

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

October 12,

2020

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Council Members- Angi Deere, Mark May, Paula Jones, Thad Kauffman. Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Andrew Johnston-Solicitor. Absent- Chris Foster, Others Present-Mason Deere.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mr. May-Yes Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None.

Citizens Comments: 1. None.

Solicitors Report: 1. 25 Laura Circle. No update, COVID has postponed trials by 3-4 months. Mr. Johnston will let us know then the trial is scheduled. Mr. James noted the property is again compiling junk; it seems it gets better, then worse again.

BOPA: 1. There was a water leak somewhere on the north end of town.
2. 7 Chestnut Street had a problem with their septic tank.
3. Letters are to be sent to delinquent property owners, letting them know COVID 19 “no shut offs” will end at the end of the year and their water will be shut off in January if not paid up.

Old Business. 1. Cell Tower/Sinkhole/Bee Street. Mr. Kauffman stated the cell tower company patched the sinkhole. It seems a groundhog has burrowed under the edge of the alley and has caused the problem. Mr. Kauffman will try to get rid of the groundhog.
2. **Resolution 10-20/Water Tower Replacement Fund.** Resolution 10-20 was presented. This establishes the Water Tower Replacement Fund and how the Village plans to provide our share of a grant for a new water tower. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to accept Resolution 10-20, Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.
3. **Resolution 10-20A/Fiscal Officer Raise.** Resolution 10-20A was presented. Mrs. Deere made a motion to accept the resolution, Mr. May seconded the motion. Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.
4. Park National Bank. Ms. Slagle stated she’s working on transferring funds from Huntington Bank to Park National Bank and asked how much Council wanted to transfer. Mr. May made a motion to transfer all but \$50,000 to Park National Bank. This should be enough to finish loose ends at Huntington and then close the account. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.
5. Street Cleaning. Mrs. Deere stated she has been working on cleaning gutters along South Main Street. There are lot of weeds down along the street by the bridge around Morgan’s Property. She asked who owned that area, Council isn’t sure; Mr. James said he would check on that strip of land.
6. Cell Tower. They are still working on the tower.
7. Trick or Treat. Mrs. Jones noted West Milton has set their Trick or Treat as October 31 and wanted to know if Council would object to having ours the same night. Council agreed to switching our Trick or Treat to October 31.

New Business. 1. Fire Extinguishers. Megacity Fire and Security has checked the Village fire extinguishers.
2. Snow Plowing 2020-2021. We have a quote from Jason Hoop to plow the Village streets this year. The quote is the same price as last year-\$320 per occurrence to plow, and \$230 per occurrence for salt. (Estimating 1.5 tons of salt per occurrence). Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve using Jason Hoop to plow and salt the Village streets, Mr. May seconded the motion. Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.
3. Leaf Pick up. Mr. James stated the Boy Scouts have sent a quote to pick up the leaves this year. We have not received the quote yet. Mr. James noted we usually have the first pick-up around the end of October and then a second pick-up. Last year we had a third pick-up. Council decided to have the second pick-up a little later so we do just two pick-ups. Mr. James will try to contact the Boy Scouts again. Do we want to have a backup plan if we can’t get the Boy Scouts? We used Monroe Grounds previously, but they weren’t really equipped to do leaf pickup. Council discussed. Mr. May made a motion to approve up to ten percent over the cost of last year and approve having the Boy Scout Troop from Arcanum/Pitsburg pick up the leaves for this year. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

4. COVID-19 Assistance/Union Township. Union Township has CARES ACT monies available for anyone who was affected by the pandemic. People should contact the Township for information.

5. Website. Mr. May has a trial website up and running and has walked Council members through how to navigate and add to the new site. Mrs. Deere stated she like the site and found it easy to work with.

6. Town Clean Up. Mrs. Deere asked how we could enforce the junk ordinance for some residents who have not cleaned up their properties. We sometimes send multiple letters to residents to clean up their property. Council needs to decide if they want to let resident complaints drive action to have properties cleaned up, or should we act because of Council walking around town and looking at properties, as we have done in the past. We need to make sure everyone is treated the same and follow through with letters sent to residents. If there is a repeat offense, Mr. Johnston should send the second letter. Council agreed to contacting Ms. Slagle anytime during the month and have her send a letter to clean a property instead of waiting until the next council meeting to address the property.

The property at 406 S. Main Street has partially cleaned up their property. There are still clippings and other yard waste in the yard.

7 Chestnut Street has an inoperable junk vehicle on the side of the property.

204 South Main Street has tall weeds/grass in yard.

Ms. Slagle will send a letter to these property owners asking them to address these issues.

7. Streets/Crack Sealing. We have quotes from J & A Construction and Smith & Sons for sealing cracks on village streets. Council has some questions about the quotes- are the joints at the curb going to be sealed, are the weeds in the cracks going to be removed-burned, Round-up . Mr. James will contact the companies and ask for clarifications so we are getting quotes for the same work. Mr. James will contact Wagner Paving for a quote. We would like to get the streets sealed this year if possible.

8. Tree Limbs Hanging over Streets. Council discussed if we could have low hanging tree limbs that encroach into the street trimmed. We will ask Mr. Johnston if we can trim the trees and assess property owners.

9. PEP Grant. Our insurance is again offering a \$1000 grant for safety equipment/materials this year. Ms. Slagle noted we've spent around \$850 for the crosswalk signs and asked if there wasn't anything else, she would see if the BOPA had anything for around \$100 they could apply toward the remainder of balance. Council agreed using the cost of the crosswalk signs for the grant.

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

PERS	\$833.39	DP&L	\$1036.33
Frontier	163.36	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	426.45	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Terry Zellers	1100.00	Amy Elmore	75.00
Megacity Fire & Security	52.75	Mark May	22.22
Wertz Hardware	68.76	Miami Valley Lighting	3078.00

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk