

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, Porter

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Jian Li, Dorset Dr., Jason Cheng, Dorset Dr.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. **Porter made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of May 8, 2023, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

VISITOR: Jason Cheng explained he is a rising senior at Chagrin Falls High School and was attending as part of an end of course project for his U.S. Government class. Jian Li, Cheng’s mother, introduced herself and explained that she is a South Russell resident and became an American Citizen a couple years ago. She said her son was currently finishing his A.P. U.S. Government class project and was interested in a summer internship or volunteer opportunity with the Village.

MAYOR’S REPORT: The Mayor distributed information to Council. He reported the Eagle Scout project of labeling the trails in the park is complete.

The Park Appreciation Luncheon invitation will be sent out this week.

The Mayor reported that First Responders day will be celebrated on Wednesday at the Triangle at 5:00 p.m.

The Mayor also distributed the Blossom Time Parade information. He did not get the staging area he hoped for and advised that everyone was on their own for parking. He intends to park some of the Village equipment at the high school the night before.

Information about the culvert installation was published in the newsletter. He anticipated chaos in that traffic would back up but did not think it would be worse than when the gas line was installed in Bainbridge. This will be starting soon and go on for a while.

The Mayor advised that there was a tax information board meeting with Mrs. Meeder. The Fiscal Officer has it covered.

Regarding the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Mayor said he did not know how it happened, but he received a call on Thursday afternoon that a guy from the Ohio EPA (OEPA) was coming up Friday to look at the facility and see what the Village has done. The Mayor said he would attempt to explain it. Cavanagh asked what the EPA wanted to see. The Mayor said he wanted to see what the Village had done. Bell asked if it pertained to the project next to Village Hall. The Mayor said the representative came up early and did all of them. The Mayor provided background in saying that the Village’s first 319 grant was two parts. It was \$186,000 and the first expense was behind Village Hall. The Village spent \$37,000 of its dollars to put in four little pools and different vegetation to catch water and slow it from east to west. It worked okay but when there was a 100-year storm, it

was not enough, and it did not stop water from shutting down the highway. The OEPA people who walked through looked at what was done over the summer with CT Construction and basically said that any attempt by the Village to recreate a wetland is not going to be successful. His advice was to consider doing something behind the Police Station where there is a creek. A wetland could be created there. This was something discussed years ago. Instead of trying to spend \$20,000 to \$30,000 to recreate it, the EPA representative said the Village would not be able to do it. He will let the Engineer know, and it will be discussed at the Public Utilities Committee meeting next Friday.

The second thing the EPA representative went out to see was a picture of perfection, which was the wetland the Village created at the park in the northwest corner. He said the Village could not have done anything better. This cost the Village \$30,000 to \$40,000 of its money.

The Mayor noted that the grass planted in the Central Retention Basin is growing well but is not in Manor Brook. He suspected that after hydroseeding was done there was a frost. He said it looks awful and there have been complaints. He will talk with the Engineer but thinks that it would be necessary to have them replant the grass. Another issue was with two of the streams that flow into the Manor Brook area. The opinion of the OEPA representative was that they were not dug deep enough and the amount of water flowing into them required deeper channels. The solution would be to put more stone or rock into it. Other than this, the representative was impressed with the project.

The Mayor told the OEPA representative about the trees the Village was planning to plant with the Manor Brook project, and he asked why. The Mayor told him there were many reasons, but the representative saw no need for or help from the trees besides some screening.

The other issue, which the Mayor said he did not know, was that the OEPA had already been to Paw Paw Lake. He did not know if they came here because of Paw Paw, and he was not going to guess. They asked a few questions about Paw Paw and the amount of dirt that is being piled there. We will get a letter from the OEPA telling what the representative saw in the walk through. The Mayor said it was very nice and pleasant, but there was concern about what was going on. Cavanagh asked if it was one of the district guys. The Mayor said they came out of Columbus. He added that they did not make a special trip up to the Village. They had three other locations to see. They came up on a Friday morning and were going to look at different things. Galicki questioned why the OEPA would approach the Village about Paw Paw Lake given the fact that it is private land. The Mayor said the OEPA representatives did not approach the Village. The Mayor said that he asked the representative if he would want to see Paw Paw, but the representative said he had already been there. He did not bring it up. It was not a point of conversation. It caught the Mayor's attention that the representative had been there. Galicki asked Cavanagh if anyone from her homeowners' association (HOA) was aware, and Cavanagh responded that this was the first time she had heard of any of this. The Mayor said the representative may have seen it while driving through. He was not too worried about it. Cavanagh asked how much time it took to squire the representative around to all the Village places, and the Mayor said an hour and a half and explained this is one of the things they do to check to see what has been done. He did not think the Village had ever had anyone check on the original 319 grant. He thought it was due to the fact that the Village was in its fifth year with the Manor Brook project and there were delays and extensions. The Mayor said they were pretty happy with it.

