

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Koons, Porter and Kostura, Dishong.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wolfe

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Johnson, Building Commissioner Hocevar, Police Chief Rizzo, Fiscal Auditor Lechman and Solicitor Ondrey

VISITORS: Carol Osborne, Bell Rd.; Ann Dunning, Morningside Dr.; Roger Hoover, Chillicothe Rd.; Dick Baker, Waverly Ln.; Michael Carroll, Lakeview Ln.; Ossian and Heather Field, Chillicothe Rd.; Christina Livers, Geauga County Board of Health; Jack Sutcliffe, Maple Hill Dr.; Sylvia Debick, Maple Hill Dr.

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Fiscal Officer Romanowski read the roll. Solicitor Ondrey stated a name spelling correction needed to be made to the previous meeting's minutes. Binder moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 council meeting with the correction, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor turned the floor over to Cristina Livers, a member of the Geauga County Board of Health, and past Russell Township trustee. Livers presented the facts for two upcoming levies; a renewal for a .2 mill levy costing \$6.13 per year per \$100,000 of home value and a new .10 mil levy. She said the new .10 mil levy will cost \$3.50 per year per \$100,000 of home value and will generate about \$300,000 a year. Livers stated the reason for the new levy is because the Ohio Board of Health has decided not to provide immunization vaccines to any health district in the state. She said the estimated cost of Geauga County immunizations for 2013 is \$452,648 and the federal and state cuts to the grant have cost approximately 40% of the total funding the County has received in the past. Livers said the Geauga County Board of Health provides 36 preventative services. She stated she hopes Council will support these levies. Porter introduced a motion that the Village of South Russell Council express its support for renewal of the .2 mil levy and for a new .10 mil levy seconded by Koons. Ayes all - motion passed.

Ossian Field addressed Council regarding an issue for a building permit for an accessory structure. He stated when he went to the Building Department for a permit he was asked about his pond by the Building Commissioner and the Building Department Secretary who own homes near his. Field said he told them he would work on his pond. He stated the Village Engineer then showed up and wanted a site plan or he was told he could fill in the ditch and install a silt fence. He said he dug a relief ditch so there would not be water going to the property on the north side of his. Field stated he began trying to get a permit in May for the accessory structure, but did not receive it until August. He stated he has not been allowed to work on the structure because he was told he has to get a site plan and he doesn't believe he needs to spend thousands of dollars

on an Engineer. He said he doesn't feel he has made any changes to the grade other than putting dirt in a low spot that he will grade in the future. He said he called Geauga Water & Soil and they were fine with everything he had done. Field shared a letter he received from Geauga Water & Soil with Council that was sent to the Building Secretary. He stated the Geauga Water & Soil Engineer said the pond was not affecting any other property. Field said he feels he is being strong-armed by the Building Department and wanted to bring it to Council's attention. He stated he was issued a permit for the accessory structure but is not able to begin construction due to being told by the Village Engineer he has to do a site plan regarding the pond issue. Building Commissioner stated the permit process was not held up by the pond issue; it went through the process of being presented to the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) because it is a metal structure. He said there was a large catch basin being put in that was not in the building permit plan and at that point the Engineer requested a site plan asking what was being done with the catch basin and drainage. Field stated he feels the drainage issue and accessory building permit is being treated as one issue and he is frustrated with not being able to build his structure. Mayor asked Mr. & Mrs. Field to meet with the Building Commissioner, the Village Engineer and himself to work on settling the issue.

Ann Dunning addressed Council regarding the potential sewer project. She said they have scheduled a meeting on Oct 24, 2013 to assemble a community committee to work with Lake Louise, Maple Hill, Sun Ridge and other communities on moving forward with getting sewers.

Sylvia Debick addressed Council requesting guidance to help with presenting and educating residents with all of the information regarding sewers. Mayor stated the request to form a committee for the sewers was a little complicated due to Sunshine Laws and other factors, and Council is still working on that request. Mayor stated that if the project moves forward he believes Council can assist with presenting information, facts and figures without forming a sub-committee. Mayor said Council could make a motion once all of the information is available to them. Binder requested that any information be presented to Council before being distributed to residents.

Mariellen Miller stated she would be in favor of the Village reviewing any information to be sent to residents beforehand because she feels past information distributed has not been accurate or objective.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Police Chief reported said that on Saturday October 12th the Police Department held an Open House to show the community the recent building improvements. He said the SWAT and communication vehicles were also there.

Chief stated they held their Cops and Seniors meeting that morning and discussed home invasion.

He reported the village has received the final three payments, for a total of nearly \$1,700 this year, for the bullet proof vest grant.

He said he needs to see if Council will accept a donation for \$2,500 from the Walmart Foundation for a grant for Shop with a Cop from the local Bainbridge store. Chief stated they will then take the kids shopping at the Bainbridge store with Bainbridge and Aurora for a smaller version of Shop with a Cop. Binder made a motion to accept \$2,500 from the Walmart Foundation for a grant for Shop with a Cop, seconded by Kostura. Ayes all - motion passed.

Mayor stated he appreciates the openness and friendliness of the Police Department and he has received favorable comments from residents.

Dishong arrived at 8:10 pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor thanked the Service, Building, and Police Departments and the Fiscal Officer for their help with the Fall Festival and Village Birthday celebration. He gave special thanks to the Parks Committee and Ted Kruse. He stated Senator Eklund presented two proclamations to the Village and he received great feedback from the residents.

Mayor reported the Police Department project looks good, including the small patio and painting.

Mayor reported a committee for the sewers is currently on hold as discussed briefly earlier.

Mayor reported a renter moved into the rental property today. He stated the rental house looks really nice and the Building Commissioner and Service Department did a nice job. Mayor reported a meeting has been set up for Monday, October 21, 2013 with the Village Engineer, the Chagrin River Watershed Partnership and the residents on Angler's Drive in regards to a water/pond issue on the eastern side. He said there has been a water issue that spills into the Emerald Lakes II subdivision.

Mayor reported the last storm water management educational session is scheduled for Thursday, October 17th, at 6 pm for innovative storm water techniques and will be hosted by Merilee Marshall on Bell Rd. Mayor recommended carpooling for parking reasons if you are attending.

Mayor reported the waterline extension faced challenges with forming a partnership, but Council is pursuing other possibilities they hope can become a reality.

Mayor reported the Farmers Market had a successful year and he approved extending it for one more week.

Mayor reported the cost of \$5,650 seems to be up for the Department of the Interior USGS well monitoring service. Mayor asked Council to look at the data regarding water quality and quantity and think about whether the costs are worthwhile to the Village. Kostura asked Mayor what the Village does with the USGS information. Mayor responded that the Village uses the historical data for information regarding water issues within the Village. Mayor requested that Kostura forward him specific questions that will be sent to USGS for answers.

Mayor reported the Village received an updated revised proposal from CT Consultants regarding the cemetery and Mayor asked Council to do a motion to authorize him to proceed with the proposal. Dishong made a motion to authorize the Mayor to proceed with the revised proposal from CT Consultants for the cemetery, seconded by Porter. Ayes – all, motion passed.

Mayor stated it appears the Dominion East Ohio work on Bell Rd. is complete.

Mayor stated he would like to go into Executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel compensation.

Mayor reported Halloween trick or treating will be October 31, 6-8 pm.

FISCAL OFFICER: Fiscal Officer reported all employees will be going to at least a monthly payroll cycle and she asked Council to make a motion to approve monthly payment for all previously paid quarterly employees. Dishong made a motion to approve a monthly payment cycle for all previously paid quarterly employees, seconded by Kostura. Ayes –all, motion passed.

Fiscal Officer reported the village has received the health insurance renewal rates and she will review that with the Human Resources Committee. She stated the December 1st renewal date of the medical insurance is helping the village in this time of health care reform uncertainty.

As Tax Administrator she reported the gross distribution for September was \$106,479.39 and after refunds and overhead, the net distribution was \$99,821.08, which is an YTD net of \$1,345,008.41.

Mayor recommended engaging Gary Brockett to help with the renewal of the Village property insurance.

FISCAL AUDITOR: Fiscal Auditor reported he is working on how to handle the deposit for the rental property.

Fiscal Auditor stated the balances dropped by \$66,000 in September which was expected. Fiscal Auditor reported he invested an additional \$500,000 in CDARS which will stagger maturity dates, which is a good thing.

He stated homestead and rollback funds were received and the Village will hit the year end budget number on income tax.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mayor stated the Engineer is out on vacation but that the Village is still waiting to have the pre-construction meeting for Bell Road West set up. Mayor stated Karvo was awarded the contract for Bell Road with a bid just over 2% of CT's bid and 12% over ODOT's bid.

Mayor reported final project documents for the 2013 Road Program were received and the contract amount was \$270,419.50.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner reported he received an email from Amy Holthouse and would like to meet at 9 am tomorrow to discuss the Angler's Drive problem.

Building Commissioner stated he hopes to break ground this week for the pavilion project and is just waiting on documentation.

Building Commissioner reported the painting of Village Hall, the shed and service building has been completed.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Street Commissioner reported the Fall Fest went very well.

He stated the police department project and rental house projects are complete. Street Commissioner reported they will be working on paving, fall property clean up, crack sealing, and winterizing of equipment.

He stated the last Farmer's Market coincides with shredding day.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Kostura reported the Planning Committee will have their next meeting on Nov. 14, 2013 and will be meeting with Mr. Makesh. He also reported a meeting was held October 10, 2013 with a veterinarian who will be putting in an 1100 sq. foot office that was approved for no large animals and no overnight boarding.

Porter reported he went to the Geauga County Elected Officials Day and found that seniors can get help with maintenance around their home by purchasing the needed items and the Department on Aging will help with the labor. He stated he will be attending the Township Association Meeting on November 13th.

Binder reported from a safety perspective they have been looking at linking a camera from Gurney School into the video monitor at Police Department.

Dishong reported it is not too soon to begin thinking about articles for the newsletter around the holidays.

Dishong stated that department heads will need to attend the budget work session on November 11th.

Koons reported that the Dietrich's purchased a bench and installed it at the top of the hill in the park. He also thanked everyone for helping at the Fall Festival.

Binder asked if the flag should be taken down when not lit and Street Commissioner responded that it is acceptable to leave the flag up when not lit.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS: None.

BILLS LIST: Koons made a motion to ratify the bills list dated 9/30/13 in the amount of \$45,398.57, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Dishong made a motion to approve the bills list dated for 10/15/13 in the amount of \$88,744.45, seconded by Kostura. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER:

At approximately 9:09 p.m. Koons made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel compensation, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, at 9:26 p.m. Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer