

## Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

September 13,

2021

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

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the August meeting will be reviewed and approved at the October meeting.

**Sheriff Report:** None

**Citizens Comments:** None

**Solicitors Report:** 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance/Wayne Miller. Mr. James contacted Wayne Miller, a private investigator, about looking into possible ordinance violations against the property at 25 Laura Circle and issuing a report concerning his findings. Council has tried many times to get the property owner to clean up his property. The property was sometimes cleaned up, but it generally went back to the state it was in before the letter was sent, maybe with different vehicles or different items in the yard. Council now feels it is time to take the next step to enforce the village ordinances and work to help maintain the health and safety of village residents. Mr. Johnston stated we could charge Mr. Rex, the property owner, with criminal charges according to our ordinance. Mr. Johnston said Council had been lenient with the fine in our previous citation, we didn't charge Mr. Rex with a daily offense. We could go the next step in our ordinance and apply a daily fine, this would have a higher monetary impact. Council and Mr. Miller discussed issues with the property and previous citations.

Mr. James asked Mr. Miller if he would be willing to look into the possible nuisance ordinance violations at 25 Laura Circle and if so, what his fees were. Mr. Miller said he would start an investigation, building a legal case for the Village, he would like to be able to contact any department necessary to build the case. His fee would be \$50 an hour, and he estimated it would take around 25 hours for this. Mr. May made a motion to hire Mr. Wayne Miller for up to 25 hours of investigation, at a rate of \$50.00 per hour. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Mr. Johnston noted he would work with Mr. Miller and be the main point of contact for Council if they preferred. Council agreed with this.

Mr. Miller also noted the Health Department and EPA could be called in to evaluate the property. Mr. James will contact both EPA and the Health Department. Mr. Miller will be informed of what the Health Department and EPA tell us.

2. Unexpired Seats/Mr. James, Mrs. Deere. At the end of the year, Mr. Johnston stated we will have to use the same procedures as we did two years ago to fill the unexpired terms of Mr. James and Mrs. Deere.

3. Extending Sanitary System. Mr. May asked if there were any ramifications if the Village were to extend the sanitary system. Mr. Johnston stated that as long as it was extended to village residents, there shouldn't be any ramifications. Mr. May asked if we can fix a storm sewer problem around Dollar General, Mr. Johnston stated we should fix that problem, it is the Village's responsibility, if the problem is a result of something Dollar General did when they built the building, we can go after Dollar General if it was determined to be an error on their part. We should get an engineer to determine the cause of the problem.

**BOPA:** 1. Sanitary Survey. The EPA conducted an inspection of the water plant, there were no violations, and a couple of recommendations to consider.

2. Grant for Generator. Mote and Associates will go to the plant and determine the type of generator needed to apply for a grant through the Miami County Engineer's Office.

3. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant. Mrs. Laux, of Mote and Associates, applied for a grant for the new water tower. The grant had to be applied for quickly because of a nearing due date.

4. Fencing/Water Tower. As time permits, we will work on getting quotes for fencing around the ladder on the water tower.

**Old Business.** 1. Water Faucet/Village Building. No Report  
 2. 8 School Street/Limbs, Brush in Street. Ms. Slagle will send a letter to have the limbs and bushes trimmed back from the street.  
 3. Website. Mr. May noted our yearly contract for site hosting is up in October. He set up the site last year and paid the yearly fee on his credit card. Now that we have a village credit card he would like to transfer the payment onto the village card. The cost this year is \$13.16 and will be automatically renewed each year. Mr. May made a motion to approve the yearly fee and have that fee applied to the village credit card, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.  
 Mr. May also explained if we find the site is too slow, he has added a free account that would make the site faster. He also added software that would block interference.

**New Business.** 1. American Rescue Act Fund. Ms. Slagle noted we talked about applying for this grant money, but needed to approve in the minutes, applying for the grant. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to apply for American Rescue Act Money, Mr. seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed. We have applied and should be soon receiving our first portion of this grant. We need to set up a new UAN fund to put the money in.  
 2. Resolution 09-21/ Create New UAN Fund/American Rescue Act Fund. This resolution was presented and reviewed. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mrs. Jones-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.  
 3. Resolution 09-21A/Assess Delinquent Utilities. This resolution was presented and reviewed. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. May 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	\$852.11	AES	\$978.98
Frontier	176.27	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	427.70	Shipman Dixon	972.92
Amy Elmore	75.00	Mobile Sanitation	125.00
Terry Zellers	1250.00	Mark May	109.32
Angi Deere	109.32	Paula Jones	108.70
Chris Foster	108.70	Thad Kauffman	108.70

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

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Kenneth James, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk