

# VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

## VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

December 13, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, December 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, Nicole Doseck, and Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering.

- The minutes of the November 8, 2023 regular meeting and the December 2, 2023 special meeting were read, and a motion was made by Goubeaux, and seconded by Seger to approve the meeting minutes. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by High to approve the bills as presented. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Borchers to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yea, motion passed.

### Finance

Voisard reported that income tax receipts for the month of November were 78% higher than November, 2022, and the year to date income tax receipts are 44% higher than 2022. She said interest received in October from Star Ohio was \$12,951.84 with an annualized yield of 5.71%, and that year to date interest receipts are \$128,479.84.

Voisard said that due to the passage of Ohio House Bill 33, additional changes are necessary to the Village Income Tax Code. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Goubeaux, and seconded by Seger. All yea, motion passed. Borchers moved and Simon seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-19 Amending the Village Income Tax Code and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Voisard explained that the Village has contracted with the City of Saint Marys for the collection of income taxes for many years. The current 3 year contract is ending in December, 2024, and The City of St. Marys has prepared a new 3 year contract with the Village to continue paying a fee of 3.25% of the amount collected. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Goubeaux and seconded by Simon. All yea, motion passed. Armstrong moved and High seconded the motion to enter into a contract with the City of St. Marys for the collection of Village Income Tax for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 at a rate of 3.25 % of income tax collections. All yea, motion passed.

Voisard reviewed the 5 year capital plan. The plan calls for the following projects in 2024:

- Resurfacing of the following streets:  
Park Street from St. Remy Street to Raider Street  
Saint Remy Street from Park Street to Main Street  
Main Street from the Church to Francis Street  
Francis Street  
Council members will inspect those streets and decided if they need to be done in 2024 or moved to a later year.
- Village contribution for Phase II of the Paulus subdivision
- Lift Station Upgrade (with possible funding through a grant)

- Well inspection and maintenance
- Office concrete repairs
- Pavilion and splash pad construction

Equipment purchases planned are

- New computer and printer for main office
- Replacement of the Ford F150 truck

Simon moved and High seconded the motion to approve the 5 year capital plan.

Voisard said that temporary appropriations are needed to cover expenses from January 1, 2024 until permanent appropriations are adopted.

Seger moved and Jake seconded the motion to approve temporary appropriations as follows:

General Fund	\$25,000
Street Fund	\$ 8,000
Street Light Fund	\$ 5,000
Capital Improvement Fund	\$75,000
Sewer Fund	\$10,000
Water Fund	\$10,000

All yea, motion passed.

Voisard said that due to not having received the ODNR Grant Funds for the Pavilion and Splashpad in 2023, appropriations have to be reduced in the Capital Projects fund. Armstrong moved and Goubeaux seconded the motion to reduce the appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund by \$641,000 for 2023. All yea, motion passed.

### **Police**

There was no police report for the month of November.

### **CEMLEB-OSIP Grant**

Voisard said that Ed Luthman told her he now has everything needed for the grant, so hopefully it can be collected soon.

### **Natureworks Grant-Trails**

Nick Selhorst said that the Park Board was awarded a grant for \$21,000 to complete the walking path in the park. He has not received the final paperwork on it, but it should be received in January.

### **ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad**

Shappie said that Level MB is currently working on the underground for the Pavilion, and block is being laid. The floor is scheduled to be poured during the first week in January, and all walls should be up by January 19<sup>th</sup>. He said that they have decided to go with SecureCom for key card access and all security, since that is who Russia School will be using, and it will be nice to coordinate the two. He said Low Voltage will be used for the sound system.

Voisard said that Pay Application 1 has been received for the project in the amount of \$48,442.09.

High moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve the pay application. All yea, motion passed.

### **OPWC 2023**

Albers said he is still researching information regarding the assessment for curbs and sidewalks for the West Main Street Project.

### **Commerce Drive Extension**

Selhorst said that he didn't have information regarding the work that Sturm has not yet completed for the Commerce Drive project. He said he would ask Matt Hoying about it.

### **Buschur's Market**

The Village posted that bids were being accepted for the former Buschur's Market building from December 1 until December 13, 2024 with a minimum bid of \$225,000. No bids were received. Daugherty said there is a lot of equipment in the building, and he feels the best way to handle it is to have an online auction. He has received a

proposal Arling Auctioneers. They would catalog and document each item to be sold, host an open house, and do all signage and marketing. He said the up front cost for those services would be about \$1,000, and they would charge 10% of all sales. Council felt that this would be the simplest way to handle the process. Simon moved and Seger seconded the motion to contract with Arling Auctioneers for the sale of property in the Market. All yea, motion passed.

### **Hiring**

Daugherty said that an application has been received for a full time Maintenance employee who has both Water and Sewer licenses. It was agreed to interview him on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> if he is available.

Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion to hire Brad Francis for plowing snow on an as needed basis at \$20 per hour. All yea, motion passed.

### **Committee Appointments**

Jared Goubeaux reviewed the following Committee appointments:

#### **Planning Commission (6 year term)**

Jamie Herron	Expires 2027
Jeff Monnin	Expires 2026
Craig Fiessinger	Expires 2029
Kevin Borchers	Expires 2029
Terry Daugherty	Expires 2029

#### **Russia Citizen Peer Review Board (2 years)**

Greg Borchers	Expires 2025
John Grogean	Expires 2025
Jared Goubeaux	Expires 2025
Brandon Simon	Expires 2025
Mary Jo High	Expires 2025

#### **Russia Zoning Board of Appeals (6 years)**

John Grogean	Expires 2027
Bruce Borchers	Expires 2026
Ron Simon	Expires 2027
Robert Philipot	Expires 2026
Don Borchers	Expires 2027

#### **Russia Park Board (5 years)**

Trevor Sherman-President	Expires 2024
Mitchell Hoying	Expires 2027
Zach Sherman	Expires 2027
Aaron Condon	Expires 2024
Colin Puthoff	Expires 2028
Mitchell Bergman	Expires 2025
Trevor Monnin	Expires 2026

#### **CRA Housing Board (3 years)**

Terry Daugherty, Chairman	Expires 2025
Jean Borchers	Expires 2025
Ron Simon	Expires 2025
Kevin Dapore	Expires 2025
Jamie Herron	Expires 2025
Paul Poeppelman	Expires 2025
Cindy Goubeaux	Expires 2025

### **Salaries**

Salaries were set for the following positions effective January 1, 2024

Mower	\$10.45 per hour
Part time maintenance	\$20.00 per hour

Fiscal Officer \$12,000 annually

Other positions were set in September, 2023, so no further change was made at this time.

C. Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion approving the salaries above. All yeas, motion passed.

### **Marijuana Dispensaries**

Albers explained that in light of the legalization of the use of marijuana, many Cities and Villages are passing Ordinances regarding Marijuana Cultivators and Dispensaries.

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

High moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 23-21 Prohibiting adult use Cannabis Operators and Medical Marijuana Cultivators, Processors, and retail dispensaries within the Corporation Limits of the Village of Russia, Ohio, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yeas, motion passed.

### **Jointly Owned Tractor & Side Boom Mower**

C. Goubeaux moved and High seconded the motion to enter into the agreement with Loramie Township for 2024 for the use and upkeep of the jointly owned Tractor and Boom Mower. All yeas, motion passed.

### **CIC Appointment**

Simon moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve the Certificate of Action in Lieu of meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Russia Community Improvement Corporation appointing Jared Goubeaux as trustee to the Russia Community Improvement Corporation. All yeas, motion passed.

### **Miscellaneous**

Daugherty said some of the curbs in town are crumbling, and he feels they should be repaired. Shappie said that there is a new product for patching, that the Village may want to try. The Village would buy the product and rent the equipment for Village employees to make the repairs. Jared Goubeaux said he would check on it.

Daugherty said that a Borchers Street resident has asked that the no parking signs be removed from Borchers Street since most of the heavy construction traffic is finished for the school project. Council members felt that there is still a considerable amount of construction traffic during week days, but agreed that the parking ban could be changed to no parking from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on week days, with parking allowed during evenings and weekends.

Jared Goubeaux said that Dan Paulus has asked if he can stockpile gravel for the Phase II Paulus Subdivision project. Council had no objection if it is on his property. Paulus has said that he plans to start the project this winter. Shappie said that he will need to submit plans prior to starting, as they have not yet been approved. J. Goubeaux said he would talk to him about that.

Jared Goubeaux said that The North Central Ohio Solid Waste District met with members to announce the new negotiated rates with Republic Services for Trash and Recycling for March 1, 2024 through March 1, 2028. The negotiated rates beginning March 1, 2024 will be \$4.01 per month for recycling, which will continue to be included in the Village water and sewer billing. Trash cart rates will increase to \$21.91 per month, and will continue to be billed by Republic services. Bags will increase to \$3.00 each, and can be purchased at the Village Office. He said he has not yet received the contract, but it will be accepted at a future date. He said that they told him bags would be phased out after 2027, and everyone would be required to have a cart.

Simon moved and C. Goubeaux seconded the motion to approve the Storage Space Lease with Grosjean Properties for \$50.00 per month. Rent of \$600 shall be paid by January 31, 2024. All yeas, motion passed. (This is the building that the Village uses for salt storage.)

Jared Goubeaux said that the Village Maintenance building is in need of electrical upgrades. Council agreed that he should get quotes and bring them to a future meeting.

Jared Goubeaux said that L & J Cable has asked if they can use a wood burning stove at their business. Council decided that they cannot, as burning is not allowed in the Village.

Jared Goubeaux said that three new pole lights have now been installed in the expanded school parking lot, and that the pickle ball nets are being removed for the winter. He also said that he is exploring options for lighting at diamond 2.

Jared Goubeaux said that Trevor Monnin would like to take a look at the Village Website to see if he can include a scheduling program for the pavilion. Council had no objection.

Jared Goubeaux said that the tornado siren is not working, and he is having it checked. He also said that Aaron Condon said the Park Board is interested in purchasing 3 new AED's for the park, as there is currently an offer to buy 3 for the price of one. Council thought it was a good idea. Daugherty said he would also like to have a brief training session for the use of the devices.

Jared Goubeaux said that A T & T has sent a 99 year lease for the use of our water tower for their cell service. The payment would be \$1,000 per month, with a 15% increase every 5 years. Council agreed to sign the lease, as they want to continue to have the cell service in town.

Shappie said that Masi Labs will be taking over the water and sewer testing beginning in 2024. They will send a courier for pickups, and the cost of the pickup will be shared by Fort Loramie and Russia.

Cindy Goubeaux was recognized for her 20 years of service as a Council Member, and given a plaque of appreciation.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard \_\_\_\_\_