

Building Committee – March 2, 2023

Attendees: Chairman Chris Bell (CB), Councilman Jerry Canton (JC), Mayor Bill Koons (BK), Ruth Griswold RG

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m.

The Committee reviewed the department capital budget for 2023. The group agreed that no action needed to be taken this year for the line items presented. The Committee did agree that drywall repairs need to be made in the women's bathroom. A pipe previously had work done and the drywall was never fixed up. There is also a need for a new toilet in the ladies room.

RG reported that the deposit refund process is working smoothly after the recent Council amendments to ORD 1440.06.

RG noted that Ms. Nykulak of 1580 Bell Rd. plans to attend the Council meeting on March 13. Her property burned down during construction in 2022. The \$3,000 construction deposits needed to be paid again for the reconstruction of the home. She previously asked the committee to consider refunding her deposit since the same house is being built. The committee was reluctant at the time because most of the inspections had already occurred with the previous home. The new construction will still require inspections and there is a cost to the Village. Because of this, the committee advised that she speak with her insurance company and/or builder to see if they will be covering the new costs. It was reported by RG that those conversations occurred and nothing came of it. The committee discussed the matter and concluded that we can't consider a refund, even a partial refund, until after the inspector completes the final inspection. At that time, we will have a better understanding of how many occasions he needed to go out to the property and the cost to the Village. BK noted that, per the inspector, the foundation did not require a new inspection.

The Committee discussed re-inspection fees. South Russell currently charges \$25. RG believes that is low in comparison to nearby communities. She will contact those communities to get a better understanding of what they charge. The committee will discuss this issue further once we have more information.

RG shared with the Committee a pamphlet created by the Ohio Department of Commerce in an effort to attract certified inspectors. The state recognizes the shortage of qualified professionals and is trying to attract more people to the job. The pamphlets are available on the counter of the Building Department for any tradesman who may be interested.

The Committee briefly discussed No Mow May, a national effort to encourage people to not mow their yards during the month of May so pollinators coming out of hibernation can feed on the wildflowers in yards. Some communities across the country have passed ordinances to allow now mowing in May. The Committee discussed and decided that at this time the zoning code will be enforced as it relates to lawn height during the month of May.

RG reported that the March 1 Go Date for City Force did not happen. The migration of data is still not nearly accurate enough for her to be able to work both systems during a transition period.

BK reported on the need for alternates on the Planning Committee. His preference would be for their to be three alternates, but allowing only two to be able to step in at one time. Per BK, this would require

an ordinance change. Currently only one alternate is permitted. The committee agreed to meet with potential candidates to get a feel for their qualifications on March 16, prior to the scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

With the termination of Geauga County's septic point-of-sale inspection program, BK asked if the Village should consider such a program. After much discussion, the committee agreed that at this time it would be best to stick with the program already in place... a required clean-out and inspection every three years, with documented proof sent to the Village.

BK made a point to compliment the efforts of RG and her work to help streamline the processes of the Architectural Review Board. The ARB is very appreciative of her work.

RG gave a recap of the number of permits filed over the past few years. They are:

2019 – 301

2020 – 333

2021 – 560

2022 – 491

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.