

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

April 11, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Thursday, April 11, 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: Jared Goubeaux, Administrator, Mary Jo Voisard, Fiscal Officer, Solicitor Craig Albers, Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering, and Mark Shappie.

- The minutes of the March 13, 2024 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Doseck and seconded by Armstrong to approve the meeting minutes. All ye, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Borchers and seconded by High 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.

Police

Sheriff Frye was not present at the meeting, but Council reviewed the report of activity for the previous month. Activity was routine.

Finance

Voisard said that income tax receipts reported by St. Marys tax department for March were down \$18,400 from March, 2023, but that there were payments made directly to the state and distributed to the Village in the amount of \$84,625. She said she is still trying to confirm that these receipts belong to Russia, because the usual payments received through the state are very small. She reported that interest receipts from Star Ohio were \$13,360 with an annualized yield of 5.46% during March.

OSIP Grant

Voisard said that the OSIP Grant was finally approved locally, and has been sent on to Jobs Ohio for final approval and payment. She said that the Grant payment will go to Ed Luthman (CEMLEB). She said that the full amount of the Grant is \$462,000, and that there is a contract that he is to reimburse the Village \$192,820. She said that when the payment is received, the contract may need to be amended to clarify the amount he will reimburse the Village.

Speed Limit change on Russia Rd. and No parking on the south side of West Main

The second reading was held for **Ordinance 24-5 Reducing the speed limit on Russia Road from the railroad tracks to East Main Street, and to have no parking signs on the South side of West Main Street from Liberty Street to 242 West Main Street, and amending the traffic control map.**

Waste Water Grant

Selhorst said that they still have not heard whether the Lift Station Upgrade Grant has been approved.

ODNR Grant Pavilion and Splash Pad

Mark Shappie said that the Splash pad is scheduled to be poured next week, depending on the weather, and at this time the project is scheduled to be completed on May 13. He said that the final dirt and concrete work may be held up due to the weather. He said that a corner of the footer of the pavilion was hit by MetCon and was damaged.

Level MB is in the process of repairing the damage. He said he has inspected the other corners and they are all fine. He said that he recommends contacting Fox supply to install dispensers in the pavilion. They install them for free if their products are used. He said there will be minimal landscaping, and that will be done by Village employees. He said that the area will be seeded so it is not muddy all summer, but it may require reseeding in the fall.

Simon said that tables and chairs should be ordered, as he isn't sure what the lead time would be on those. It was agreed that if they come in soon they can be stored at the Village maintenance building until the pavilion is ready. He also said that at some time there may need to be acoustics installed, but we can wait until the end of summer to decide if it is needed.

Simon moved and Doseck seconded the motion to approve the payment of payment application #5 from Level MB for \$212,392.01. All yea, motion passed.

Voisard said that she has applied for and received the first payment of the ODNR Grant for the Pavilion. The full amount awarded was \$500,000, and the amount received in the first payment was \$263,031.58. The remaining amount will be applied for when the project is completed.

Goubeaux said that the Park Board is still in the process of testing the online reservation system for the pavilion. Albers said the sample rental contract looked fine.

Goubeaux said that the gas line has been run, and the electric line has been run to the old restrooms. He said that he would like to get some quotes to renovate the old restrooms since council decided that we should continue using them. Council agreed.

AT&T

Albers said he is continuing communication with AT&T about the renewal of the contract. He said that since Council said last month that they would like to consider the 99 year lease with a lump sum payment of \$205,000, AT&T needs a signed letter of intent. He said that this does not obligate the Village to take that option, but AT&T can move forward with preparing a contract for approval. Daugherty signed the letter of intent.

Hiring

Goubeaux said that three applications have been received for the full time maintenance position. This position is to replace Barney Francis who will be retiring on June 28, 2024. This will be discussed later in executive session

Paving

Selhorst said that the paving project will be advertised for bids on April 17, and will be opened on May 2, 2024. The contract can then be awarded at the regular May meeting. The proposed completion date is August 23, 2024.

Animals in the Village

The second reading was held for **Ordinance 24-8 Prohibiting keeping or raising certain livestock within the Village**. This ordinance allows for up to 5 chickens (no roosters).

Lighting at Buschur's Market Parking Lot

Goubeaux said that the supplies for the lighting have been received and will be installed soon.

Miscellaneous

Goubeaux said that the lift station pump has been received, but it has to be inspected during installation. He said that the effluent meters are also in and will be installed soon.

Goubeaux said that the Village has purchased a used manure spreader for \$6,500 and it is ready for community members to use for yard waste.

Goubeaux said that the Ricky Stephan has completed the Public Water System Consumer Confidence Report for 2023. The report will be published on the Village website, and stickers will be put on the May 1 water bills so all Village residents will have access to it. He said that meters that have not been reading are being replaced now that we have received the new ones.

Goubeaux said that the resident at 242 West Main is still having problems with standing water. He said the Village has been working to correct the issue caused by the fact that the new condominiums are a higher elevation than his property. He said a new problem was identified with a bad tile running behind his property. The tile has been fixed, and supplies have been received to install an additional catch basin between his property and the condominiums. He said that this should take care of the problem.

Goubeaux said that four new AED's have been received as a result of a grant. They have been installed at the concession stand at Diamond 2, the Maintenance Building near Diamond 3, the outside of the new Pavilion, and the 4th was donated to the school for the new addition.

Goubeaux said that the resident who had not been receiving water bills has paid the full amount due for that period.

Goubeaux said that he felt employees should have ½ day of paid holiday leave for Good Friday. Council agreed. It will be changed in the personnel policy for future approval.

Goubeaux said that he also felt that Village maintenance employees should be provided with a raincoat and muck boots. He said currently they have to use their own. He said the Village could either purchase them or give employees a clothing allowance. Council said they preferred that the Village purchase the needed supplies.

Simon said that the drinking fountain in the park near diamond 2 is in bad shape and should be replaced. Goubeaux will order a new one.

High moved and Seger seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss employee hiring and the sale of property. All yea, motion passed.

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

No action was taken.

Doseck moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to again enter executive session to further discuss the sale of property.

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

No action was taken.

Seger moved and High seconded the motion that the meeting be adjourned. All yea, motion passed.

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____