

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

November 8,

2021

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

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Mrs. Jones sent a letter of resignation. Mr. May made a motion to send a Letter of Appreciation for Mrs. Jones' service. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: None. Mrs. Deere stated she noticed an increase in presence of the Sheriff Department. She thanked them for their efforts.

Citizens Comments: 1. Medical Marijuana. None.

Ms. Slagle read the second reading of the proposed ordinance to ban medical marijuana in the Village of Laura.

Solicitors Report: 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Johnston noted Adam and Evon Rex had submitted a Public Records Request. Two emails were sent to the Village, requesting all ordinances, amendments, resolutions, and records of publication from 2012 to present. Mr. Johnston has corresponded with the Rex's. Ms. Slagle had a flash drive with copies of all the requested items. Mr. Johnston will send the requested items to Mr. Rex. Mr. Johnston also had an amended contract for Wayne Miller. Mr. Miller signed the contract.

Mr. Miller presented two photos of the property at 25 Laura Circle. The photos showed a number of vehicles in the yard and driveway of Mr. Rex's property. Mr. James noted we had previously contacted the Health Department, they looked at the front and side of the property and sent a letter to Mr. Rex. Mr. Rex removed some of the vehicles, enough to be compliant with the Health Department. Mr. James had also contacted the EPA, we didn't hear anything from them. When Mr. James received the photos of the property, he emailed them to the Health Department. The Health Department contacted Mr. James and said they would contact the EPA. Mr. James has contacted the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Miller said he was very concerned with the potential problems of fluids from the vehicles seeping into the soil/water, the vehicles and the potential of drawing rodents. Mr. Johnston stated the Village has cited Mr. Rex into court previously. He was fined. The number of vehicles on the property seems to have increased from the last citation. Mr. Johnson said Council can consider citing Mr. Rex both in civil and criminal court, we had filed a civil case. Mr. Miller asked if we have already filed a civil suit, and the deadline for a response or action has past, can the Village proceed? Mr. Johnston stated it was a civil claim, if Council wished to proceed with criminal charges, Mr. Johnston would. Council discussed. Mr. Johnston stated Council could send Mr. Rex a Letter of Remediation to correct the violation. Mr. Johnston would send it by certified mail, and give Mr. Rex ten days to clean up the property. If the property is not cleaned up by the ten-day limit, every day after would be a violation and fine. Mrs. Deere made a motion to have Mr. Johnston send a Remediation letter to Mr. Rex, and file criminal charges if the property is not cleaned up. Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. Kauffman-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. Johnston may also have Mr. Miller serve the letter to Mr. Rex. Mr. Kauffman will contact the State Fire Marshall to see if there can be anything they can contribute to helping get the property cleaned up.

2. Dollar General/Alcohol Sale. Mr. James stated Dollar General has intentions of wanting to sell alcohol. He thought it was a few years away from requesting a license, but wanted to know the Village's responsibilities. Mr. James asked about Laura being a "dry town". How do we know what the status of the village is in terms of selling alcohol? Mr. Johnston said he hasn't handled this issue much, he would like to research and talk to a couple of colleagues in his firm. He noted that businesses have to apply for a license to sell alcohol, and residents would have to vote to allow alcohol at that location, each time there was a request.

BOPA: 1. 10905 St. Rt. 571. An old septic tank was found on this property while the new owners were building their new house. The tank should have been removed when we put in our septic system around 1992. The board approved paying to have the tank removed.

2. 106 S. Main St. Mr. James reported the owner contacting him with a septic problem this morning, sewage was backing up into the house. The owners called RotoRooter, Mr. James called Donnie Smith of Bob's Excavating. Mr. Smith stated the septic tank was not full. The problem was on the homeowner's side of the tank. Mr. Smith also found a crack in the septic tank, but it wasn't unusable. The BOPA will need to put this tank on the list of tanks to be replaced. Mr. May stated the Board has found out the plastic tanks were not installed correctly, typically a few tanks are replaced a year.

- Old Business.**
1. Water Faucet/Village Building. Things are ready for Mr. Kauffman, when he is ready to work on exposing the pipe in the records room for a new faucet. Mr. May and Mrs. Deere will meet Sunday to move the boxes.
 3. Leaf Pick Up. Mr. Kauffman reported West Milton will let us know in advance when they will be picking up leaves. Mrs. Deere will put the dates on the website and make a "one call".
 3. Weeds around 405 S. Main Street. Mr. Kauffman will take care of the weeds on Village property from 405 S. Main Street down to the sewer plant.
 4. Crosswalk/Dollar General Area. Griffin Pavement Striping started striping the crosswalks, their machine broke down. They will have to come back to finish striping. Mr. James still has the signs to put up.
 5. 403 South Main Street. Ms. Slagle missed sending a letter to this resident to trim back foliage at the corner of First Street and the southwest corner of their property. She will send a letter to trim the trees/bushes.
 6. Snow Plowing. Mr. James contacted Jason Hoop about plowing the streets this snow season.

- New Business.**
1. Davis Voice & Data. Pete Davis emailed the Village, asking if there were any concerns about the internet service. The BOPA would like to have the internet installed at the water and sewer plant, per our contract, and also ask about the installations of cameras there. Council also noted previous discussions about installing cameras as part of our contract with Davis Voice and Data. Mr. May asked if there was any objection to him plugging in a program to check on how much internet down time we have. No objection from Council. Ms. Slagle stated there really wasn't a problem with service when she used the internet.
 2. Ms. Slagle noted the Fire Company contract was included in this month's bills.

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

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$944.94
Frontier	294.29	Ken James	108.76
Gretchen Slagle	427.70	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Amy Elmore	75.00	Mobile Sanitation	125.00
MegaCity Fire & Security	52.75	Menards	32.85
Wertz Hardware	49.76	Laura Fire Company	4000.00

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk