

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

December 14, 2022

Mayor Samantha Burkhead called the meeting to order, Samantha led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

Present: Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell, Carol Merritt, Mayor Samantha Burkhead, Cindy Foose, Rod Miller, Police Chief Chris Storm, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Solicitor Michael Shaheen

Absent: Zach Gaston, Administrator Dirk Davis

### Guest(s)

Jordan Castello, Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Chuck Little, Chris Hunt, Dave Green, Kathy Kelich

### 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 November meeting minutes, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

### Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Belmont County Treasurer Kathy Kelich addressed council to inform them about how the Belmont County Land Bank works. Kathy discussed the processes for the land bank to process and acquire dilapidated structures, and return the property to the village. Kathy stated that if the village used eminent domain that the cost could be vast and that the land bank it would not cost the village anything. Kathy stated that this would be a much cleaner way of dealing with some of the problem properties. Mr. Shaheen asked Kathy if she would send Bethesda an annual list of properties in foreclosure in the future. Kathy stated that she would. Kathy stated that if Bethesda would like to utilize the Land Bank that Bethesda would have to adopt a MOU for the Land Bank and Bethesda to work together on some of the problem properties.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead stated that Chris Hunt has been doing a great job as Fire Chief and she recommended him be removed from probation and installed as Fire Chief. Ruth Saffell made a motion to confirm the recommendation, seconded by Carol Merritt, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Carol Merritt - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

Rick presented Dirk's monthly report to council:

- There was a new water line installed for Dave Cook.
- Dirk asked for Mr. Shaheen to send a letter to Pike's Paving regarding Gail Avenue.
- The purchase of salt is \$5,436.53 and we now have 105 tons in stock.
- DUNS/SAMS number was renewed for \$799 for 2023-2024.
- PEP information sheet is updated and sent in for new plan year.
- We applied for the Belmont County Appalachian Grant for the park lake projects.
- The Ohio EPA asked for information regarding future projects (Dirk's five year plan)
- Dirk suggested we look into a new phone answering system to have one phone number with multiple extensions for voice mails.
- The person who was interested in a sewer operator position is no longer interested. Dirk contacted a person in Woodsfield and he is unavailable. John Bates has agreed to stay until the end of March. Dirk says we need to make decisions on increasing the sewer rates to accommodate paying for company to operate our sewer plant. The estimated cost is around \$78,000 per year and possibly more with hidden fees. Dirk stated that due to EPA regulations we are required to have a class 2 sewer operator on site 5 days a week and 20 hours a week or we will be fined for violations. Dirk, Rick and the finance committee will meet before the next meeting to offer recommendations for rate changes.

Solicitor Shaheen stated that he needs detailed information about the Gail Avenue issue in order to send a letter. Michael stated that he needs to know if the village wants the road fixed or reimbursed for the costs of the project. If we want the money then we need an estimate for the repairs to the road. Mr. Shaheen stated that the Abby's Crossing issue is being addressed and he needs to know if the issue doesn't get resolved. Mr. Shaheen sent a letter to EQT with details pertaining to Main Street and he has followed up with another letter. Rod stated that some people have been cited into mayor's court and now these people are not doing anything and another person has been to mayor's court twice. Samantha told Mr. Shaheen that Jessica told her that the county court system doesn't want anything to do with our property issues. Mr. Shaheen will discuss this with Jessica.

Fiscal Officer Burkhead discussed the fact that there is currently about \$20,000 worth of outstanding water bills. Rick stated that Dirk and Theresa are looking into who owes what and what needs to be sent for property liens.

## Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

December 14, 2022

Mayor Samantha Burkhead thanked everyone who helped with Christmas events. Samantha stated that house judging will be next week and dinner with the Grinch is next Wednesday at 6:00.

Police Chief Chris Storm stated that Pike's Paving is blocking the view of traffic at the four way stop. Jay asked if the property owner would be able to help with the situation before we go the legal route. Mr. Shaheen stated that he will contact the property owner. Chris stated that there were 35 traffic stops, 11 tickets, five business checks, and 10 calls to service last month. Chris stated that there is a big issue with a dog on Willow. Chris stated that he is taking the shop with cop winners in January when things settle down. Samantha commended Chris for how well organized the program was this year. Rod stated that there are a couple properties that are going to need letters sent to them.

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Cindy Foose made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and potential litigation, at 7:44 p.m., seconded by Ruth Saffell, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Carol - Yes, Cindy - Yes, Rod - Yes.

At 8:02 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

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Motion to pay bills by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

**The next meeting will be Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.**

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Mayor Samantha Burkhead

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Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.