

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

October 9, 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, Jacob Leach

Absent: Solicitor Michael Shaheen, Carol Merritt

Guest(s)

Chuck Little, Cindy Foose, Rod Miller, Jeanette Lucas

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

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Rod Miller stated that when he was on council, they addressed property junk issues. Rod stated that the police chief was put in charge of writing tickets. Jay stated that we have been going by procedure by addressing matters when they have a complaint filed with the police department. Rod stated that he has issues with the property directly across his street on Rice. Dirk asked what the point is of having ordinances if we can't or do not enforce them. Bob explained that when we write tickets, if the person comes and pleads not guilty it has to go to county court and historically the tickets have been thrown out. Dirk stated that it is up to the village court to handle the cases not the county. Dirk stated that if they don't pay then you fine the people. Jacob Leach informed Dirk that when a case comes to Bethesda Mayors Court, that Bethesda does not have the right to try or judge a citation or ticket. Jacob stated that he could call the county court on behalf and ask that a ticket not be thrown out, but ultimately it is at the county judge's discretion and we have no say in their ruling. Dirk stated that his point is that we spent a bunch of money on ordinance books and asked what the point of having them if we can't enforce them. Jay stated that we usually work with Michael on issues outside of county court so the ticket isn't just thrown out. Jay asked if our ordinance book is up to date. Dirk said as far as he knows but it's not up to him to update it and that the solicitor is supposed to update it with Walter Drane Company. Further discussion was held. Jay and Colby both reiterated that we have a part time police department and the officers cannot be here 24 hours a day. Jay stated that the current procedure is that residents or someone needs to file a complaint with the police department about ordinance violations and then the police will handle the situation. Colby stated that we need to have a paper trail and have a written complaint filed with the police and then they will go out and assess the situation.

Jacob Leach stated that he will check on the ordinance books being updated with Mr. Shaheen. Jacob stated that EQT was sent a certified letter to three people. Jacob stated that suit with Pike's Paving is being worked on. The judge has asked us to serve three more people involved before the suit can continue.

Fiscal Officer Rick Burkhead presented Resolution 2024-8 to certify the Belmont county tax rates for 2025. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-8, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Rick presented the Belmont County 2024-2025 EMS contract renewal. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the contract renewal, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello– Yes, Colby Rinehart – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes. Rick stated that he spoke to the finance committee about investing some of the village's money in order to make interest revenue. Rick stated that STAR Ohio is currently yielding 5.08% and can be withdrawn within 24 hours if needed. Rick discussed the procedure and what STAR Ohio is. That program is used by most entities in Ohio and ran by the Ohio Treasurer's Office. Finance committee will meet with the Fire Department to inform them of our intentions.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- The railroad bed is now ditched and we are waiting on the township to help lay down the stone.
- Virginia/Chestnut drainage project is finished and the workers did a great job. We have the lower part by Phillip's do finish yet.
- It looks like it will be mid to late November before the four way is finished.
- The Front/Depot Street drainage project is complete. We installed a 24" line and one catch basin.
- We need new tires on the F-250, the estimate is \$1500.
- We also need one front tire for the backhoe.
- We have had five water breaks on Chestnut in the last two months. This is an old 4" line that was not replaced in the 2014 water project. Verdantas is saying \$225,700. Roger Morris is estimating between \$40,000 and \$85,000. After that Bethesda would still need to purchase pits, pipe, and stone. Bethesda would need to apply for a PTI from the EPA. The residents on this street are very frustrated and would like the lines replaced. Dirk would like to install new meter pits by the curb hookup. Jay asked if it would be at the owner's expense or the Village's. Dirk said that it would be the Village's expense. The finance committee will meet and talk about this and Dirk will be quotes for pipe and meter pits.

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Mayor Bob Flanagan stated that both drainage projects look very nice. Bob stated that the crew worked very hard. Dirk informed council that Daniel got his driver's license and that we promised to increase his pay once he did. Jay Van Horn made a motion to increase Daniel's pay to \$15 an hour, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes. Bob informed everyone that the Bethesda American Legion is having a spaghetti dinner on Sunday from Noon until 5:00 on October 13th.

Police Chief Chris Storm stated that last month there was 68 calls to service, 28 business checks, 12 citations, and 14 charges filed. Chris stated that one vehicle was towed. Chris stated that he helped collect evidence for a case involving a violent felon. Chris stated that he attended disaster preparedness survival training.

Mayor Flanagan stated that he received a complaint about a dog. Chris stated that he had the dog warden come.

Jay Van Horn stated that the fire department applied for a FEMA grant for new fire house for the units. There were three sections of hose that failed testing. Jay asked council to approve the grant writers to work on a FEMA grant for us. Colby Rinehart made a motion to approve the grant writers to work on a FEMA grant for the fire department, seconded by Zach Gaston, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jordan Castello- Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes, Zach Gaston - Yes.

Jordan Castello stated that trick or treat will be on October 26 from 6:00 until 7:30. A cake walk and costume judging contest will be at the park #2 shelter at 4:30.

Rick stated that the police 50/50 total is \$900. So the winner will get \$450 and Bethesda Police will get \$225 and Belmont Police will get \$225. Cindy Foose volunteered to draw the winner. Dirk Davis is the winner. Dirk stated that he would donate \$250 back to the police department.

Rick stated that Mr. Shaheen has asked to move the December and January meetings to December 18th and to January 15th. Council agreed to this change.

Motion to pay bills by Ruth Saffell, 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 November 13th, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Bob Flanagan

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.