

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

June 8,

2020

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Council Members-Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Mark May, Paula Jones, Thad Kauffman, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Andrew Johnston-Solicitor. Others Present: Adam Rex, Jonathan Thompson, Deputy Sheriff Stanford.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Up to \$500.00 not \$300.00 was previously approved for the new ordinance and minutes books. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None. Council asked that the Sheriff Department make a presence around Dollar General to try to help slow traffic in that area.

Citizens Comments: 1. None.

Solicitors Report: 1.25 Laura Circle/ Junk Ordinance. Mr. Johnston stated Mr. Rex did not respond to the letter sent to him, within the required ten-day timeframe. Charges were filed on June 3.

2. Doug Randolph Cell Tower/Bee Street. Mr. Johnston contacted Mr. Randolph with our concerns of heavy equipment using Bee Street to access his property; Mr. Randolph assured Mr. Johnston he would make sure any damage to Bee Street would be taken care of. The construction company seems to be doing a good job of clearing any problems in a timely manner.

3. Rainfall/Dollar General. There have been a couple of complaints of flooding at homes beside Dollar General. Jan Whitacre of Pemberton Road had flooding in her house. Mr. James, Mr. James and Mr. Foster looked at the problem, documented and took some video of the flooding and contacted Dollar General. Mr. May noted a corner of his property was flooded. Mr. James noted a storm drain close to Mrs. Whitacre seemed to be slow or not working. Mr. James spoke with Council Members and with a majority approval, called Associated Hydro Excavating to clean the storm drain in that area. As of now, the flooding does not seem to be the responsibility of the Village, and Dollar General may be responsible for the costs.

4. Public Records. During our audit, the auditor asked to see our Public Records Ordinance, Ms. Slagle could provide the document, but not the ordinance. She contacted Mr. Johnston, who also could not find documentation of the ordinance. The ordinance may have been written before 2003 when Ms. Slagle became clerk.

5. Water Ordinance. Table until next meeting.

BOPA: Mr. May reported the following:

1. Water Rates. The Board strongly encouraged Council to continue with the three reading to approve the new ordinance.

2. Water Tower Graffiti. The Board does not intend to do anything about the graffiti on the tower.

3. Utility Late Fees. During the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Board approved waiving late fees until August; they will revisit the issue again then.

Old Business: 1. **Ordinance 6-20 /New Water Rate Ordinance.** The third reading of the water rate ordinance was read. The water rates will increase from \$32.00 per month to \$42.00 per month to pay for the village's share of a grant the village is pursuing to replace the water tower. Mr. May made a motion to approve Ordinance 6-20, Mr. Kauffman second the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Street Sweeping. We have been trying to contact DDS and West Milton about sweeping town streets. We're not having much luck with return calls.

3. Building Cleaning/Elmore. We have a list of duties for cleaning the village building; Ms. Slagle will set up a time to meet with Amy Elmore.

4. Cross Walk/Dollar General. Mr. James has an estimate of \$2517.40 from Griffins for painting the crosswalks at Dollar General. Council also discusses painting crosswalks at Laura Christian Church, and the basketball court.

5. Web Site. Council would like to get started on the website. The auditor noted not having our Public Records Policy displayed for the residents to be able to read, along with some of our other public records. If we put the Public Records Policy, minutes and commonly used ordinances on a web site, we would be compliant for public records. A website would also allow us to keep residents informed of village activities. Mr. May previously presented Council with information on how other municipalities have set up websites. Mr. May also noted about half of the municipalities he looked at used a .gov and the other half used a.com website. The .gov is more expensive, the .com is very cheap to set up. Council asked if we could potentially be able to pay utility bills through our website, Mr. May thought something could be worked out. Mr. May will give Council that information again for them to review. We'll work on this again next meeting.

6. Tall Grass/7 Second Street. Ms. Slagle spoke with Mr. Archer, he will be cutting the grass on his property. A letter will be sent to him.
7. Tall Grass/Dollar General outside Fence. Ms. Slagle is to send a letter to Dollar General asking them to cut the grass on the outside of their fence on Pemberton Road and the alley.
8. Park Grant. We're waiting on proposals for the playground equipment, etc. We've had a resident asked about weeds coming up through the bricks and making the bricks uneven, at the Veterans Memorial at the park. The maintenance/repair for this is included in the grant we received, it will be fixed.

New Business. 1. Jet Rodder. We used Associated Hydro to clean the storm drain at Jan Whitacre's house during the recent heavy rain. Council discussed the flooding at Moore's, May's, Whitacre's and Dollar General. Mr. Rex stated there are Federal Grants available for things like hydro or solar power generation, generators, etc. We will speak with Susan Laux of Mote & Associates about this. We can also check to see the status of our jet rodder.

2. Dumpster. The dumpster is here until it's full.

3. Tall Grass- 204 S. Main Street and 301 South Main Street. Letters need to be sent to these residents to mow the grass.

Bills. Mrs. Deere motioned to pay the following bills. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$833.39	DP&L	\$1047.27
Frontier	161.28	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	390.75	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Terry Zellers	880.00	Angi Deere	145.76
Chris Foster	144.93	Thad Kauffman	144.93
Paula Jones	108.70	Mark May	145.76
Public Entities Pool of Ohio	5896.00		

Mrs. Deere motioned to close the meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk