

VILLAGE OF RUSSIA

VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 8, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Village of Russia council was held Wednesday, January 8, 2025 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
Mary Jo High
Jake Borchers

Non-members present: Chris Ellington, Solicitor and Brad Walterbusch of Choice One Engineering.

- The minutes of the December 11, 2024 regular meeting were read, and a motion was made by Doseck and seconded by Borchers to approve the meeting minutes. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Armstrong and seconded by Simon to approve the bills as presented. All yea, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Seger and seconded by Doseck to approve the financial reports for the previous month. All yea, motion passed.

Council President

Simon nominated High to serve as Council President during 2025. Borchers seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Simon moved and Doseck seconded the motion to elect Mary Jo High as Council president for 2025. All yea, motion passed.

Police

Council reviewed the report of police activity for the past month. Reported items were routine.

Finance

Voisard reviewed the Income tax receipt comparison report for the years 2006 through 2024. Gross receipts for 2024 were \$114,858 over 2023, but there were large refunds made in 2024 resulting in net receipts that were \$10,924 less than 2023. Receipts for 2023 were significantly higher than any prior year.

Interest receipts for December 2024 \$14,418.76 with a 30 day yield of 4.7%. Interest income for the year was \$171,083.78.

Appropriations

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

Doseck moved and High seconded the motion to approve **Ordinance 25-1 An Ordinance making the annual appropriation of resources for 2025, and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Appropriations were approved at the Fund level.

General Fund	\$ 899,890.00
Street Fund	\$ 118,855.00
Street Light Funds	\$ 56,400.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 238,000.00
Water Fund	\$ 450,000.00
Sewer Fund	\$ 838,080.00
Utilities and Maintenance	<u>\$ 215,000.00</u>
Total	\$2,816,225.00

Solicitor

A motion to suspend the rules was made by High and seconded by Doseck. All yea, motion passed. Simon moved and Seger seconded the motion approving **Ordinance 25-2 providing for the employment of a solicitor for the Village and declaring the same to be an emergency.** All yea, motion passed.

Jointly Owned Tractor & Side Boom Mower

Simon moved and Borchers seconded the motion to approve the Agreement for use of the Jointly-owned tractor & side mower with Loramie Township for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2025. The agreement provides that each party shall pay ½ of the cost of required maintenance during that period.

Street Paving

No decision was made on which streets will be repaved in 2025, but the Mayor and council members will review them before the next council meeting and make a decision. Council members all agreed that Borchers Street needs to be repaved, but Walterbusch said they may want to consider reconstruction under an OPWC Grant. This would move the project to 2026. A final decision will be made in February.

Lift Station Upgrade Grant

Goubeaux said another meeting was held with Choice One, and a decision was made to go with the submersible pump. A few changes were made in the site plan, and it should be bid out in February with a completion date of November, 2025.

Pavilion and Splash Pad

Borchers said the sitting wall has been completed by Pleiman Landscaping, and they did a nice job.

Lighting at ELO Property

Goubeaux said the crosswalk sign has been ordered, but it will probably be about 8 weeks until it is received. He said he has a quote for an additional light on the West side on the existing pole. The light quote was \$325. Council approved the purchase and installation. Goubeaux said that Adam Barga wants entrance and exit signs installed at ELO Properties. He said he would have quotes next month. Council agreed that the exit sign should be replaced, but did not want an entrance sign installed as it may obscure the crosswalk. Instead, when weather permits, it will be painted on the pavement.

AT&T

Goubeaux said he has again talked to AT&T about an extended lease. They said that the minimum they will consider is 30 years. He said they should send the proposal, with minimum verbiage, and it will be considered by council.

Mower

Goubeaux said a mower was not ordered last year, so he obtained a quote from Flora to replace it this year. The quote from Flora was \$11,279.00 with a \$6,000 allowance for trade in. Armstrong moved and Borchers seconded the motion to move forward with the purchase. As in past years, the mower will be offered for sale, with a minimum bid of \$6,000. If no bid is received, it will be traded in. All yea, motion passed.

Council Committee Appointments

Simon moved and Seger seconded the motion approving the following Committee appointments for 2025:

Finance

Mary Jo High
Scott Armstrong
Nicole Doseck

Law and Order

Jake Borchers
Alex Seger

Streets and Recreation

Brandon Simon

Zoning

Jared Goubeaux

Park Superintendent

Jared Goubeaux

EMA Representative

Mark Shappie

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

Mark Shappie

Wastewater Plant Operator-of-Record

Mark Shappie

All ye, 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)

Mitchell Bergman, President	Expires 2025
Mitchell Hoying	Expires 2027
Zach Sherman	Expires 2027
Colin Puthoff	Expires 2028
Trevor Monnin	Expires 2026
Chett Borchers, Secretary	Expires 2029
Jordan Gariety	Expires 2029

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 Poepelman	Expires 2025
Cindy Goubeaux	Expires 2025

Commerce Drive Extension

Goubeaux said that Paulus Excavation has provided a quote for excavating work necessary to prepare lots 3 and 4 for building. The quote for ground work only is \$69,455.25. He gave a rough estimate for the full project with paving, curbs, and utilities to be about \$200,000. Goubeaux said that the business on the West side of Commerce Drive is interested in putting up another building, which would employ 1 to 2 people. He wants to know the price of the lot adjacent to his current lot. Daugherty said in light of the cost to extend the street, he feels that the lot should be priced to recover some of that expense. Council suggested that the owner provide a business plan that would give further information about the future of the business, before giving a price for the lot.

Simon moved and Armstrong seconded the motion to approve the Paulus Excavation Quote to begin the ground work. All yea, motion passed.

Week End On call schedule

Goubeaux said that Fort Loramie is interested in sharing week end on call staff with a Mutual Aid agreement. Daugherty said he would like to meet with their Mayor and Village Administrator before a decision is made.

Equipment Replacement

Goubeaux said that the Ford 150 is scheduled for replacement. It was purchased in 2017. He said he will get a quote for replacement this year. He said the Ford 550 Dump Truck was also scheduled for replacement. He said he will also price it, but probably not move forward with replacement until 2026. He said the Maintenance staff has also suggested that he look into replacing the John Deere Loader Tractor. He will get a price.

Miscellaneous

Goubeaux said that the Water treatment plant generator purchased under the generator grant will be installed on January 16, 2025.

High reported that now that the Village owns the former US Bank building, Osgood bank has been on site to view it. They have asked for inspection by electricians, as wires were cut when prior equipment was removed. They will arrange for that inspection, and any others that they require. They said that it will take some time to decide if they will be opening a branch bank, and that the plan has to be approved through FDIC.

Goubeaux said a street light was hit and had to be replaced. The person responsible will be billed as soon as the Sheriff's report is received.

Goubeaux said he has been asked if a tent can be installed near the pavilion for large parties. Council said there is no objection, as long as nothing underground is hit, and pavement isn't damaged.

Simon moved and Borchers seconded the motion to enter executive session to discuss the purchase and/or 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.

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

Council President, Mary Jo High _____

Clerk, Mary Jo Voisard _____