

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

November 13, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at the Village Office, Russia, Ohio. Mayor, Terence Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Alex Seger
Nicole Doseck
Scott Armstrong
Brandon Simon (entered at 7:15pm)
Mary Jo High
Absent: Jake Borchers

Non-members present: Jared Goubeaux, Administrator, Sheriff Jim Frye, and Nick Selhorst of Choice One Engineering.

- The minutes of the October 9, 2024 regular meeting and the October 31, 2024 special meeting were read, and a motion was made by Simon and seconded by Seger to approve the meeting minutes. All yeas, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Doseck to approve the bills as presented. All yeas, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Simon and seconded by High to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yeas, motion passed.

Police

Sheriff Frye reviewed the report of police activity for the past month. He said there were several reports of smashed pumpkins around the village, with some of the participants captured on video cameras. Other report items were routine.

Finance

The year to date income tax receipts are now about \$90,000 less than they were through October 2023. This is due to two large refunds for 2023, which were made in 2024. Receipts are still well ahead of 2021 and 2022. Interest receipts for October 2024 were \$15,324 with an annualized yield of 5.04%. The Star Ohio interest rate has since dropped to 4.93% due to recent interest rate cuts.

The five year capital plan was reviewed. Suggested streets to be repaved in 2025 are Borchers St., Park St.(St Remy to Raider), Voisard St., Park St. (Liberty to St. Remy) and Raider St. Council will inspect the streets mentioned and decide at the December meeting which ones need repaved.

Lift Station Upgrade Grant

The wet well study was discussed and Choice One Engineering was given the flow data and the wet well capacity was sufficient. The Village is waiting on a price difference between the two types of pumps. Goubeaux said the average use per day is currently at 73,000 gallons, with a peak of 240,000 gallons per minute. He has requested a quote for the above ground pump to see what the difference in price will be. It should be able to bid out by the end of the year or early next year.

ODOT Grant

Selhorst said that there is a new ODOT grant available for sidewalks/roadways for 2026. \$400,000 is available for all nearby rural counties. It can only be used on collector roads, and he said parts of Main Street would qualify east of Russia Road to near Superior Aluminum Products. It is an 80/20 Grant and a council resolution is needed to apply. Seger moved and High seconded the motion to approve **Resolution No. 24-11-13 Authorizing the submittal of an application for federal funds through the DPS RTPO capital program.** All yeas, motion passed.

Brush Grinding

Brush grinding quotes were received as follows:

Go Green \$9,745

Roe Trucking \$7,500

Doseck moved and High seconded the motion to accept the quote from Roe Trucking for brush grinding. All yea, motion passed.

Park

Goubeaux said that the Nature Works Grant for the park path is completed and we are waiting on the reimbursement.

A quote was received from Groff Lawn Care for fertilizer and weed control for the park grounds. The quote was \$2,231.25. Armstrong moved and Simon seconded the motion to proceed with the service. All yea, motion passed.

Pavilion and Splash Pad

The sitting wall at the splash pad will be installed sometime in December.

Goubeaux will be working with Simon on the acoustical panels for the pavilion and Brim will be installing ice guards on the pavilion in the very near future.

Baby stations, door mats, and coat racks have all been ordered for the pavilion and will be installed when they come in.

Park Restrooms

Weigant is approximately 75% complete on the park bathrooms. The inside has been repainted, floors have been epoxied and fixtures installed. The outside is next to be completed.

Russia Inn

The Russia Inn wants 2 handicapped parking spaces, and one wheelchair ramp on their building. Daugherty mentioned to Goubeaux that the Village should accommodate the handicapped parking spaces as soon as possible.

Lighting at the former Buschur's Market Parking Lot

The parking lot lighting at the former Buschur parking lot has been completed, and we will wait to see if an additional light is needed after the upgrades to the building are completed by ELO properties.

He said that the ODOT grant for the crosswalk sign has been approved, but he has not received the notice that he can move forward with the purchase.

He said that he has not received the quote for additional signage, but would try to have it for the next meeting.

AT&T

Goubeaux was contacted again concerning the revised agreement for the water tower lease. It is decided that we are not interested in the 99 year lease option and want to continue with our month to month agreement currently in place.

Miscellaneous

Goubeaux said that Wiley Well will be doing the well maintenance and the updated quote is \$12,863 for well # 3, or \$423 if only sterilene is needed.

Village employees are continuing to replace meters throughout the Village where needed.

Goubeaux said he will look into having a Village shred day, and see what the projected cost would be.

Goubeaux said that the park will be winterized on November 15. There was a discussion on the park/diamond lights with Simon and Armstrong stating that it was time to get the lights upgraded. Goubeaux will be getting additional quotes and a discussion was held regarding what Village employees may be able to handle themselves.

Doseck moved and Simon seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss hiring of employees, and purchasing or selling property. All yea, motion passed.

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

The Village has entered into an option agreement to purchase the former US Bank property at 207 W. Main St. for \$105,000, with no financial use restriction. Interested council members will inspect the property when an appointment has been scheduled.

High moved and Doseck seconded the motion to hire Mark Shappie as Utilities Superintendent/ lead maintenance effective January 1, 2025 at an annual salary of \$110,000. All yea, motion passed.

Due to impending retirement, the village will be advertising for the position of fiscal officer that is expected to be filled in late spring.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____