

April 16,2024

7:00pm the meeting of council was called to order by Mayor Plyler:  
followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members answered roll call: Chris Miller, Thomas Richter, Bob Miller, Wayne Troyer, Mia Lane, Zach Fanning. Present Attorney Doug Frautschy.

**Motion** to accept minutes of the previous meeting by: Zach Fanning. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Richter: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

**Motion** to pay bills totaling \$52,076.31 by Tom Richter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Miller: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

**Motion** to accept financial report by Zach Fanning and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Richter: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

**VISITORS:**

Keith Ely, Alyssa Miller, Gary Stein, Paul Neiswander, Lance Neiswander, Ruth Plyler, Jayvin Neiswander, Edward Raber.

**FIRE:**

Joe Hershberger is now driving the smaller trucks.  
Hog Roast brought in over \$60,000. Gary thanked everyone who had come to help with the Hog Roast.  
They are looking into buying a UTV. The plan is to use it for grass fires and rescues. The fire dept is going to be purchasing it themselves. Received a quote for \$39,296.55 and \$8,000 for the back end. This is tabled until next month's meeting for approval.  
910 going back to shop because the one side is green on the decal. 901 have issues, windshield leaks and paint needs touched up. Currently don't have a date.

**V.I.T:** A deposit of \$31,121.68 was made April 1<sup>st</sup> and of this amount \$10,479.57 represents the 1/2%.

**ORDINANCE #2021-1280...AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A PROMISSORY NOTE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO PAY COSTS OF THE BRICKYARD ROAD WATER & SEWER PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**MOTION:** to suspend by Bob Miller: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mia Lane: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

**MOTION:** to adapt by Bob Miller: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Richter: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

**ORDINANCE #2024-1281.... AUTHORIZING THE BRICKYARD ROAD WATER AND SEWER PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF BALTIC, OHIO. ACCEPTING THE LOW BID, AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES, AND RATIFYING PRIOR ACTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**MOTION:** to suspend the readings and pass as an emergency by Bob Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mia Lane: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

**MOTION:** to adopt as emergency by Bob Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Richter: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

### **STREETS:**

Keith brought in a list of items.

Maple Street culvert needs to be replaced before paving. The landowners are Bill and Kathy Stevens. They have a stone driveway; the culvert is plugged. Everytime it rains the water comes out on the street around the culvert and back into the ditch. Their driveway is stone and comes out about 3ft on the road and all needs repaired before they come and pave the road this summer. Legally it would be the landowner's responsibility.

**Motion:** we provide the pipe, and they provide the installation by May with their own labor by Zach Fanning, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Richter: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

Back in Feb the council approved pipe from Sunset Cherry Ridge and was cheaper. Talked to Bucks Township trustees, "don't buy pipe from Tolotti Pipe, its junk, dropped a piece and shattered like glass." Davey Yoder said the same thing "Stay away from it." Stony Point it for 500ft bundles down to \$1.89/ft and Cherry Ridge don't give any discount for bundles. Their cost is \$1.79/ft.

**Motion:** to not buy pipe from Cherry Ridge and to buy it from Stony Point by Tom Richter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Zach Fanning: roll call vote six (6) ayes.

Jim Gause has a few issues that he wants to bring about council. One is that he wants us to fix the concrete and the lights on Gause Dr, also wants to paint the light poles on Gause drive and was wanting us to supply the lift, if supplied the labor and the paint. Also

was wanting us to pay for the street lighting on Gause Dr. Will need to schedule a meeting for him to come in to talk about these issues. Keith said the light poles do not belong to the village, that those poles are his. We never took him over because he promised to unhook the building from them and never did.

#### **PARKS/MAINTENANCE&Community interest:**

The Elm Tree needs to come down because of the condition that it is in.

**Motion to remove Elm Tree & get estimates by Tom Richter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Miller: roll call vote six (6) ayes.**

Park is full and booked until September.  
We received the new Porta Jon right beside the baseball diamond.

#### **FINANCE:**

Counted wanted a hydrant since they're going to be taking over. Several different emails and had a Pre-Construction meeting at the site and they decided to go ahead and try and get the piping in over there right next to Provia. They are 20 feet West of the front gates of Gerbers new building. Attorney Doug is confident that he can get the easements if we need them. There are some Wetlands that they were not aware of. Someone from EPA came in and marked them and they wanted to come in and do some more boring. They are going to update the change order.

#### **LANDS, BUILDINGS, DEVELOPMENT/CEMETERY:**

Quote for doing the 6 stumps at the park and at the 4 cemetery and 8 trees still standing at the cemetery for grinding. Keith is going to get quotes for cutting trees down and grinding.  
Gause complaining about the bike situation down at the new parking lot and using our power to charge bikes. Needs to be brought up at the committee meeting.

#### **TREE COMMISSION:**

Lynn Eiler met with Mayor regarding planting a tree at the small picnic area at the cabin.

