant is not approved.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad

Shappie said that the contract with Level MB should be signed soon. There were a few items they still had questions about. Borchers asked if the Splash pad equipment had been removed from the contract. Borchers said that he has received a price quote from Vortex of \$75,973.10. He feels that it may be less expensive for the Village to purchase it than to have Level MB purchase it. Shappie said that is still being discussed. Goubeaux moved and Borchers seconded the motion for the Village to purchase the splashpad equipment at \$75,973.10 if it is removed from the Level MB contract. All yea, motion passed.

Shappie said there will be several bills for running electrical lines to the Pavilion. He said he received a quote from Ruhenkamp Boring and Trenching in Fort Loramie for \$5,587.40 for boring and pulling conduit. He said they are giving a discount of \$2,040 as a donation to the park board, making the final price \$3,547.40. Armstrong moved and Borchers seconded to motion to approve the quote. All yea, motion passed.

He said there will also be a charge from AES Electric to run electrical lines to the pavilion.

Commerce Drive Extension

Walterbusch said that Matt Hoying talked to Sturm about the work that still needed to be done to complete the Commerce Drive Extension Project. Sturm said that he has completed the work, but no one has inspected it yet. Shappie said he will inspect it to make sure it is satisfactory.

Buschur's Market

Voisard said that the company that insures the Village Property has valued the Buschur's Market building at \$424,508, with a premium increase to our property insurance of \$2,335. Voisard said she has tried to get them to lower the value, as Council does not feel that the Building is worth that. Wendy French of PEP Insurance said that they value property at 60% of the replacement cost. The other option would be to carry only liability insurance on it.

Council decided to approve adding the building to the property insurance. The premium will be paid for only the period from the date it is added to the policy to the date it is sold.

Craig Albers said he would work on the Easement for the parking lot so this is in effect prior to selling the building. Shappie said he would send drawings to Albers showing the area to be covered by the easement.

Shelby County Radio System

Shappie said that Shelby County has provided three radios for Village vehicles. These radios provide first responder services (fire, EMS, law enforcement, and EMA) to the public. The subscriber fee for the Village is \$5 per month for each radio.

Borchers moved and Seger seconded the motion to enter into the agreement with Shelby County for the Radio System at a cost of \$15 per month. All yea, motion passed.

Fitness Doctor PIRG Grant

Council members met at the Fitness Doctor facility in the Commerce Industrial Park prior to the meeting. Alex Luthman, owner of the business had applied for a Property Investment Reimbursement Grant in June, but wanted to complete the showroom for Council to visit before deciding on the Grant.

During the Council meeting, council members felt that the business has potential for growth, and liked the fact that he plans to use the funds for outdoor improvements such as signage and landscaping, thus improving the appearance of the Industrial park.

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

Armstrong moved and Seger seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-18 Authorizing the Village to enter into a Property Investment Reimbursement Grant agreement with Fitness Doctor and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed. The amount of the Grant will be \$20,000.

Hiring

Borchers moved and Seger seconded the motion that Council enter executive session. All yea, motion passed. Cindy Goubeaux was not included in the executive session.

Armstrong moved and Seger seconded the motion that Council leave executive session. All yea, motion passed.

Cindy Goubeaux reentered the meeting.

Seger moved and Borchers seconded the motion to hire Jared Goubeaux as part time Village Administrator at a salary of \$28 per hour beginning December 4, 2023. Yea: Seger, Borchers, Armstrong and High. Abstaining: Cindy Goubeaux. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous

Shappie said that Russia Storage LLC is building another storage building, and that their Variance has been approved.

Shappie said that the new F-350 has now been outfitted with all equipment, and the Village can now sell the 2014 F-350. He said he would list it on Gov Deals, with a minimum bid of \$30,000.

Shappie said that the computer used by the Administrator is outdated and very slow. He said he will price a replacement with Reliable in Fort Loramie.

Shappie said that Brian Francis told him they were only able to farm 46.7 acres rather than the 48 acres that was in their contract. He said they would make that adjustment in the final payment for 2023. Brian Francis also said that some of the crop was destroyed by the trucks that drove through the field hauling ground for the School project. He wanted to know who would be responsible for the loss of crops. Council decided that the loss should be covered by the Russia School.

Shappie said that Brookside in New Bremen will no longer be doing water and waste water testing. He said he is in the process of finding another company to do the testing, and it will no doubt be more expensive.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____