

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

February 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, Carol Merritt, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Administrator Dirk Davis, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Zach Gaston

Guest(s)

Stephanie Castello, Chuck Little, Jeanette Lucas, Cindy Foose, Rod Miller, Zach Gust, Dave Green, JP Dutton

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 January meeting minutes, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

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Rod Miller thanked the village workers for removing a stump in his yard.

Kaleb Blackman from Quality Environmental came to council to discuss the class II sewer operator. Kaleb stated that he has a man who just passed his test and is currently working down at the plan and needs hours to get certified. The price will be \$1,335 per week after he obtains his hours. The price until he gets his hours is \$1,068 per week. Kaleb stated that this person should have the hours in 12-13 weeks. Ariel at the Ohio EPA has been working with Kaleb and Dirk and we have been verbally told that we can operate the sewer plant until the person obtains the hours needed for certification. Mr. Shaheen asked that an email be sent so that we have permission to operate in writing. Jay Van Horn asked if the person working is covered by Quality Environmental insurance. Jay asked what the village employees were responsible for at the plant. Dirk stated that the village guys would still be doing the work and maintenance and that Quality Environmental will be doing the testing and reporting. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve a three month contract for \$1,068 per week with Quality Environmental providing the acceptance of the Ohio EPA, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

Zach Gust stated that there are 8 items on the insurance IT list and asked council what they wanted to do. Council discussed village emails for the employees and setting up policies for IT related items. Rick will get Zach a list for emails so Zach can get us a quote. Mayor Bob Flanagan stated that Belmont County 911 wanted to have everyone's email. We will send to him once we have a new email domain set up.

JP Dutton addressed council and welcomed the new mayor. JP came to give an update on the 4 way stop project being done by the Belmont County Transportation Improvement Committee. JP stated that this intersection project has been a slow process but will be happening sometime later this year. JP stated that engineers are currently working on the design. Colby Rinehart asked what the scope of the project is. JP stated that the scope of the project is to reconfigure the interchange. The red pole will be removed once the project begins. JP stated that ODOT is happy that this project is being addressed. Dirk asked for a copy of the engineer drawings for the project when they are done. Colby Rinehart asked if we have to have ideas for the landscaping and such for the corner property. JP stated that it would not be a bad idea to begin working on ideas. Everyone thanked JP for coming and giving the update.

Administrator Dirk Davis presented his monthly report:

- Kaleb Blackman is coming to answer questions about the sewer operator.
- JP is coming to update the council on the four way stop.
- Zach Gust is coming to discuss IT recommendations.
- The Lake Street sewer line project grant has been filed and engineering believe this will cost \$624,000.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead presented the 2024 Union TWP contract renewal. Ruth Saffell made a motion to approve the contract renewal, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes. Rick asked for council approval to pay the invoice for Buckeye Pumps for \$10,046.14. Dirk stated that we rebuilt two pumps, purchased a new pump. Dave explained that the two impellers were worn out and we don't know exactly what is wearing them down, possibly sand from the roads. Jay Van Horn made a motion to approve the invoice payment, seconded by Colby Rinehart, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

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Solicitor Shaheen stated that Pikes Paving is avoiding service and Mr. Shaheen is hiring a person to serve them. Mr. Shaheen presented Resolution 2024-3 which is the solicitor employment contract. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes. A copy of the public water line takeover on North Johnson Road was sent to Zach Mason. Mr. Shaheen and council discussed the Upper Ohio Valley Alliance, a group of developers out of the area that are trying to help bring economic development to Belmont County. Mr. Shaheen explained the formation of the multijurisdictional entity that is in the process of being formed. Mr. Shaheen stated that an entity from Zanesville area is interested in building a facility around Bethesda to build non government housing at fair market value and to build a facility to manufacture housing. This company builds multi-unit apartments where they the pieces are built in a factory and then sent off to the construction sites. This group would like officials to come and tour another facility. Mr. Shaheen discussed the need for local governments to work for the betterment of the area as a whole. Rick stated that he would email the group to see about scheduling a facilities tour for Bethesda Officials.

Mayor Bob Flanagan stated that the people on Rice have been working to clean up their property and he is going to write a letter to a resident about loose chickens.

Police Chief Chris Storm stated that there were two parking complaints, three trash complaints, two kids playing on the ice, three kids who have been breaking keys off at the post office, 11 business checks, two fire department assists, 36 traffic stops and 28 citations with 31 charges. Chris stated that a Dodge Charger was donated to Bethesda from the State Highway Patrol and the value of it is around \$20,000. Chris stated that the care came with at light bar. Chris stated that Logotek has offered to donate the decals for the car. Chris stated that the State Highway Patrol put four new tires on the car. Chris stated that we do not want nor have to put a lot of money into this car. Chris stated that he has applied for a PEP and an NRA grant. Chris stated that we need to have some days where two officers are working to work traffic control better. Chris stated that people have been driving a Jeep down the railroad tracks by the gas station. Colby suggested we put up a barrier to only allow walking and bicycles. Jay commended Chris on getting the donated cruiser. Council discussed where to park the new cruiser. Chris stated that we have a retired officer, Dave Wines, who has asked for a retired officer badge as he retired as sergeant of the PD. Ruth Saffell made a motion to purchase the badge, providing that it states retired, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

Jordan Castello stated that we need to plan Easter events. Jordan suggested that we give savings bonds as prizes. Chris stated that he thought the minimum was \$100. Jordan Castello made a motion to approve a \$1,000 budget for candy and prizes for the Easter egg hunt, seconded by Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

Dirk informed council that Kenny Kitlak passed away and has not family and has been declared an indigent burial. Wilson Funeral Home has offered to do a cremation for \$750. Colby Rinehart made a motion to approve the payment for this, seconded by Jordan Castello, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Jay Van Horn – Yes, Zach Gaston – Yes, Carol Merritt – Yes, Colby Rinehart - Yes.

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

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

The next meeting will be Wednesday March 13th, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Bob Flanagan

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.