

# VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

## VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Thursday, February 15, 2024 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  
Nicole Doseck  
Mary Jo High  
Scott Armstrong  
Brandon Simon

Non-members present: Mary Jo Voisard, Chris Ellington, acting for Village Solicitor Craig Albers, Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering and Dale Goubeaux.

- The minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting were read, and a motion was made by Simon and seconded by Doseck to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Borchers to approve the bills as presented. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by High and seconded by Seger to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All ye, motion passed.
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### Police

Sheriff Frye was not present at the meeting, but Council reviewed the report of activity for January 10 through February 14. Most of the activity was routine, but there was an accident on Main Street on February 13, 2024 where a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle in the crosswalk near the Russia Inn. Daugherty said he had talked to Sheriff Frye about the crosswalk, and Sheriff Frye said the crosswalk met safety standards. He said Council had already reduced the speed limit to 25, installed signs warning that there was a crosswalk ahead, and large signs and striping at the crosswalk itself. Daugherty said he would still like to see hash marks painted across the crosswalk and additional lighting at the parking lot across from the Russia Inn that would add light to the crosswalk area. Goubeaux said he would check into those improvements,

### Finance

Voisard said that income tax receipts for January were down \$90,000.00, but that was not surprising because January 2023 receipts were \$197,000 higher than 2022. The receipts for January 2024 were still well above 2021 and 2022. She reported that interest receipts from Star Ohio were \$13,427 with an average yield of 5.54% during January.

### West Main Street 2023 Project

Dale Goubeaux attended the meeting regarding the proposed assessments for Main Street improvements. He said when the project started, he was told he would have no assessments, because the project would end at his property line. Jared Goubeaux explained that during the course of the project, it was decided that the curb had to be slightly extended to support a catch basin. Dale Goubeaux said he was never informed of this, and although the proposed assessment was small, he didn't feel he should have to pay it since he told them to end the project at his property line. Council decided to waive the assessment due to the circumstances.

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Seger and seconded by Simon. All ye, motion passed. Borchers moved and High seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 24-3 for public improvements to a portion of West Main Street in accordance with Resolution No. 24-1-10, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All ye, motion passed.

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

Seger moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 24-4 levying special assessments to pay a portion of the cost of the improvements made to West Main Street and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

#### **Natureworks Grant for Park Path**

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

Armstrong moved and Simon seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 24-2-15 Approving the Natureworks Local Assistance Grant agreement ID #SHEL-028** and declaring the same to be an emergency. All yea, motion passed.

This project will be overseen by the Park Board, but the Village will administer the Grant.

#### **Paulus Subdivision Phase II**

Goubeaux said that the Village of Russia Planning Commission met to consider the rezoning of Lots 14, 15, and 16 in Phase II of the Paulus subdivision from R1 to R2. Goubeaux said the Planning Commission recommended the change. Village Council accepted the recommendation. A public meeting regarding the zoning change will be held at the next regular council meeting on March 13, 2024.

#### **ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash Pad**

Simon moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve the payment of payment application #3 from Level MB for \$115,583.75. All yea, motion passed.

Simon discussed the possibility of a short fund raiser for the pavilion and splashpad in case Village residents are interested in donating to the project. It was decided that it will be discussed again in March.

Borchers said that they are in the process of selecting colors of paint, stone, and cabinets. He also said that Clopay Corporation is donating 4 Vertistack doors and openers.

#### **AT&T**

Craig Albers has reviewed the lease agreement submitted by AT&T. He said there are several sections of the lease agreement that the Village may want to have removed. Goubeaux said he will discuss that with AT&T representatives before signing the lease agreement.

#### **Hiring**

Goubeaux said that Barney Francis has been working with Ricky Stephan to be sure that he is familiar with the Waste Water Operation. Stephan is fully licensed, but had not previously worked with a lagoon system. Mark Shappie said he feels that Stephan is now ready to be the Wastewater Plant Operator of Record.

Goubeaux said that the Village should have Stephan get his pesticide license. Council agreed.

Goubeaux said that since Barney Francis is leaving at the end of June, the Village should be starting the search for the second maintenance employee, preferably one with water and waste water licensing. Council agreed.

#### **Paving**

Goubeaux said that the streets scheduled for possible repaving this year are Park Street (St. Remy St. to Raider St.), St. Remy Street (Park St. to Main St.) Main Street (Church to Francis St.), and Francis Street. Daugherty and council members said they would check them and see whether they all needed repaving.

Goubeaux also said crack sealing would be done on those streets in need of it.

#### **Solar Eclipse**

High said that she had attended a workshop about area plans for the eclipse. She said she plans to attend another. The Village has already purchased glasses, which will be provided to the school and to area residents who want them. She said she will check at the next meeting to be sure the glasses meet all safety standards.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Daugherty said that he has talked to the person at St. Henry Tile about the repairs on Main Street curbs and gutters, and they are hoping to do it in the spring.

High said she thinks we should have Pet Waste Bags in the park to encourage people to clean up after their pets.

Goubeaux showed some options for dog waste system sign and dispensers that would be about \$176 per unit.

Council agreed that this is even more important with the splash pad going in. They approved the purchase of 3 units to be placed at park entrances.

Goubeaux said that he and Voisard met with a representative from Public Entities Pool (PEP) who carries our property insurance. This was for a risk assessment which is done annually. They again said that our bleachers need safety upgrades, and provided specifications for meeting these safety requirements. He said he is working with Austin Tebbe to see if we can meet these specifications with railing from Superior Aluminum and chain link fencing, and do the work ourselves. The PEP representative said that they don't all have to be renovated in one year, but we need to show that progress is made.

Goubeaux asked if Council felt that sidewalks are needed east of town to the corporation limit as a safety measure for walkers or runners who go that direction. High said she thought it was a good idea. No action was taken.

Goubeaux said the manure spreader was scrapped, and he will bring quotes for a new one to the next meeting. He said he is also checking for a used one.

Goubeaux said the RCJAA wants to extend the batting cage. They will do the work and cover the cost. Council had no objection.

Goubeaux said that he had gotten a quote for a new mower from Flora. He said the cost with trade in would be \$2,180. Council said they were OK with keeping the current mower for another year, since it is in good condition.

Goubeaux said that Arch Tool will not be dumping excess wash water into our sanitary system.

Goubeaux said that the grinder pump for the lagoon has been ordered, and as of now both pumps are working, but we still have no spare pump.

Armstrong moved and Simon seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss the sale of property. All yea, motion passed.

Simon moved and Borchers seconded the motion to leave executive session. All yea, motion passed.

No action was taken.

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

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

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