

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

September 11, 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, Carol Merritt, Zach Gaston, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Administrator Dirk Davis

Guest(s)

Chuck Little, Chris Hunt, Gordon Price, Jeanette Lucas, Bryan Mason, Doug Frizzie

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. Zach Gaston made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Chuck Little asked about the 1.5 mill police levy and stated that he did not know anything about it. Rick stated that it is a 1.5 mil levy for police wages. Chuck asked if Rick knows what it is going to raise people's taxes. Rick stated that it wasn't too bad really and would be minimum and less than \$150 a year for most people. Bryan Mason stated the county is going to increase appraisals by 20-70%. Rick stated that this will not affect the levy on the ballot as long as it is not this year. Mr. Shaheen agreed and elaborated. Chuck stated that the fire department operates on a smaller levy than the police. Rick stated that the fire department also operates on a Goshen TWP levy that brings in \$100,000 a year for EMS. Rick stated that if you go to the county auditor's website, it will tell you exactly what the police levy will cost you. Chuck stated that this is the first he has heard about it and the residents have a right to know about it. Rick stated that this levy has been discussed at least the last four council meetings and that Chuck was here for them. We voted on legislation twice just to be able to put it on the ballot. Rick informed Chuck that the county website states that he taxes will go up \$19.74 per year for where his house is. Rick stated that everyone has an opinion and that is why we are letting the village vote on it. Rick stated that the meeting minutes document the discussions and legislation that was passed and asked if Chuck was still getting the minutes emails. Chuck stated that he did. Rick is going to do an informative flyer to be posted around town.

Bryan Mason stated that he lives on Second Street and that there are several kids who play in the road on the street behind the VFW and people are speeding up and down the street. Bryan asked if the PD would want to park on of the police cards behind the VFW to see if it helps. Bryan stated that he has cameras on the street so it would be watched.

Solicitors Shaheen stated that he has secured a private person to work on the judgement against Pikes Paving. A certified letter will be going to EQT about Main Street. Mr. Shaheen introduced Jacob Leech who is from Barnesville and has worked for him for a couple of years. Mr. Shaheen will be absent at the next meeting and Jacob will be filling in for him. MR. Shaheen stated that Bridgeport has an engineering firm that helps write grants for projects. Mr. Shaheen stated that May Engineering is who they use and typically this is for projects that are in the planning phase and they do not get paid unless a project goes through.

Fiscal Officer presented two options for a new time clock system for the city building and the firehouse. The personnel committee recommended the options for two facial recognition time clocks with support for \$4932 for the first year and then \$3,432 for every year after. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the purchase of time clocks and services, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

Mayor Flanagan thanked Chuck for taking time to help the town cut trees in the park. Bob thanked Bryan Mason, Brent Gay, and Buckeye Steel for working on the electronic sign out front. Bob discussed the traffic at the four way stop. Discussion was held about people on Facebook complaining and one of the contractors employees cussing at the village residents on Facebook. Council clarified that this project is a Belmont County project and not a State or Village project. Larry Merry is the person in charge of this project. Bob stated that there is going to be a dinner on November 10th for veterans in the community room. Mayor Flanagan stated that he has waived the rental fee. Bob stated that a semi went down Virginia and Chestnut and town up water lines and fire hydrants.

Carol Merritt presented a building permit for Wesbanco to install an ATM. Carol Merritt made a motion to approve the building permit, seconded by Ruth Saffell, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Carol presented a building permit for Brian Turley for a porch roof. Zach Gaston made a motion to approve the permit, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Carol presented a building permit for the American Legion. Gordon Price stated that the legion is extending and installing a handicapped ramp. Gordon stated that they intend to install a new sidewalk as well in the same area. Zach Gaston made a motion to approve their building permit, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes.

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Police Chief Chris Storm stated that there was 32 traffic stops last month. One citation went to the county and four warnings were given. Two tickets were issued for running a stop sign and 28 business checks were done. The state HWY Patrol were assisted three times. Chris asked council if two officers could work together every now and then to get better traffic control. Council agreed. Chris stated that he is going to ask for another Charger from the State HWY Patrol. Council doesn't have an issue as it would be free. Chris stated that he would like to attend disaster preparedness training on September 20th and 21st and it is free. Mayor Flanagan stated that sounds fine.

Jordan Castello stated that Halloween will be on Saturday October 26th and that a flyer will be posted soon. Jordan stated that there will be a cake walk at the park at 4:30 followed by costume judging at 5:30 followed Trick or Treat from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Trunk or Treat at the park parking lot also will be held.

Council discussed having a house decorating contest for Halloween and Christmas. Ruth Saffell made a motion that from here on out we will hold an annual contest with four trophies and a \$25 gift card with each trophy, and if you won last year you cannot win any prize other than the people's choice award, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello - Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes.

Fire Chief Chris Hunt stated that there were 45 calls last month and 33 transports. Chris stated that the department is in the process of purchasing a new brush truck and asked council to approve the bid from Weis Fire Safety Equipment for \$305,500 and a fire department match of \$25,000. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello - Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes.

Doug Frizzie thanked the village for helping the Epworth Park. Doug stated that they are having issues with people coming in and dumping trash in their dumpsters. Doug stated that they are going to install locks. Doug stated that he would like to have them caught and given a police warning. There is a sign on them that says "Cottage Owners Only". Doug stated that on October 19th from 1pm to 5pm there is an event in the park with 12 cottages open for touring. They will be selling pepperoni rolls, pulled pork sandwiches, and different soups. Doug asked everyone to come and that it is \$15 to tour all 12 cottages.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- Lucas Tree Service was in on September 9th and cut down 11 trees for \$4,500 and the village had him return for one more day to cut the rest of the trees that need cut down.
- We are waiting on the township to be free to finish grading to complete the Railroad bed right of way cleanup.
- Kenny Davis from Belmont would like to rent the roller next week which Dirk agreed to rent if it is not being used by Goshen TWP.
- After many called Dirk learned that the Port Authority is who is in charge of the four way stop project. IF anyone has concerns or questions call the Port Authority at 740-695-4397 and ask for Jennifer.
- Work to install the drainage, catch basins, and four new grates on Virginia and Chestnut was completed on August 19th. The public works crew did a great job and saved the village a lot of money.
- Refurbishment of Oak Street / Brown Road is complete. Dirk feels the road is strong.
- We hope to begin the Front / Depot Street drainage project soon. The supplies are on hand.
- Dirk contacted a company in Texas to get a quote for a 4 way flashing light for the four way stop. The cost is \$2,166 and we would have to install a pole on the old Braido lot in order to run a 4 way span wire.
- Bob and Dirk signed the LOA for Trebel Energy to add a new agent for our program Erin Schmerscheider.
- Rumer Loudin serviced the three furnaces on July 22-24th.
- We had another Brown out at the sewer plant on August 23rd. We have found pumps at OTC Industrial for \$17,362 for two pumps. Dirk is going to contact the insurance carrier to cover the damaged pump.
- Dirk checked in on covers for the sale and stone bins. The cost would be \$32k. Too much for us at this time.
- Steel was scrapped for \$272 and give to Rick to deposit.
- New tires for the dump truck are \$2,322. Dirk and Rick agreed to do this as we need good tires on the vehicles.

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

Motion to adjourn by Zach Gaston, 2nd by Carol Merritt, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday October 9th, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.