

THE VILLAGE OF RUSHVILLE COUNCIL MEETING MONTH: October

Meeting Date: October 12, 2023 Start Time: 6:05PM End Time: 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER- The Village of Rushville Council was called into Regular Session by President of Council, Jennifer Henery, at the Town Hall.

Council Members	Present	Employees	Present
John Burge, Mayor	No	Cindy Lewis	Yes
Jennifer Henery	Yes	Jon Browning	No
Kate Poston	Yes	Matt LaRue	Yes
Matt Schweitzer	Yes		
Ken Dean	Yes		
Steve Lewis	Yes		

WELCOME VISITORS- None Present

MINUTES- Steve moved, and Ken seconded, to approve the September Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion passed.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT- Matt said that they have replaced an additional 5 sewer pumps. The valves have been exercised down to Main and Market Streets. Matt asked about storing the old truck with the snow plow at the water tower or just leaving it at the maintenance building. Steve said that until we can get the auction set up, it is best to take it to the water tower. It is really in the way at the maintenance building.

OLD BUSINESS

Wogan Property- The clean up is continuing, and Jennifer said if anyone received any more complaints, it is in the hands of the Department of Health and the EPA.

Pump Station- Steve reported that it came to his attention that the chlorinator has not been working for a number of years. A new pump has been ordered, and the Village of Bremen will replace it and bill us. He also said that some of the electronics that were supposed to be installed weren't, and it will have to be done as soon as the new pump is installed in order to connect the two pumps.

Trash Contract- Steve said that he has talked again with the representative from Rumpke, and they want to know if we want to continue with the Senior Rate or just go with a flat rate for everyone. Our current contract has a reduced charge for Senior Citizens. Steve said that if we do the Senior Rate, the other rates will be higher to compensate. His opinion is that the people under the age of the Senior Rate should not be paying more. Kate said that she sort of likes the Senior Citizen rate. Cindy said that based on her interactions

regarding utility bills, it is the younger residents with families who are struggling to pay their bills, not the older residents. It was decided to go with a flat rate.

Ordinance 25-2023- Snow Emergency Parking Ordinance. Steve moved, and Matt seconded to suspend the rules. Motion passed. Matt moved, and Ken seconded, to pass the Ordinance. Motion passed. Cindy said that we will have to get signs, and she thinks that can be paid for with the PEP Safety Grant.

Finance Committee- Steve said that with the additional expenses in the water and sewer funds, the final budget will be ready by November.

Winegardner Chapel- Matt said the he and Kate have talked more about this, and there is a Historical Committee meeting next Monday. Kate talked with a real estate attorney, and he said that there are some restrictions that could be put into the auction. For instance, since it is a historical building, any alterations to the appearance of the outside of the building would have to be approved by the governing body. Kate said that a reasonable of reserve for the auction would be \$10,000 to \$15,000.00. Jennifer said that there is some indication that there is a time capsule somewhere in the building. If that is found, it should be given to the Village for the historical data. Matt said that the new owners could be asked to return it. Kate said that we could ask, but it probably can't be mandated.

Bank Property- Jennifer said that she has talked with Ben Myers. He said that they don't know what they are going to do yet, but they will get the weeds cleaned up. She said that Aaron and Britt Root are renting the garage on the property next to the old bank lot, and they have started cleaning up the weeds and trees.

NEW BUSINESS

1% Income Tax- Jennifer said that John has been investigating this. It would help out with some of the expenses of water and sewer. The second point, we are the only village in the State of Ohio that doesn't have an income tax. Matt wondered how unpopular this would be. Kate said that she has talked to some people about it, and they were mostly opposed. Except that if it would reduce the water and sewer rate increases. Matt said his understanding is that at 1% it could be passed as an Ordinance and not go to a ballot. Kate said that she has looked at other villages rates and they are, for the most part, 1%. Steve said this is an issue for Finance Committee next year. We also need to be finding grant money, and hopefully we can talk with the grant writer that Jon has worked with.

Speeders - Jennifer said that this is an ongoing problem. Steve said he had a thought about rumble strips. This isn't like speed bumps, but it did slow him down when he went over one the other day. He asked if Jennifer could talk to the Engineers Department and see what the possibility is of putting those in. Maybe outside the Village limit and we put up a sign. Ken wondered if we could get one of the signs that tells the speed limit and your speed. Steve said that would come from the Sheriff's Department. Jennifer also brought up issues regarding four wheelers, golf carts, and some motorcycles. She said that they are not

yielding to cars. Ken said most of the people who are speeding through the Village don't live here.

Ordinance 26-2023- An Ordinance to Amend Sewer Appropriations \$5,000. Steve moved, and Matt seconded, to pass the Ordinance. Motion passed.

Ordinance 27-2023- An Ordinance to Amend Water Appropriations \$20,000. Steve moved, and Matt seconded, to pass the Ordinance. Motion passed.

2024 Pay Scale Ordinance- An Ordinance Creating Pay Rates for Hourly Employees in the Village of Rushville for 2024 and Declaring an Emergency. First Reading. Kate asked how much Bill and Matt are making now. Cindy said \$20.90 per hour.

2024 Water Rates Ordinance- An Ordinance to Establish Water and Water Debt Rates and to Abolish Ordinance 15-2021. First reading. Steve said that this only a one-year Ordinance since we have no idea what our rates from Bremen will be beyond next year. Steve just reminded everyone that the rate is a 5% reduction in the increase from the previous Ordinance.

2023 Sewer Rates Ordinance- An Ordinance to Establish Sewer Rates for 2024 and to Repeal Ordinance 10-2022. First Reading.

Ordinance 28-2023- An Ordinance Allowing the Fairfield County Engineers to plow snow in the Village of Rushville. Steve moved, and Matt seconded, suspend the rules. Motion passed. Matt moved, and Steve seconded, to pass the Ordinance. Motion passed.

Primary Checking Account- Cindy said that since Lillian has resigned, we need a new signer on the checking account, and she recommends Jennifer as Council President. Council approved removing Lillian Roderick as a signer and adding Jennifer Henery.

Christmas at the Town Hall- Jennifer said that she was asked by the Fire Department if we are going to do anything. She told them that our Santa has passed away. She asked if we wanted to try to find a Santa as she thinks that at this point they are all booked. Matt asked what we had done in the past. Jennifer said that Santa would ride the fire truck around the village and be taken to the Town Hall. We had cookies and hot chocolate, bags of candy for the kids, and the kids would sit on Santa's lap with their wishes for Christmas. There were coloring books for the kids while they waited. He sat in a chair by the window with a small Christmas tree. Kate said that last year the Christmas Tree Lighting was done at the church. Steve said that part of the problem is that the Town Hall has no bathroom and nowhere for people to go if the weather was bad. Cindy said that since they planted the tree at the church and held the event at the church, it was more of a church event than a village event. Kate said that she would talk to the pastor about what plans have already been made.

Pleasantville Cemetery Sign- Matt said that he has been working with Charlotte and the Trustees for the cemetery. He got two signs for them. One will go at the intersection with

22. He also got a sign with Rules and Regulations will go at the entrance. He said that the Historical Committee would be discussing a new Village sign. He would like to find a way to replace it with something bigger and nicer, and maybe in a better spot. Kate talked with Fairfield Union and got a list of the people in charge of their clubs. They might consider working on this as a service project.

PAY BILLS- Ken moved, and Matt seconded to pay any and all bills. Motion passed.

ADJOURN- Matt moved, and Kate seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Signed by:

Jennifer Henery, Council President

Cindy Lewis, Clerk/Treasurer