

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

September 14,

2020

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

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. May made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction: Solicitors Report # 4- Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve Option A on the Proposal from Smith & Sons for crosswalk striping. It was not Option A; the correct option was Laser Guided Line Striping for \$1800.00. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes. Mrs. Jones-Abstain, Mr. Kauffman-Abstain. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None.

Citizens Comments: 1. Jonathan Thompson asked who would be responsible for trimming low-hanging tree limbs that hang over streets. There are limbs that scrap the top of his work van along the alley beside his house and in front of his house. Mr. James stated it is the property owner's responsibility. Mr. Johnston noted it is part of the easement; the property owner has to maintain the trees or other things in the easement. He suggested speaking with the property owner about trimming the limbs.

Solicitors Report: 1. New Water Ordinance. Mr. Johnston emailed a new water ordinance with the changes the BOPA requested, and utility rates ordinances.
2. 25 Laura Circle/Junk Ordinance. The court case with Mr. Rex has been postponed due to the pandemic.
3. Water Line Easements. The BOPA had a new shut off valve installed at 2750 Pemberton Road. Since the new valve is close to the house, does the Village have an easement to the new shut off, and do we have to maintain the line to the new valve. Mr. Johnston stated we would have an easement to the valve, and we would have to maintain the new line up to the shut off valve.

BOPA: 1. Water Tower Grant. Mrs. Laux from Mote and Associates spoke with the Board to see if they would be interested in applying for grant money earlier than we expected. Issue 2 grant applications are due September 8, some of the hurdles for applying have been removed during COVID. Mrs. Laux doesn't know how many applications there will be, but thinks there might be a chance of fewer applications due to COVID 19. If this happens, we could move up in line to receive grant monies, and maybe more monies. The cost of steel has gone up, the cost of the new tower has increased to \$907,000; COVID uncertainty may be driving this cost. We could possibly asked for \$600,000 instead of the original \$500,000 and possibly lower the loan amount. If we apply now, we may not be able to collect the total amount of the Village share of the project. Instead of the planned three years to collect our share, we may only have two to two and a half years to collect our share if we get the grant. The Board thought we could use the Water Enterprise Fund money to pay the rest of our share, and then repay the Water Enterprise Fund with the money collected from the \$10 increase in the water bill designated for the water tower. Mrs. Laux noted we do not have to do this now; it just may be an opportunity to "fast track" the grant. If the Board did not think it would work out, we could apply next year and we would have our share of the grant collected by the original time frame. The Board thought it was worth the risk to apply now; we could back out if we decided we couldn't meet our obligation this time, and start the process next year. The Board approved moving forward and apply for the grants now.

Mr. Thompson noted the cost of removing the old tower was not included in the grant. Mrs. Laux will get an estimate on how much that might cost.

Resolution 9-20. Resolution to Apply for OPWC Capital Improvements Program/Water Tower Replacement Project. This resolution was reviewed. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve this Resolution. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes. Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Old Business: 1. Cell Phone Tower/Sink Holes/Bee Street. The sinkhole is still there.
2. Cross Walk/Dollar General. Mr. Foster made a motion to amend the motion made last month to have Smith & Sons stripe the crosswalks. The new motion is for the quote for the Laser Guided Line Striping for \$1800.00. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes. Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.
The crosswalk signs are here. Mr. James has not been able to get ahold of Smith & Sons.
3. Web Site. Mr. May has secured two domain names, and we will use a free Google site. Mr. May has paid \$22.22 for the set up process. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to reimburse Mr. May \$22.22. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Abstain, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

4. Fiscal Officer Review. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes. Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed. Council went into executive session at 8:02, came out of executive session at 8:20 and resumed the regular meeting. Mr. James noted Ms. Slagle has not had a review since 2016 and just one increase since she started in 2002. Due to this, Mr. May made a motion to increase the pay for the fiscal officer by ten percent. The new salaries will be \$343.20 per month for BOPA and \$514.80 per month for Council. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes. Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed. The increase in pay will start with September pay, which is paid in October. Ms. Slagle stated she appreciated Council's support of her work.
5. NatureWorks Park Grant. We have the new playground equipment. It will be stored at the sewer plant until we can install it next spring. The invoice was sent to the wrong place.
6. Park National Bank. Ms. Slagle has set up the new Park bank account. We will start the transition of funds.

New Business. 1. Beggars Night. Mrs. Jones suggested we have Beggars night on Thursday, October 26, 6-8 pm. Council agreed.

2. Miami County Commission Budget/ 2021 Tax Rates. We need to approve the Miami County Tax Rate of 3.40 Mills for the Village. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the 3.40 mills rate set by Miami County. Mrs. Jones seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes. Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

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

PERS	\$833.39	DP&L	\$1002.98
Frontier	163.36	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	390.75	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Terry Zellers	1100.00	Amy Elmore	75.00
Robert Presley	25.00	Miami County Engineers	858.00
Diane Guess	50.00	Angi Deere	72.88
Chris Foster	108.70	Paula Jones	72.47
Mark May	109.32	Thad Kauffman	72.47
Menards	22.44		

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk