

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Canton, Carroll, Nairn, Dishong, Kostura and Porter

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Johnson, Building Inspector Heilman, Solicitor Ondrey, Engineer Haibach, Fiscal Auditor Lechman

VISITORS: Isabel Nerpouni; Tina Nerpouni; Jessica Brett; Lucy Rotenbor; Amy Rotenbor; Charlie Busby; Casey Verderber; Jackson Zeoloure; Eliot Rogers; Gordon Zeitz; Griffin Laws; Nicholas Rohde; Tim & Valerie Mariola, Russell Township;

Mayor Koons called the Regular Council meeting to order. Cub Scout Troop #150 led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Fiscal Officer Romanowski read the roll.

Dishong moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Council meeting, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Girl Scout Troop #1352 addressed Mayor and Council requesting permission to install a waystation for monarch butterflies at the South Russell Village Park. The scouts discussed the purpose and benefits of the station and stated they have met with a naturalist at the nature center to ensure their project is beneficial. This will help the scouts earn a bronze award for completing a project that will make a difference in the community. The project would include planting milkweed and nectar flowers in September in an area of about 4' x 6'. Council agreed the project sounded like a great idea and recommended the scouts consider meeting with Linda Gilbert, a naturalist from the Geauga Park District, for her input. They also asked the troop to meet with the Village Park Committee to work out the project details.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor said that he contacted Tom King, Greg Pike and Bob McIllroy to make sure they are still interested in serving on the Tax Board of Review; they are. Kostura moved to appoint Tom King, Greg Pike and Bob McIllroy to the Tax Board of Review, seconded by Dishong. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: The Fiscal Officer reviewed her report.

The Fiscal Officer reported she attended a safety conference presented by the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. She will be meeting with the Service Department to review the things she learned.

The Fiscal Officer asked Council to consider contributing to the Harvest for Hunger box before March 30th.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: The Fiscal Auditor presented his report to Council and said that he and the Fiscal Officer balance to the penny on all funds. He also reviewed the fund balances on his report.

Kostura moved to approve the February 2016 Financial Statements as submitted, seconded by Carroll. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: The Engineer reported that the annual stormwater meeting was held to gather information for filing the annual 2015 stormwater report. The Engineer stated the village is in compliance and should maintain the NPEDS Phase II permit.

The Engineer also met with the Street Committee to review the 2016 Road Program project. They look to have a recommendation to Council very soon.

The Engineer has been in communication with ODOT to finalize the Bell Road project costs.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: The Building Inspector attended the Ohio Building Officials conference.

The Building Inspector stated the lighting project is underway thanks to the Street Department employees. She stated there was an additional electrical problem found with the meter at the Police Department, which was fixed by an electrician and First Energy.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: The Police Chief reported that he is happy with the electrical repair and the new light fixtures in his building.

The Police Chief would like to establish an “e-commerce safety zone” in the Police Department parking lot for people meeting individuals for items sold online. This zone would be in a designated area that cameras monitor. Council agreed that this is a great idea.

Chief also asked to have a handicapped parking space added to the Police Department parking lot.

Kostura asked how many houses the Police Department has registered for vacation checks. The Chief stated this month there are about 50 houses registered. The homeowners receive a summary report when they return which includes when the house was checked, what was found, etc.

Porter asked if any of the animal control incidences listed on the Police report were at the park. The Chief didn't think any were at the park.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: The Street Commissioner will still be ordering about 300 tons of salt due to the current contract minimum purchase requirements.

The Street Department employees will be removing snow stakes around the village.

The Street Commissioner stated that some communities are having a hard time finding room for the salt they are required to purchase due to the minimum contract requirements and the warm weather this winter not requiring as much salt usage. Chagrin Falls might need some off-site storage and the Street Commissioner would like to offer space in the South Russell salt dome. He stated that on occasion Chagrin Falls as allowed the Village to use their equipment and this would be a good way to offer them something in return.

The Street Commissioner said the Engineer will be completing a final review of the roads discussed at the 2016 Road Program meeting before the information is presented to Council for approval.

The village will have a container for batteries at trash day, which will be disposed of properly after the trash event.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Canton, Nairn and Porter had nothing to report.

Carroll stated that the Safety Committee met and discussed hiring a part time officer at the Police Department. The Chief will review the applications received and narrow the selection down to two applicants, who will then meet with the Mayor and Safety Committee.

The Safety Committee also reviewed changing the uniform allowance for part time officers. They will be paid based on the amount of hours worked instead of a set amount for the year.

In an effort to continue working towards being environmentally conscious with increased electronic records, the Chief is using an electronic citation module. He would like to install mobile printers and scanners in the cruisers to print citations for the violator, and the department's records would be stored electronically.

Carroll is reviewing the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP). The EOP Committee will meet April 25th at 6:30pm and will plan a tour of the County Emergency Management facility in May.

Dishong met with the Human Resource Committee to review the employee handbook changes. They will try to get a copy to Council and the Department Heads in May so the changes can be adopted by Council before summer.

Kostura said the Planning Commission will meet March 31st at 7:30pm to discuss the zoning ordinance revisions.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Kostura gave third reading on a resolution requesting the County Auditor certify to the taxing authority the total tax valuation of the subdivision and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by a renewal levy of 2.4 mills for the purpose of current expenses of South Russell Village. Kostura moved to adopt, seconded by Nairn. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

It was determined that the levy is 4.2 mills, not 2.4 mills as previously stated. Kostura gave third reading to a resolution requesting the County Auditor certify to the taxing authority the total tax valuation of the subdivision and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by a renewal levy of 4.2 mills for the purpose of current expenses of South Russell Village. Kostura moved to adopt, seconded by Carroll. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Resolution 2016-04**

Carroll is against a hunting ban and would like to untable the hunting ban ordinance then have Council consider some changes to the current ordinance. He added that he didn't agree with all of the points that were addressed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) at the last meeting concerning this topic, but would like to continue to look at options for the village.

Chief added that he has only received one hunting request and the previous Police Chief only received one request as well. Being that there have only been two requests within the last 15 years, he said he doesn't see a major problem and would like to see the boundary distances increased.

Dishong said he is surprised that more communities are trying to enact ordinances that allow hunting, as opposed to restricting it.

Porter agreed that an ordinance to ban hunting is unnecessary but he does think the Village needs to make some changes to the current ordinance. He added that he would like to see the proposed ordinance untabled and voted down.

Kostura agrees with Porter and thinks the current ordinance is outdated but doesn't think that banning hunting in the village is warranted.

Canton and Nairn both think hunting should not be banned within the village limits.

Carroll moved to untable the ordinance amending section 618.15 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Russell and to enact a prohibition against any hunting within the village, seconded by Nairn. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Carroll gave second reading to an ordinance amending section 618.15 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Russell and to enact a prohibition against any hunting within the village. Carroll moved to waive further readings, seconded by Dishong. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried. Carroll moved to adopt, seconded by Nairn. Voice vote – all opposed. Motion failed.

Dishong gave second reading to a resolution in appreciation of Matthew E. Brett.

Porter gave second reading to a resolution in appreciation of Jack Binder.

Carroll introduced a resolution to adopt the updated Geauga County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, FY2015 and declared an emergency. Carroll explained adopting the resolution would allow the village to become eligible for federal money in the event of a natural disaster. Carroll moved to waive further readings, seconded by Nairn. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Carroll moved to adopt, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Resolution 2016-05**

BILLS LIST:

Kostura moved to ratify the February 29, 2016 bills list #2 in the amount of \$43,708.06, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor stated the reimbursement for Jim Davis for his tire replacement is on the March 15, 2016 bills list. Davis was at an inspection at the Lantern when he picked up a couple drywall screws in his tire. The Mayor also informed Council that a part-time employee's vehicle was parked outside the Building Department and a village plow truck backed into it. The village's insurance company is claiming sovereign immunity due to the plow truck driver being a municipal employee and the incident happening while performing village work. The employee's insurance will have to pay for the damages and the village's insurance company will pay the employee's deductible.

Kostura moved to approve the March 15, 2016 bills list in the amount of \$38,368.20, seconded by Nairn. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Canton, Carroll, Nairn, Dishong, Kostura and Porter had no new business.

Mayor asked the Solicitor if the Planning Commission is a good option as the first place to start for the review of the village's Zoning Code. The Solicitor agreed that it is and added that it is good to review the entire Zoning Code every ten years or so.

The Engineer is reviewing upcoming stormwater projects.

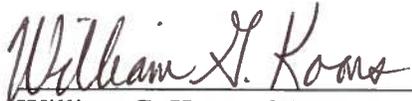
The Building Inspector stated that the State Fire Marshall questioned some lighting fixtures and sprinklers at the Lantern of Chagrin Valley, so the construction project and grand opening is on hold.

The Mayor said the Chamber of Commerce would like to use the park pavilion Tuesday, June 28th from 6-9pm for a concert at the park; they might be asking for permission to serve alcohol as well. Council discussed parking issues and concerns. Dishong said he would want them to use a bus with parking at Gurney school, similar to what the village does during the Fall Festival. The Chief suggested that the Chamber of Commerce hire an off-duty officer for security at the event, which would save the village from incurring that cost.

The Mayor said the newsletter went out and he would like to continue adding a section with pictures and introducing the departments of the village in the upcoming editions.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, Nairn moved to adjourn, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Jennell Dahlhausen