

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

April 10, 2024

Mayor Robert Flanagan called the meeting to order, Bob also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Robert Flanagan, Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell, Jordan Castello, Colby Rinehart, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Carol Merritt, Zach Gaston

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Chuck Little, Gordon Price, Ray Van Horn, Chris Hunt, Cindy Foose, Rod Miller

Reports

The Fiscal Officer E-Mailed Fund Status, Cash Summary by Fund, Fund Ledger, Payroll, Receipt Register & YTD Appropriation status reports to Council Members, Administrator, Fire Chief & Mayor. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Julie from Belmont County Hoof and Paw stated that she is having a fundraiser at the Carnes Center and would like to donate some of the proceeds to Bethesda's Shop with a Cop program. Julie asked if the PD would be able to provide security at the event on May 4th. Solicitor Shaheen stated that the police can volunteer time, but not on behalf of the Village of Bethesda.

Gordon Price and Ray Van Horn with the Bethesda American Legion Post are working with Jordan to organize the parade for Memorial Day. Gordon talked to Sheriff Lucas about having the county swat tank in the parade. The sheriff had concerns of the weight of the vehicle. Dirk said that on Maple and Main Street it would not be an issue. Gordon said that four fire departments, the UL Band and about 13 others are on the list for the parade. Gordon said that Clifford Collins is going to be the Grand Marshall. Gordon and Ray discussed the need to build up patriotism and moral in the community. Ray stated that the Memorial Day parade is for people to show respect for those who gave their life for this community and we need to support the parade.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead stated that the audit is ongoing. Theresa, Jessica, and Rick are working with the auditors to get them everything they need for the audit. Rick stated that we have been billed for 80% of the audit so he feels we are close to being done. The village was mailed about an IRS audit for 2021 1099's that were sent. Rick will follow up with the IRS and comply with the audit needs.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- Trojan will be here on April 23rd to work on the UV Light system.
- Dirk applied for a grant for the sewer line on Lake Street. No word yet.
- Community Cleanup day by JB Green Team is April 18th from 2pm-6pm at the TWP Garage.
- Dirk sent Solicitor Shaheen the addendum for the sewer plant operator contract and the paving estimate for paving Main Street.
- Dirk is working on plans to correct drainage issues on Virginia and Depot Streets. We need to have a form to send to residents pertaining to backflow devices in their sewer lines. Mr. Shaheen will draft a letter stating that we suggest a device but not require it but will not be responsible for damage from further drain issues.
- Dirk is looking at paving grants for Main Street.
- Dirk is talking to ODOT about the slip on SR 147 to see who is responsible for it and what can be done.
- Dirk thanked the Fire Department for helping the village pump water on Front Street.

Solicitor Shaheen stated that no one seems to be able to serve Pikes Paving. He is working to resolve that. Mr. Shaheen will be having another conversation with EQT about Main Street. Mr. Shaheen will send letters to residents about check valves with council's permission. Council agreed. Dirk elaborated about the road agreement with EQT.

Mayor Bob Flanagan thanked the street and fire departments for dealing with the flooded areas. Fire Chief Chris Hunt gave Mayor Flanagan the 2023 yearly report for the fire department. Bob asked about a veterans float in the Memorial Day Parade. Gordon stated that anyone who is a veteran is allowed to be on the float.

Fire Chief Chris Hunt stated that there were 49 911 calls in March, 22 transports and 9 unanswered calls. Chris presented applications for three new employees. Madison Bragg from Cambridge for EMT, DJ Williams from Morristown for Paramedic, Bradley Standford from Wheeling for Paramedic. Colby Rinehart made a motion to approve the applications pending background check, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes.

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Dirk stated that the town employees are going to work on installing the electronic sign in front of the municipal building. The Fire Department received this sign from a grant. Dirk stated that we will put brick and steel as the base and sides for the sign. Dirk hopes to have it in by Memorial Day. Colby Rinehart made a motion to approve the plan for the sign, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes. Dirk discussed the right of way down the railroad tracks. We need rent a piece of equipment to do the mowing as ODOT cannot help us at this time because they are backed up.

Police Chief Chris Storm stated that the PD assisted with a resident who was cussing out village employees during the flooding. Chris gave warnings for garbage at the lower trailer court. 21 citations were issued last month. Two suspicious vehicle calls were responded to. Two welfare checks were conducted. Two sheriff's office assists were made. Two arrests on Oak and one on Rice were made. Chris stated that the Dodge will have a light bar installed on Saturday. Chris stated that the computers and hard drives dating back to Zdanski's time need to be destroyed as Chris has a destroy order from the county. Chris found a company who destroys hard drives called Shredd It and they are out of Pittsburgh and Wheeling. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the \$1,500 to have this company deal with the computer drives, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes. Chris stated that we need to have someone remove the hard drives. Chris stated that he has a police officer who can assist with that. Chris stated that he and Calvin are going to a one day class.

Jordan presented a building permit for Terry Davidson on Anderson for a fence. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve the building permit, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

Jordan thanked Rod, Cindy, and Chris Storm for helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. Jordan invited everyone to the Memorial Day events.

Jay Van Horn asked about having a resident build a garage and not having a building permit approved by council. Mayor Bob stated that he went up and looked at the project and the deeds and dealt with the issue. Jay stated that a permit for the people who currently own the house needs done. Jay stated that he thought that the permit we have was for three owners ago.

Motion to pay bills by Jay Van Horn 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Jordan Castello, 2nd by Jay Van Horn, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday May 8th, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Bob Flanagan

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.