

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

May 15, 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, Zach Gaston, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Carol Merritt,

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Chuck Little, Gordon Price, Dustin Roe, Jeanette Lucas, Jeff Stephens

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 April meeting minutes, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

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Jeannette Lucas stated that the property across from her needs mowed badly. Chris stated that he would talk to them.

Jeff Stephens asked about cutting a tree down that is on an alley behind his property in an alley right of way and is dead. Dirk stated that the tree is on a non maintained alley. Mr. Shaheen stated that if it is on village property we should remove it. Jeff also asked about a speed hump on First Street. Dirk stated that if damage is done to cars with speed humps the village could be liable. Mr. Shaheen stated that he is not concerned about damage and more concerned about public safety.

Gordon Price stated that he is working on the Memorial Day Parade and trying to have a nice parade this year. Gordon stated that he hopes that we have a great parade and no rain. Ruth made a motion to try a bike contest for the parade, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

Chuck Little stated that he and Kathy thank everyone who bought at the bake sale which raised \$958 for the fishing derby. Dirk stated that the senior citizens center also donated \$100.

Dustin Roe stated that for April there was 56 911 dispatches and 23 transports for a total of 79 total calls.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- Dave Green and Theresa finished and filed the CCR report.
- Jimmy and Dirk are working on a job lists for this year.
- Dirk would like to cut trees at 315 and 313 South Main for \$1,200, 303 Depot for \$1,500, and Gail Avenue for \$1,500. Council discussed and asked for a couple other estimates just to compare. Dirk is getting a couple more estimates.
- Dirk sent a letter to the EPA for a sewer inspection and license operator. We are good until December 2024 with the current operator. Mr. Shaheen stated that he is going to present an addendum to the contract.
- Drainage on Virginia needs to be upgraded to mitigate flooding. We need a 24” line at an estimated \$17,044 for 24” and \$19,634 for 30” line. The drainage issue at the corner of Front Street and Depot Street can be fixed for \$6,472.50. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve these projects up to these estimates unless we get a cheaper quote from Z pipe which Dustin recommended, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.
- Dirk gave an estimate for a new backhoe is \$138,000. Dirk stated that he purchased a Kubota excavator and is letting Jimmy use it for some small projects. Dirk stated that he would sell it for less than he paid for it.
- Dirk would like to have the railroad right of way to the meter pit mowed back.
- There is a meeting tomorrow at 2:30 to discuss water line replacements.
- The nasty trailer on Willow is being torn down and a house will be built in its place.
- The Union Local golf scramble is asking for donations and asked council to donate. Dirk stated that it goes for food for the middle school and other things. Colby Rinehart made a motion to donate \$100, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.
- The electronic sign that the VFD got via a grant is ready to be installed. We received some donations towards the supplies and we may get more. So far we have spent \$1,210 as of right now. The sign grant was for \$23,000. The brick layer is donating his time, and Victoria Powell donated some wiring. The sign will be mounted on Monday.
- The property at 209 Oak Street has been sold to an individual. Mr. Shaheen stated that the transfer card has not showed that it was transferred yet and he will follow up with a letter to the Treasurer.
- Dirk is working on trying to find grants to pave some streets.
- Dirk got top soil and we will have to pay for it.
- New flags will be installed before Memorial Day.
- Dirk stated that Bob Guthrie is leaving for another job. Dirk stated that Samantha Burkhead had told him previously that she knew someone who would want it if Bob ever quit.

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Fiscal Officer Burkhead stated that the audit is nearly complete and should be released soon. Rick presented Resolution 2024-4 which is an additional continuing police levy of 1.5mil. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Rick stated that Belmont PD has approved holding a police 50/50 raffle in conjunction with Bethesda PD and splitting the proceeds if Bethesda council approves. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve a 50/50 raffle to run until the August Bethesda council meeting, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Rick presented the 2024 salt purchase contract through ODOT for 50 tons of salt. Zach Gaston made a motion to approve the salt contract, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Abstain, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Abstain, Zach Gaston - Yes.

Solicitor Shaheen presented Resolution 2024-5 which is the recommended PEP risk pool control policies. Mr. Shaheen explained the specific policies and that this addresses the concerns of the insurance carrier. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Mr. Shaheen presented Resolution 2024-6 which approved the application for a Natureworks Grant to pave the park parking lot. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-6, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Mr. Shaheen stated that the village auditors sent them a letter asking about pending litigation for a legal disclaimer for the audit. Mr. Shaheen stated that his office responded. Mr. Shaheen stated that we still have had no luck service Pikes Paving thus far. We are going to try three times by certified mail and then once by ordinary mail. On April 4th they were sent a certified mailing and we be receiving another. Mr. Shaheen stated that a letter was sent to EQT today. Mr. Shaheen stated that the sewer operator addendum will be done. A draft letter was made for the backflow device installation. Mr. Shaheen asked Dirk we he wants a Word document to be able to change the names or are there only a handful of people. Dirk stated that this is going to go to less than a dozen people. Mr. Shaheen asked for addresses and he will have letters sent. Dirk stated that he would get addresses for him. Mr. Shaheen stated that he appreciates the interactions among council and stated that it is refreshing to see everyone working together.

Mayor Bob Flanagan discussed the right of way down the railroad bed. Bob asked if it was possible for people to hand cut it. Dirk stated that would take all summer and that his excavator will cut up to 6" trees. Council and Dirk discussed backhoes and excavators at length.

Police Chief Chris Storm stated that the Charger is now in service. Chris stated that the four tires on the explorer were changed. Chris stated that there were 19 business checks, two sheriff's assists, six traffic stops, and five citations. Chris stated that the old PC's were sent to the shredder. Chris stated that the drug summit is at the end of the month and the Police Department is going to attend. Bob stated that he is going to write down addresses for people not mowing their yards.

Jordan Castello stated that the ordinance committee discussed reinstating or reinforcing the curfews. Chris stated the kids from Glenwood are the ones out late. Bob stated that we used to blow the fire whistle.

The finance committee reported that we will be looking into time clocks for the village office as well as the fire department. We have issues with employees clocking in during the evening and working into the early morning. The current clock will not calculate the hours properly.

Jay Van Horn stated that Thursday night at 6pm weather permitting the legion will be putting out flags for the veterans at Ebenezer Cemetery.

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

Motion to adjourn by Jordan Castello, 2nd by Zach Gaston, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday June 12th, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Bob Flanagan

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.