**MOTION: to allow a tree to be planted in Memory of by Zach Fanning and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wayne Troyer: roll call vote six (6) ayes.**

Next meeting is going to be tomorrow April 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

**REGIONAL PLANNING:**

Meeting with the Commissioners to extend land use plan for county shortage of housing. That would include the county wide system. Regular meeting and just went over what they talked about with the commissioners.

**SAFETY & WELFARE:**

Nothing currently.

**FISCAL OFFICER:**

Nothing currently.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:**

A ringer alarm went off 4/10/224 to my phone. I called Microcomm after having a phone conversation with Travis at the water plant. The GFI needed to be replaced. Travis contacted MRE and Microcomm will send out 6 batteries to replace the old ones. No batteries since 2010.

Also, on 4/10 at 7:30pm the alarm went off at the water plant. I called Travis about this and met him around 8pm to find out the air compressor shut off. He stayed awhile to make sure everything was running the way it should.

**MAYOR:**

Resignation letters from Zach Fanning, Chris Miller, Gary & Candy Trachsel, Rose Baxter.

Issues with Sarah Yoders bill are large bills and meter is going bad or is bad. Jim Gause was asking about the minimum bill at \$36.15.

**MOTION: to amend and give minimum amount by Tom Richter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Miller: roll call vote six (6).**

Mayor is considering forming a council committee for water/sewer transfer to help handle the transfer over to the county. Mayor asked if anyone would like to be on that committee. Tom Richter, Wayne Troyer, and Bob Miller will probably be on this because they have had more experience.

Mayor stated we are out of compliance with an ORDINANCE to have a credit compliance officer. We are supposed to be reviewing statements every month in council and have not done so. Mayor asked if someone would like to volunteer for credit card compliance officer and look over red flags.

## **ADDENDUM TO COUNCIL MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2024**

The Mayor brought to council's attention that he has been conducting some investigative work at village hall, financial things and records, out of curiosity due mainly to continuing complaints over water billing issues.

The Mayor handed out spread sheets to council members with information about past Bill Sheets, showing those which reconciled and those which did not. What caused the discrepancies has yet to be determined. Bill sheets were made on an Excel spread sheet.

The Mayor handed out information sheets on most recent fifteen months of water billing history, focusing on six customers with repeat issues. The bill amounts reflected in this usage history report were adjusted due to the high numbers, some of the water usage being in the tens of thousands of gallons and the bills being in the thousands of dollars one month then only in the hundreds of dollars or less, the next. The Mayor stated that some of the issues were possibly due to some meter reading issues, but he continues to investigate, because there are too many questionable issues. Also, council needs to be able to show village residents what the problem has been and that it is resolved before the water is turned over to the county. As of this meeting, the investigation shows that the difference in error between e-reads and manual reads is about 60/40 maybe 70/30. The Mayor has done calculations that show that the meter usage readings that are in error are actually impossible for the customers to have used, therefore the pricing is likewise impossible. The bills are not consistent, there are negative readings, etc. The Mayor said he will continue to investigate this water billing issue until he gets to the bottom of it. He also stated that he would be present at the testing of the electronic meter reader the next morning, along with a county representative, village employees, and a representative of the e-reader manufacturer, to determine if it is the problem.

The Mayor stated that he thought it was time the council was aware of the investigations he is making, and the internal problems he's been dealing with, and his need of their backing and support. He stated that copies of the actual Bill Sheets and water billing history are available to council, if desired.

The Mayor updated the council on the ongoing state financial audit and when it will likely be over. He also stated that the auditor is aware of the water billing issues and has received relevant documentation. He is hoping they can help to get to the bottom of the problem.

The Mayor asked if there were any more questions. Council member Mia Lane questioned whether the water readings are manually entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Dena Burrier said that they are not,

they download directly from the e-reader into a software program from Governmental Accounting specifically for village water billing. The Mayor talked directly with the company, and questioned them about the possibility of issues being flaws or errors in the software, and the company said that is not likely. The Mayor has talked with other villages who use the same software and they are not having any issues at all.

**MOTION: to appoint and accept Mia Lane as the compliance officer roll call vote six (6) ayes.**

Rose was our Administrator on our PNC account and will now need to get that changed to someone else. And PNC said that we just need assigned minutes to get that change changed over. Mayor said that Dena would need to have access to this so that she can pay the bills and Mayor or council person.

**MOTION: to add Dena and Mayor and take Rose off the PNC accounts by Tom Richter: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Miller: roll call vote six (6) ayes.**

Audit is continuing and will continue past June and hoping that they can get past this to and see if there was anything going on with the water billing as well or anything else.

**MOTION: to pay invoice for services on storage building \$5,000 from the architect, Zach Fanning, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wayne Troyer: roll call vote six (6).**

We will need to appoint 2 new council members in the next 30 days. Mayor said that he would be interviewing for council positions.

**Motion to adjourn by Bob Miller and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Richter: roll call vote six (6) ayes.**

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Mayor

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Fiscal Officer