

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 10, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, January 10, 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, Craig Albers, Village Solicitor, Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering, and Sheriff Jim Frye.

- The minutes of the December 13, 2024 meeting were read, and a motion was made by High and seconded by Armstrong to approve the meeting minutes. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Seger and seconded by Borchers to approve the bills as presented. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by High and seconded by Seger to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yea, motion passed.

Mayor Daugherty nominated Nicole Doseck to serve as Council member for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027. High moved and Seger seconded the motion to appoint Nicole Doseck as council member for the above period. All yea, motion passed.

Mayor Daugherty administered the oath of office to Nicole Doseck.

Council President

Borchers nominated High to serve as Council President during 2024. Simon seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Borchers moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to elect Mary Jo High as Council president for 2024. All yea, motion passed.

Police

Sheriff Frye reviewed the police report for the previous month. He said most of the activity was routine home and business checks, but that there was a stolen vehicle. He said the vehicle has been recovered, but the case is still under investigation for credit card fraud.

Finance

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

Armstrong moved and High seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 24-01 Making the Annual Appropriation of Resources for 2024, and declaring the same to be an emergency**. All yea, motion passed.

The appropriations were approved at fund level.

General Fund	\$ 867,955.00
Street Fund	\$ 106,050.00
Street Light Funds	\$ 56,400.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$1,108,600.00
Water Fund	\$ 387,800.00
Sewer Fund	\$ 316,980.00
Utilities and Maintenance	<u>\$ 38,000.00</u>
Total	\$2,881,785.00

Finance

Voisard reviewed the 2023 income tax receipts, and a comparison of receipts from 2006 through 2023. The receipts for 2024 were 1,318,655.86 which was 41% higher than 2022 receipts. The largest category of increase is Business tax, which increased by 130% for that period.

She said there was a larger than usual business tax payment in January 2023, so receipts in 2024 may not be as high.

Solicitor

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

Seeger moved and Borchers seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 24-02 Providing for the employment of a solicitor and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Council Committee Appointments

Borchers moved and Doseck seconded the motion approving the following Committee appointments for 2024:

Finance

Mary Jo High
Scott Armstrong
Nicole Doseck

Law and Order

Jake Borchers
Alex Seeger

Streets and Recreation

Brandon Simon

Zoning

Jared Goubeaux

Park Superintendent

Jared Goubeaux

EMA Representative

Jared Goubeaux

Street Superintendent

Jared Goubeaux

Tax Review Committee

Mary Jo High
Dale Armstrong
Brandon Simon

Records Commission

Mary Jo Voisard
Jared Goubeaux
Mary Jo High
Terry Daugherty

Flood Plain Administrator

Jared Goubeaux

Water Plant Operator-of-Record

Barney Francis

Wastewater Plant Operator-of-Record
Mark Shappie

All yea, motion passed.

Hiring

Borchers moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to hire Ricky Stephan, Jr. as full time Maintenance worker at \$28 per hour effective January 22, 2024. The Village will pay 80% of the approved health insurance plan including 80% of dental and vision insurance, and 100% of Life insurance upon approval of plans.

Mr. Stephan has his water and wastewater licenses, so will later be appointed as Water Plant Operator of Record, and Wastewater Plant Operator of Record. All yea, motion passed.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash pad

Borchers said that the next step is to choose finishes for the pavilion. He said the committee did not feel comfortable making those decisions, and suggested that they find someone more experienced to do that. Several names were suggested. The committee will contact one of them to move forward. Borchers said that they are in the process of laying the block, and that it should be completed within the next 6 weeks.

Voisard said that Pay Application 2 has been received for the project in the amount of \$230,990.18. She said there have been 2 change orders approved. The first was an increase of \$28,415.22 for metal roof rather than shingle, and the other was a decrease of \$39,880.50 for the Village to directly purchase part of the splashpad equipment. High moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve the pay application for \$230,990.18. All yea, motion passed.

West Main Street Assessment

Albers said he had researched the procedure to proceed with the assessment for curbs and sidewalks for the West Main Street Project. He said that the first step is to pass a resolution of necessity, with a copy of the signed resolution to be mailed to each property owner that will be subject to the assessment. Council then has to wait at least 2 weeks after mailing the resolution before passing any additional ordinances, which can be done at the February council meeting.

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

Armstrong moved and Simon seconded the motion to pass **Resolution No. 24-1-10 A resolution of necessity for improvements to a portion of West Main Street in the Village of Russia, Ohio. Such improvements include curbing, resurfacing, and other facilities and appurtenances necessary and the proper therefor, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Commerce Drive Extension

Daugherty said that he, Matt Hoying, and Jared Goubeaux met with Sturm about the work that had not yet been completed on the Commerce Drive Extension. He said Sturm said that it will be completed and reseeded in the spring. Albers said he researched the rules on pulling the bond, and it says Council would have one year from the date that the contractor was last at the site.

Paulus Acres Phase II

Goubeaux said that he has the plans from Dan Paulus for Phase II of Paulus Acres. He said Paulus is interested in changing the zoning of several lots to R2, for the possibility of condos on those lots. The lots he wants rezoned are Lot 14, 15, and 16. Goubeaux said he will tell Paulus to submit an application for rezoning.

Contract with Republic Services

Goubeaux said he has now received the contract with the North Central Ohio Solid Waste District. This organization negotiates rates for solid waste and recycling with Republic Services of Central Ohio for the Villages of Anna, Ohio, Fort Loramie, Ohio, Russia, Ohio, Jackson Center, Ohio, Botkins, Ohio and Kettlersville, Ohio.

Seger moved and Borchers seconded the motion to approve the Renewal of the Solid Waste and Recycling Interlocal Agreement with the North Central Ohio Solid Waste District effective March 1, 2024 for a five year term expiring on February 28, 2029. All yea, motion passed.

Rates will be as follows:

March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025

Unlimited curb collection \$17.90 per month

Refuse Bags \$ 3.00

Recycling \$ 4.01 per month

March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026

Unlimited curb collection \$18.80 per month

Refuse Bags \$ 3.15

Recycling \$ 4.21 per month

March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2027

Unlimited curb collection \$19.73 per month

Refuse Bags \$ 3.31

Recycling \$ 4.42 per month

March 1, 2027 to February 29, 2028

Unlimited curb collection \$20.72 per month

Refuse Bags \$ 3.47

Recycling \$ 4.64 per month

March 1, 2028 to February 28, 2029

Unlimited curb collection \$21.76 per month

Refuse Bags \$ 3.65

Recycling \$ 4.87 per month

Miscellaneous

Daugherty again mentioned the crumbling curb/gutter on Main Street, and the fact that it needs to be repaired.

Goubeaux said he would check with St. Henry Tile about the product for repair.

Goubeaux said that a light pole was knocked down by a car on Elizabeth Street. The pole was replaced by Village employees, and the person responsible was sent a bill for time and material. Goubeaux said he was contacted by the person's insurance agent, who said that due to depreciation of the pole, they would not cover the whole cost, leaving about \$400 unpaid, and they wanted the Village administrator to sign a release that the Village would not charge the individual for the remaining balance. Council said they felt that the person responsible should pay the difference.

Goubeaux said that the drain basin in front of the new condos on West Main Street will have a lid installed, and the basin will be buried. He said the cost of the lid will be approximately \$500.

Goubeaux said that the old Ford F-350 was sold on GovDeals for \$23,200.

Goubeaux said that the manure spreader is no longer operable. He said that he has received a quote for a new one for \$11,900. He said that they are considering moving the drop site so they would no longer have to use a manure spreader to transport the yard waste. No action was taken.

Albers said that he has reviewed the AT&T 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. He said there are questions that need to be answered before signing the contract. It will be discussed again in February.

Goubeaux said that an easement has been requested with Saint Joseph Place for the use of the drive leading to the parking lot at the Buschur's Market site.

Goubeaux said he has received a quote from Area Electric for the electrical upgrades needed at the Village Maintenance Facility. He said they quoted \$5,090 for the upgrades needed. Council agreed that the upgrades should be done, especially since it has been cited by our insurance company as needed improvements. High moved and Doseck seconded the motion to proceed with the work. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux said that on January 9 a grinder pump went out at one of the lagoons, and there is no spare pump. Village employees had to monitor it all night. He said the cost of a new pump will be about \$20,000. Doseck moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to purchase a new pump. All yea, motion passed.

Goubeaux said that Arch Tool has asked to dump excess wash water into our sanitary system. He said Mark Shappie told them it would have to be pretreated and tested before dumping.

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

Simon moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to leave executive session. All yea, motion passed.
No action was taken.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____