

## Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

Sept 12,

2022

**Attendees:** Mayor-Ken James, Monte Evans, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Chris Foster, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Absent- Angi Deere, Others Present-Bradley Ingle, Doug Baker, Jerry McClannan-Mote & Associates.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the August 8, 2022 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff Report:** Mr. James thanked the Sheriff's Department for putting the speed wagon by Dollar General and noted how quickly the wagon was put there. Mr. Foster also noted his appreciation for their support.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. Mote & Associates. Mr. McClannan was present at the request of Mrs. Deere, to see if we could put together an application for an EMA grant that is due September 30. Mrs. Deere thought we could use this grant to help with flooding issues on Chestnut Street. Mr. James said he didn't think this grant applied to the reconstruction of Chestnut Street. Mr. McClannan noted there could be some parts of redoing Chestnut Street that might fall under the scope of this grant, but most of Chestnut Street would be road reconstruction. Mr. McClannan presented an updated estimate to redo Chestnut St. He stated the estimate included milling of the street, and reusing the aggregate and asphalt as the base for repaving the street. The storm sewer portion of redoing Chestnut Street would be around \$155,000, and could be part of the EMA grant. Mr. James noted Council had not discussed applying for the EMA grant. Mr. McClannan stated that OPWC doesn't like to award money to an entity if the entity already has OPWC money involved in a project. We are trying to get a new water tower loan using various grant monies, so we may be better off waiting for a little while to see how the water tower grant goes. Mr. McClannan noted they are working on additional ways to get funds for the tower, they are going to nominate us for EPA funds in February, part of this grant could include projects for principal forgiveness.

Mr. May asked Mr. McClannan about an invoice for a backup generator the BOPA received from Mote & Associates. The Board was under the impression that if we didn't get a grant, there would be no charge for the quote. Mr. May stated the Board was not expecting a bill, and the Board thought the size of the generator was excessive of the job it would be needed to do. Mr. McClannan said this was a little different case for the invoice. The Village wasn't awarded any grant money. The generator had to be big enough to handle the start/stopping of the well pump, tower pump, etc. The County told us the quote of around \$105,000 from Mote & Associates was higher than the amount originally discussed with the County. They told us we should try to stay around the original amount that was discussed, around \$45,000 to \$65,000. The Board didn't have a quote for a new generator that was within that range, and thought we weren't going to get any money.

We've been having trouble with the controller for the water level in the water tower, would the grant we're applying for cover costs to replace/update controllers, etc. at the plant? Mr. McClannan said the grant only covers a new water tower.

Mr. McClannan said they would like to piggy-back the generator costs/project on the EPA Grant. He thought that might be a good way to get funds for the generator. Mr. McClannan said he would hold off on the invoice for the generator, and see where the EPA grant would take us. Mr. May asked if there was any update on the Water Tower Grant. Mr. McClannan noted the second application improved our score slightly, he didn't have the exact numbers, but thought it went from around 65 to 68 points. We won't know anything until sometime around Thanksgiving.

Mr. James asked about charges for Chestnut Street Reconstruction. Mr. McClannan noted there wouldn't be any invoicing until we are awarded a grant.

Mr. McClannan said he has been working with Potsdam on a few projects. Potsdam is looking at options for putting in a sewer system sometime in the future. One of the thoughts was to see if Laura would be interested in combining systems, form a sewer district. Mr. McClannan noted the EPA likes to see communities join together for projects, they tend to support these efforts.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance. No decision on the Rex trial. There is now a RV in the front of the property and an unlicensed truck.

2. Security Camera/Records Retention Ordinance. Mr. Johnston is ready if Council wants to form a commission.

3. Swimming Pool Fees. Ms. Slagle asked what options the town has to collect un paid pool fees. Mr. Johnston read our ordinance and said it would be a criminal offense, if Council would choose to pursue the unpaid fees. Ms. Slagle asked if we could assess the property owners' taxes. Mr. Johnston said we could. Council discussed options for dealing with unpaid fees. There was concern about the cost to pursue legal action, and the ability to collect if we assess property taxes. Mr. Johnston was asked if we could shut off the resident's water for non-payment of the fee. Mr. Johnston stated we could.

4. Mayor's Responsibilities. Mr. James asked Mr. Johnston about a Mayor's job description. Mr. Johnston noted the mayor is able to break tie votes, debate, provide input, debate issues, the Ohio Revised Code provides this information. Mr. James noted his frustration at times to do certain jobs that he feels are not his responsibility. He works on Village activities sometimes three hours per day, and he does have a regular job. He works out of his house, but feels he is asked to perform tasks that shouldn't be his responsibility. Mr. May suggested Council review, and discuss the Mayor's responsibilities at a future meeting.

5. Mr. May asked Mr. Johnston about the invoice for the back-up generator, and if they could charge us for a quote. The Board had been told numerous times, there would be no charge if we didn't get the grant we were applying for. Mr. Johnston noted Mote and Associates had Quasi Contract Rights- they could charge reasonable costs for work done.

**BOPA:** Mr. May reported the following:

1. There was a pump failure at the water plant that resulted in rust being in the water.
2. A citizen asked how often the hydrants are flushed, we flush at least once a year.
3. A water height censor may be out of calibration, the water tower overflowed recently. We're working on resolving the problem.

**Old Business.** 1. Weed Control/South Main Street. The weeds around town have been sprayed.

2. Phone Service. Mr. May contacted Davis Voice and Data, there is not internet service at the water plant. Mr. Davis said he will get it installed shortly.

3. Fireworks Ordinance. Council discussed. Mr. James was noted we haven't seen a lot of fireworks being set off in town. He asked how we would enforce the ordinance; would we call the Sheriff if we see someone shooting off the fireworks? Mr. Evans noted the problems with the penalty part of an ordinance, we see the problems we're having trying to enforce the Junk and Pool Fee Ordinances, would this be something that would also be hard to enforce? Mr. McSparran noted if fireworks did cause a housefire in town, without an ordinance, civil or criminal suits couldn't be filed. Mr. May suggested posting for resident input one more month, and address this next month.

4. Flooding/Pemberton Road. No Report.

5. 2770 Pemberton Road. No Report.

**New Business.** 1. Snow Plowing. We received one bid for plowing of Village streets for this season. Council would like to try to get a few more bids. Mr. Evans made a motion to advertise in the Stillwater Advertiser and the Early Bird, each for two weeks. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Bids will be opened at our next meeting. The bid from Haney's Mowing & Landscaping, LLC. Plowing was \$115 per hour/truck. Salt was \$340.00 per ton spread.

2. Leaf Pick-up. Mr. James stated West Milton collected leaves for us last year at a cost of \$375 per pick-up. We schedule two pick-ups a year. The cost of street sweeping was \$350.00 per sweep. We haven't heard from West Milton yet to see if they could pick up our leaves this year. Mr. May made a motion to approve up to \$425.00 per pick-up for leaf collection. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

3. Internet/Water Plant. Mr. May spoke with Davis Voice and Data about getting internet service at the water plant. Pete Davis said it would be installed shortly.

4. [lauraohio.com](http://lauraohio.com)/[villageoflaura.com](http://villageoflaura.com). Mr. May noted it soon will be time to renew these domain names, each one costs under \$15.00 to renew. Mr. May made a motion to renew both domain names, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. May also noted switching to different hosting services for our calendar and website. All the services are free services.

5. Curb Painting. Mr. James asked about repainting the yellow areas of our curbs. It's best to try to get on someone's schedule during the winter, they ramp up as soon as the weather gets nice.

6. 2020-2021 Audit. The audit is complete, we're waiting on the report.

7. **Resolution 9-22/2021 Assessment.** This Resolution was reviewed. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

8. Mesothelioma Request. Ms. Slagle stated we have received a request to put a notice on our website from a mesothelioma organization. Council did not feel we should put anything except Village or government related information.

**Bills.** Mr. May made a motion to pay the following bills, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$428.56
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	150.00
Porta Klein	190.00	Kurt Troutwine	760.00
TruGreen	1400.00	D.A.C. Concrete & Exc.	9000.00
Aim Midwest Media	81.00	Arens Corp	130.00
Name Cheap	14.16	Glen McSparran	181.20
Angi Deere	109.32	Monte Evans	109.32
Chris Foster	181.20	Mark May	182.20

Mr. Evans made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

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Kenneth James, Mayor

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Gretchen Slagle, Clerk