Galicki acknowledged the business signs in Council Chambers that will be displayed in the Blossom Parade and explained that he had been asked about the requirements by a resident who has a business outside the Village. Was it for South Russell residents, South Russell businesses, any business even though there are no connections with the Village? The Mayor said this was a good question and he

would say if someone wanted to get a sign in, they are still calling and asking. Galicki rephrased his question and asked whether a resident from another township with no business in South Russell but rather a business in Chagrin Falls could participate. The Mayor said no. Galicki verified that there must be a South Russell connection of being a resident or having a business in South Russell.

Berger noted that the Mayor's handout stated that there are eight spots on the parade wagon and noted that the Mayor asked about spouses. He wanted to clarify whether spouses were invited and whether there would be room for them on the wagon. The Mayor said yes, there were empty spaces.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer distributed her report and indicated that it reflects appropriations amendments suggested by the Finance Committee she included in her report. Regarding the restroom for the park, Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) is applying for the grant for the Village. They requested some sort of confirmation or commitment from the Village that it will move forward with the restroom project. This will help the Village's chances of getting the grant. She thought the total was about \$86,000. Porter suggested a resolution, and the Solicitor advised one was done to apply for the grant. However, the Fiscal Officer said they want something saying it was budgeted. It will be in next year's budget, which has not yet been approved. The Solicitor further explained that the resolution included certification that the funds were committed but thought they wanted something in addition to this. Galicki verified there was no reserve fund for the restroom, and the Fiscal Officer concurred.

The Fiscal Officer provided Council with the 5-year Capital Project Spreadsheet for review. For forecasting purposes only, she asked Council what she should put aside annually for the Road Program looking forward. Porter suggested \$500,000 per year.

The Fiscal Officer reported she had forwarded an email from the county regarding the Village's Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grants. She stressed that it is imperative these projects get done this year or the Village will not get the funding. The Village is committed by contracts it has entered to do the culvert and traffic light projects. If they are not done by the deadlines, the Village will lose the funding. What they consider complete is that the project is done, and the Village has filed the final paperwork. The traffic light deadline is December 31st and the Culvert Project is July 1st. Porter thought the culvert project was being done in June. The Fiscal Officer said she forwarded the information to the Engineer but had not heard back from him.

The Finance Committee discussed the need for IT support, and the Fiscal Officer contacted Automated Data Processing (ADP) at the county. The Police Department is covered through Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD). There are four computers for the Service, Building, and Finance/Admin departments that require IT support backup, etc. She and the Chief will meet with ADP to explain the Village's needs and to get a cost for the services. Cavanagh clarified this would be through the county, and the Fiscal Officer explained that the county does this for the townships to include Bainbridge, Auburn, and Russell. She needs to find out the details of the services they provide, but the current requirements are beyond the abilities of Village staff at this point.

Regarding the purchase of the corner property, the Fiscal Officer will be going to the bank on the morning of May 30th to do the wire transfer for that purchase.

Bell congratulated the Fiscal Officer on finishing her Certified Public Manager (CPM) program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Berger reported that the committee met on May 12th. The next Finance Committee meeting is June 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Berger made a motion to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the Credit Card Report from May 22, 2023, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Berger did not attend the meeting for Meeder but read the notes. There was discussion in the Finance Committee meeting about setting the minimum floor for the cash balance for the Village, which was \$1 million. The Meeder report suggested that if all goes according to plan, the Village will have \$2.1 million at the end of the year as a cash balance. He wanted to point out that this would be double the floor or \$1 million. He thought this was positive.

Galicki said that relative to the commitment for the grant funds, the Village could consider creating a reserve fund to earmark money for the restroom. The Fiscal Officer explained that the Village would not want to do a reserve fund for money that will be spent next year. Reserve funds are for putting money aside for the future. **Berger made a motion for Council to commit to completion of the park restroom facility project in 2024 in the approximate amount of \$86,000 total, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

STREET COMMITTEE: Bell reported that the Street Committee May meeting minutes were distributed. The next meeting will be June 2nd at 7:30 a.m. in the Service Department office.

He noted that since the last committee meeting, the Service Department had switched to four 10-hour days per week. Bell spoke with the Street Commissioner on May 22nd and thought there may have been some confusion on his behalf by moving forward quickly on the four 10-hour days. Bell advised that the Street Commissioner was under the impression that the Streets Committee had approved it already when the committee had not officially approved it. It was referred to HR in February. Now there is a situation where the Service Department employees are working four 10-hour days and he thought the Mayor and the HR committee needed to sit down and figure out how to move forward with it or not.

Berger said he would speak on behalf of HR in saying that his understanding was that the four 10-hour days were only related to the culvert projects. That was the specific reason for creating the four 10's. If somebody has created something different, then that was not his understanding. Bell said his understanding was that the request was for all summer.

Porter said he recalled this coming up at one of the Street Committee meetings and it was on one of the agendas. The idea was that it would be much better to replace culverts with four 10-hour days because the efficiency of doing work was such that the 10-hour days gave them a better result and more culverts were replaced. Logically, replacing culverts typically happens in summer so he could understand why this might have happened. He did recall Streets Committee being in favor of this approach but had no authority to make that happen. Bell concurred. Porter said this would be up to the Mayor or possibly the Mayor and HR to do this. He said it appears the four 10-hour days is working in that culverts are being replaced at a more rapid rate, but he did not think it would extend into the winter. He thought Streets and HR Committees should hash this out as far as how long it should go and if there is an end point, which he thought there should be.

Berger said his understanding was that they were talking about 30 culverts, and this was a week or two-week project. Obviously, it had been morphed into something more than that. Bell thought it had, and perhaps not intentionally. He thought it was a miscommunication between various stakeholders. That being said, he believed the Service Department staff were under the impression they would be working four 10-hour days for the entire summer, and an issue this arrangement creates is that the department is not open on Friday. Berger said he agreed 100%. Bell continued to say that when it first came up, he assumed that there would be a schedule where they would alternate with some of the staff working Monday through Thursday and others Tuesday through Friday. However, it has come to his attention that there are four of them and they believe all four have to work together and if they are down one or two people it does not work. There are a lot of layers that need to be unpeeled and figured out to make it a success moving forward.

Canton asked if there was a history or past practice of this in the Streets Department. Bell said not to his understanding. Cavanagh said the Police have four 10's. Porter said the police are different. The Chief explained that his department covers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Bell said if it were project specific, he would be more comfortable with it, but he was not under this impression. However, there are other departments like the Administrative and Building Departments who would love not to work on Fridays. Cavanagh said this was discussed at the last HR Committee meeting but there was no conclusion. Berger said he would contact the Street Commissioner and find out what the situation was.

The Fiscal Officer said there were two issues last week. The whole department was out on Wednesday at training and Friday they were off. Wednesday during training, a boulder fell at the intersection of Chillicothe Road and Bell Road. The Police Department called the Service Department to ask them to move the boulder, but they were all out at training. Chagrin Falls had to be called for assistance. Then, a truck driver came with a delivery, and was walking around the parking lot not knowing where to deliver the material. The driver ended up going to the Building Department and between the Building Department Administrative Assistant and the Police Chief, they were able to help the truck driver. The department was not staffed twice last week.

Porter's understanding was that both of the events happened on a Thursday, and they were off doing their training so four people were gone. The Street Commissioner was contacted. The Chief explained that the officer on the road contacted the Street Commissioner, who advised they were in class. The Street Commissioner reached out to Chagrin Falls, which sent a loader to remove the boulder. The Mayor asked if the road was shut down, and the Chief said yes, that a lane was blocked on the east bound side of Bell Rd. for about 25 minutes. Bell asked the Street Commissioner about the delivery, and he said he had given the company instructions of where to pour it, but the driver was hesitant because it was different material than what was there. The Mayor asked how the Building Department Administrative Assistant was involved, and the Fiscal Officer said it was because the truck driver did not know where to go, so she went to the Building Department. Then the Building Department Administrative Assistant called the Street Commissioner who told her where to make the delivery. On viewing it, the driver did not think it was the right place, so she went back to the Building Department. Then the Chief saw the truck there and responded.

Regarding the four 10-hour days, Bell asked the Solicitor whether this should be an action of Council or an executive decision where the Mayor would make the decision. The Solicitor advised that the Employee Handbook states that it is supposed to be the appropriate committee, the Street Department and the Mayor. It has to be an agreement as determined by the appropriate Council committee and the Mayor. This would have to be discussed in an open public meeting. Bell asked if it would require

further Council approval, and the Solicitor said according to the Employee Handbook, it does not require it. She would highly recommend that Council consider amending this because it is not just a work week. The section of the handbook also allows the appropriate committee of Council and Mayor to change the pay period, which would create an administrative nightmare to change the pay period just on a Council committee and Mayor's agreement. She asked Council to keep this in mind especially since other changes to the handbook are currently being considered. They may want to consider adding some sort of Council approval to change the work week. Galicki added that after the excerpt provided by the Solicitor, the handbook states that usually it will be considered five 8-hour days. He found this to be an intriguing conversation during the last Finance Committee meeting before which he noticed that the Building Department was not manned by anyone and had been closed down the entire day. When he initially asked this question to Council member Berger and the Mayor, who were present for the Finance Committee meeting, Councilman Berger first responded with a question of whether there was a problem. Secondly, Berger said it had been approved by the Streets Committee. Galicki went to the Chairman of the Streets Committee who said it was not addressed by the Streets Committee. Galicki continued to say that the Mayor then said he saw people working and asked them how many hours they might have to finish up a job, and they said an hour and a half, so he authorized them to work that day but also every day that week and the subsequent week as well. Galicki said it appeared like there was a little bit of smoke and mirrors. To Porter's point about four-10's allowing the employees to do more work on culverts, it is the same number of hours that are in a five-day work week. Galicki wanted to hear justification of how an unmanned department benefits the residents. If this is the path the Village chooses, then perhaps it should be elective in nature with the concurrence of the appropriate committee and the Mayor that every department in the Village have the opportunity to go to four 10's. Is it for the benefit of the Village or is it for the benefit of the employees to accommodate side jobs which are busy during the summer months. There was an issue with a Police Officer that was potentially being a little loose on his hours with respect to accommodating a side job, so he would caution Council so as not to go down the wrong path for the wrong reason.

Cavanagh asked if the culvert people worked from light to light, longer than an eight-hour day. The Mayor responded 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Porter asked if she was talking about the contractor. Cavanagh said yes and clarified they work a 10-hour day. Porter said this is up to them as a contractor to do the four culverts. He then described his observation of the four Service Department employees replacing a driveway culvert on Chillicothe Rd. while maintaining traffic flow. He thought they were doing it quickly given the work. In answer to Galicki's question about the benefit, Porter said there was less traffic disruption for a culvert replacement on Chillicothe Rd. This was one example and he imagined there were others.

The Fiscal Officer asked, from a payroll perspective, if this department is now on four 10's and someone were to take vacation or comp time, should she subtract their bank by 10 hours depending on the week? The Mayor stated we are on four 10's which will be until the culverts are done and there are 30 some culverts. They will need 15 days of two a day to get them done. Porter said their productivity is better than that. He thought they were doing more than two per day during this period. Cavanagh said that the Fiscal Officer's question is how she debits the day. The Fiscal Officer explained that everyone gets so much time, so if it is a 10-hour day week, then if they miss a day, she takes 10 hours out of their bank. Additionally, what if something happens on Friday and it is necessary to call them in - is this a 4-hour call out? Porter said it would be like a Saturday or Sunday. The Village does not have a 24-hour manned Service Department or Administrative or Building Department. No one is in the Service Department on Saturdays and Sundays. If they are working four -10's then no one would be there on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday unless they were called in and then it would be a call out.

The Fiscal Officer said that at this point at the very least they would be receiving overtime because they had met their 40 hours. Berger said it is the Street Commissioner's job to tell the Fiscal Officer how comp time is to be applied if necessary. The Fiscal Officer explained that they put it on their timesheets. Berger said he knew this, but the Street Commissioner submits them with his approval, so he should look at them and if comp time is being used, he should sign off on what that is approved for. If that becomes a bigger problem, then it needs to be addressed in HR. Porter suggested discussing it in the next Streets Committee meeting as well.

The Solicitor asked if it had been determined by the HR or Streets Committee and Mayor that it will be four 10's for the remainder of the culvert project, because she has not heard a determination or agreement to this. Bell said they had not discussed the scope of the 10-hour day. Porter said it was always done in terms of culverts. He thought that four 10's would be proper until the end of next week. If the Street Commissioner thought it should go beyond that, then that was not correct.

Galicki advised that when this issue came up, he reviewed a lot of Streets and HR Committee meeting minutes, and nowhere did he see the 10-hour issue being related to culverts. If this discussion took place, what was the forum of the discussion? Porter said it was the Street Committee meeting because he remembered it being on the agenda. The minutes do not necessarily reflect every word that is spoken, but it had been on an agenda. Bell said his recollection was that it was brought up in February and was acknowledged as a good and interesting idea but was determined to be an HR matter. Cavanagh said it was discussed at the last HR meeting, but a decision was not made. The Mayor noted that there was an HR Committee meeting on June 1st at 1:00 p.m. He asked if there was anything else on this issue, and Berger said no. The Solicitor asked what they would do in the meantime. Galicki asked what hours they would work tomorrow and the days following? Porter said the Streets Committee and Mayor could approve the four 10's retroactively until the end of next week when the Streets Committee will take the issue up for further discussion. The Mayor said his opinion was that it is four 10's for culverts only. Porter concurred and said that the committee would revisit the issue and depending on the report from the Street Commissioner, it may come to an end or may be extended. The Mayor will be in attendance as will the two Streets Committee members and they would go from there. Cavanagh said it would be a short duration through June 2nd. Porter said that was correct. The Solicitor thought there should be a motion. **Porter made a motion that the four 10's for the Street Department including the Commissioner be extended from today until Friday, June 2nd whereupon Street Committee and the Mayor and the Commissioner will discuss this in further detail to determine whether it should be extended beyond June 2nd, seconded by Cavanagh.** Bell asked that the Mayor meet with the Street Commissioner and hash out a plan if he is trying to push for this arrangement for the whole summer. The Mayor said he did not like that. He did not know but did not like the whole plan. He liked the culverts, that worked well. Bell was concerned about dropping 20% of the time that the department is usually open during the weekdays but understood. The Mayor said culverts make sense. Porter reiterated it would be until June 2nd and then the committee would have the meeting and the Street Commissioner will make his proposal if there is one. Otherwise it ends June 2nd. The Solicitor asked if Porter was specifying today until June 2nd, or retroactive to when they started the four 10's. Porter said retroactive from when they started. **Voice vote – ayes, Cavanagh, Porter, Bell, Berger, Canton. Nay – Galicki.**

The Mayor stated that the day Galicki referenced, May 12th, the Building Department shut down at noon on Fridays. Galicki clarified that the question did not have anything to do with the Building Department but rather the Service Department.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Bell reported that the Building Committee met, and the May minutes were distributed. The next meeting is June 1st at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief reported that the Chagrin Falls Schools had a Safety School Forum and addressed district wide security concerns. He conveyed information relating to the department's ongoing security measures at Gurney School. It is a collaborative effort and the Police Department's interaction with staff, students, and parents is appreciated by the schools. The police are there daily for arrival, dismissal, and an extra detail during the course of the day until the end of the day for extra visibility. He believed Gurney was well protected and the officers did a great job with this.

The Chief thanked the Mayor and his wife, the Royers, and volunteers for hosting a First Responders picnic for the officers and their families as a part of First Responders Week.

Cavanagh asked if the police helped with the High School as well, and the Chief explained that it is only in a mutual aid capacity. Cavanagh said she did not know that the department was a presence at pick up and drop off at Gurney, and the Chief explained the department had been doing this for years.

Bell asked if Gurney had a Resource Officer, and the Chief explained the district does and the officer will visit Gurney occasionally, but his main responsibility is with the High School and Middle School. Canton said there is an officer at the Intermediate School now and a retired officer at Gurney. The Chief concurred.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Canton reported that the Safety Committee will meet on June 1st at the Police Department at 9:00 a.m.

Canton asked the Chief if there were funds earmarked for the Cops and Kids Fishing event and the Bike Rodeo, and the Chief said there were community service funds in the budget. **Canton made a motion to approve the Cops and Kids Fishing event on Sunday, June 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Lake Louise, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Canton made a motion to approve the Bike Rodeo event to be held on Sunday, June 25, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the Village campus, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh asked how many participants are anticipated and whether they register, and the Chief explained that registration is required and last year there were 65 kids ranging in age from 5 to 13. There were about 100 participants for the fishing event. The Chief explained what occurs at the Bike Rodeo.

HR COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that the next HR Committee meeting will be June 1st at 1:00 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were distributed.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE: Cavanagh said that the Properties Committee will meet on June 1st at 10:00 a.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were submitted. She reported on the status of a project by an Eagle Scout candidate, Charlie Robinson. She said he is moving forward on his project and has the words ready for a kiosk at the Rarick Cemetery. Cavanagh said she and the Mayor reviewed the wording. Cavanagh met with Robinson and his grandfather on May 21st to mark the spot for the kiosk.

The Mayor asked Cavanagh about the solar lighting, and she said she was not ready to discuss it because she still needed some information. She added that the flagpole is still out there. The Mayor

reminded Council to view the two addresses in the Village with solar flagpole lighting. The Chief had an officer take photographs of these locations and he will send them to Council.

PARKS COMMITTEE: Canton reported that the Parks Committee met on May 16th at 7:00 p.m. in Village Hall. The minutes were distributed. The new member, Greg Gamm, was welcomed. The committee agreed that Sunday, September 17, 2023, will be the date for the Fall Festival. The rain date will be Sunday, October 8th. Responsibilities were distributed to the committee members.

Canton made a motion for Council to vote and approve the Sunday, September 17, 2023, date for the Fall Festival between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon and to approve a rain date of Sunday, October 8, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Berger said that the Public Utilities Committee will meet Friday, June 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Bell provided a second reading of an ordinance amending Section 260.02(b) of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Russell by providing for the appointment of up to three alternate members of the Planning Commission and declaring an emergency.

Bell introduced an ordinance approving the agreement with Specialized Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$492,268.00 for the Village of South Russell’s 2023 Road Program, authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village of South Russell, and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-29**

Berger introduced an Appropriation Amendment increasing Street Maintenance expenses \$318,206, Safety Fund expenses \$4,000, Road & Bridge Fund expenses \$44,291, and decreasing Income Tax transfers \$217,000 and Special Land & Bldg. Fund expenses \$575,000 and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-30**

Berger introduced an ordinance amending transfers decreasing Special Land and Building \$537,000 and increasing Large Equipment Fund \$100,000 and Street Maintenance \$220,000 and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-31**

BILLS LIST:

Galicki asked for clarification of items on the bills list. He realized the Street Commissioner was not present, but perhaps the Fiscal Officer could provide clarification. There were two bills on the bills list, and one was for tree removal at 28 Annandale Dr. and tree removal at 104 Lakeview Ln. Bell explained that for 28 Annandale, there were multiple dead trees on Village property, which abuts the back yard of this residence. The residents asked the Village to remove these. The committee approved this. Galicki explained that he was raising the question because in driving past the locations, it did not appear to have anything to do with right-of-way issues, and at least one invoice indicated the trees were in a backyard. Bell did not recall the other location. Galicki noted that the other was the removal

of a pine tree, chipping, hauling, and cutting the stump as low as possible. Porter said he did not remember it exactly, but it was something about it falling in the right-of-way. Berger agreed. The Chief thought it was storm damage. The Mayor said you can see where it went across the road. Galicki offered that the invoice date was April 20th. The Chief offered to look through police reports.

Galicki made a motion to ratify the bills list of May 15, 2023, in the amount of \$65,384.42, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, Cavanagh, Galicki, Porter, Bell. Berger and Canton abstained. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Galicki, Porter, and Bell had no new business.

Cavanagh discussed progress with her Village history update. She added that Pat Hosmer, who co-authored the Village history, had passed away. In honor of Memorial Day, Cavanagh also recognized three young South Russell fallen heroes, Alvin Smith (WWII), Roy Warburton (WWII), Bob Plzak (Korean War).

Berger thanked the Solicitor and Fiscal Officer for their research related to the Rarick Cemetery and the responsibility for the headstones. He hoped that the Mayor and Council would agree to a committee to decide how to handle maintenance of the ancient headstones. The Mayor said this fell under the Property Committee. Berger said that previous administrations had decided that the headstones were private property belonging to the cemetery lot owners and there was nothing for the Village to do. Berger did not think it made sense to let the Rarick Cemetery fall into disrepair.

Canton thanked the Royers for sponsoring the First Responder’s picnic. He also thanked the Gurney staff and students for the artwork and cards they made for the South Russell Police Officers. The Chief thanked Canton for his part in the event.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, **Cavanaugh made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki