

# Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

June 12,

2017

**Attendees:** Mayor- Ed Guess, Council Members- Angela Deere, Chris Foster, Gale Honeyman, Alice Beck, Ken James, Harry McKenna, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle. Andrew Johnston-Solicitor. Others Present-Mark May, Jonathan Thompson, Dan Puthoff, Austin Slake.

**Previous Minutes:**

Minutes of the May 8, 2017 meeting were read. Mr. McKenna made a motion to accept the minutes with the following correction: BOPA #10- Mr. Ingle's term is an unexpired term, and will have to run in the November election. Old Business #1- The band that will be playing at the park is called Sugargrove not Sugarland. Mr. James seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mr. Foster-Abstain, Mr. Honeyman-Yes, Mrs. Beck-Yes, Mr. James- Yes, Mr. McKenna-Yes. The motion passed.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. Dan Puthoff/110 E. Second St. Mr. Puthoff was present to ask if Council was aware of the condition of Second St. going east out of town. The edge of the street is deteriorating and the ditch is in need of attention. There is a dead tree that could easily fall into the street. Mr. Puthoff spoke with the Miami County Engineers office about this because he wasn't sure if it was a county or town issue- he was referred to the Village. Council was not aware of these issues. Mr. Guess stated we will have the street committee look at the street. Mrs. Beck asked if he had noticed a dip in the street by where he lives, someone had said there may be a potential problem with the street there. Mr. Puthoff did notice a dip occurring.

2. Patriot/Austin Slake. Mr. Slake was present to see about getting a permit to solicit in town. He was given the necessary papers.

3. Fire Department/Dan Baker. Mr. Baker stated he had been approached by Mrs. Deere a potential donation of money from Council and ways the Department might be able to use the money. Mrs. Deere reminded Council that we had added \$2000 to the Fire Department appropriations for something like this. Mr. Baker stated the Fire Dept. had thought about things that would benefit the Village and the department- fittings, a fire attack nozzle, additional hose or air bottles. Mr. Baker gave some costs for these items. One of the things that would be beneficial and probably fit best with the budgeted amount might be adaptors for the fire hydrants that could be used for different size hoses. Council thought this might be something that would be beneficial for us and other areas the fire department serves. Mr. Baker will get back with us.

Rust Spot on Water Tower. Mr. Baker also wanted someone to know there is a rust spot on the water tower. Mr. Thompson noted the tower was scheduled to be painted this year or next year.

**Solicitor's Report:** 1. Railroad Property/Barn. The Board of Health is taking steps to have this property condemned. Council discussed and agreed we may be interested in purchasing this property if things are resolved and there are no issues with this property.

2. 102 Second St. There is a hearing scheduled for June 13, 2017. Mr. Johnston stated he thought Mr. Lacey was taking steps to resolve this issue.

**BOPA:** Mrs. Beck reported the following:

1. Waiting on Artesian of Pioneer to get phosphate system installed
2. The Board may try to install the dialers themselves.
3. The Board was working on new sewer and water rates.
4. The Board has a possible replacement person for Eldon Hinkle.

**Old Business:** 1. Rumpke/Village Clean Up. Mrs. Beck stated she appreciated the help that Brenden and Angie Deere and Greta Slagle provided residents while the dumpster was here for a weekend.

There was over 2 ton of trash collected. Council thought this went well for the first time we did it.

2. Bluegrass Band /Park. Things are going as planned. We have tractors coming, English's Wildlife Show, Kona Ice, Clarke's Pizza, maybe Fire Dept. open house.

3. 27 N. Main St. /101 N. Main St. /Basketball Hoop in Alley. Mr. James noted that the basketball rim may be in the alley, but the base part was not in the alley. Mr. James suggests the resident contact the Sheriff's Dept. for this complaint. Mrs. Beck and Mr. Thompson had been contacted by the van owner.

4. 15 North Main/Weeds, Oil at back of Property. Mr. McKenna noted nothing had been done to clean up this property. Ms. Slagle will send a letter to the property owner asking them to clean weeds, etc. from between the back fence and the alley and to address the oil or substance that is overflowing a container at the back of the property.

**New Business:** 1. **Ordinance 6-17/Water and Sewer Rate Change.** Mr. Thompson was present to present the new water and sewer rates the BOPA would like to institute when the sewer loan that was taken out in 1992 is off July 3. The yearly loan payment was over \$57,000. The current sewer rate for residents is \$44 dollars per month and \$22.00 per month for water, for a total of \$66.00 per month. The BOPA has approved the new sewer rate as \$28.00 per month and new water rate as \$32.00 per month for a total of \$60.00 per month for utilities. The additional charges for non-residents and businesses will remain the same. Mr. Honeyman asked about the water rate increasing so much. Mr. Thompson noted we have water tower maintenance, filter media maintenance, a new phosphate system and other repairs that we haven't been able to address. Mr. Foster asked if there was some kind of safety net for the sewer, that rate was being lowered substantially. Mr. Thompson noted we've been making repairs on the sewer plant over the last few years, it was in good shape. The new rates reflect at least a 25 percent increase in what it costs to run the plants per year, so every 4 years we're going to have an additional year's worth of revenue for the plants. Mr. Thompson noted that the BOPA had agreed that if there was a major problem at one of the plants, chances were that we would need a loan to solve the problem. They thought we could responsibly run the plants with the proposed rates. Council discussed. Mr. McKenna made a motion to approve Ordinance 6-17, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. Honeyman-Yes, Mrs. Beck-Yes, Mr. James- Yes, Mr. McKenna-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Coat Rack. Mr. McKenna donated a coat rack for the meeting room. Thank You Mr. McKenna.

3. Election Petitions. If someone is going to run for Council or BOPA, we'll have extra petitions available. The deadline to have the petition into the Board of Elections is August 9.

4. ATT Cell Tower. Mr. Honeyman noted with Laura having such bad cell phone coverage, would it be beneficial to get a petition going to see if we could get ATT to the tower up and active. The tower was supposed to be going up somewhere around Pemberton and Horseshoe Bend Road.

5. One Call Now. We are working on collecting phone numbers, June 15 is the deadline. We'll get the data entered on line and be ready to go shortly after the 15<sup>th</sup>. You can add or remove phone numbers anytime.

6. Estate Tax/Donn Ingle. We've received notice from Miami County of estate tax of \$3180.09. Mr. Honeyman suggested using this money somewhere in the water fund; Mr. Ingle was a well driller.

**Bills:**

Mrs. Beck motioned to pay the following Bills; Mr. McKenna seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere- Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes, Mr. Honeyman-Yes, Mrs. Beck-Yes, Mr. James- Yes, Mr. McKenna-Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$614.99	DP&L	\$1100.71
Frontier	158.37	Linda McKenna	50.00
Gretchen Slagle	378.63	Ed Guess	108.43
Terry Zellers	920.00	Staples	330.98
Rumpke	511.78	Treasure of State UAN	534.00
English Wildlife Show	150.00	Foster Tree Service	3105.00
Hamler-Gingrich	7757.00	Shipman, Dixon	100.00
Alice Beck	146.87	Angie Deere	72.88
Chris Foster	108.65	Gale Honeyman	147.76
Ken James	145.76	Harry McKenna	146.87

Mr. McKenna motioned to close the meeting. Mrs. Beck seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed

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Ed Guess, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk