

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

January 9,

2023

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Angi Deere, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Chris Foster, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present-Bradley Ingle Absent-Monte Evans, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the minutes with the following notation: Solicitor's Report, Section 2-Angi noted that Council would continue to address zoning complaints from citizens as we become aware of them. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff Report: Mr. James thanked the Sheriff's Department for the vehicle placed in town.

Citizens Comments: Connor Eblin was present as part of a government class project.

Solicitors Report: 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Johnston tried to file the new individual charges on separate days for the Rex property. He stated the judges changed procedures about six months ago, if a case has been filed, and is active, all new criminal charges against that person, must go before the same judge. Mr. Johnston filed the five charges but not on different days. Mr. Rex has also been charged with one criminal health code violation by the Health Department. Mr. Johnston is the Prosecutor for this charge also. This means there are now nine charges associated with this property. The health code charge is a minor misdemeanor, it goes before a magistrate, not Judge Nasal. Mr. Johnston has pictures from every day for the five new charges. Mr. James noted the property looks pretty much the same, the semi has been removed. The arraignment date is February 10 for the Health Department and February 17 for the Village.

2. Zoning/ Property Inspection. Mr. May asked if a citizen who has not filed a zoning permit of any kind, and may or may not be doing anything, does our zoning inspector have the right to enter their property (yard) unannounced? Mr. Johnston advises against doing that, it's best to follow the laws.

3. Haney Lawnmowing and Landscaping. Mr. James asked Council if there were questions concerning the most recent bill. Council discussed the cost of salt, the frequency of salting, pre-salting. Mr. Haney did a good job of clearing the streets and they were clear of ice. Mrs. Deere noted the fire department appreciated the clear streets during the big run they recently had. Mr. James noted it was an unusual storm. Mr. May made a motion that if the rates match the contract, pay the bill. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

3. Council Terms. Mr. James, Mrs. Deere and the non-vacated seat term are up December 31, 2023. The other seats are up December 31, 2025. Mr. Ingle and Mr. Thompson's BOPA term is also up December 2023. Mr. Vore's seat is up December 31, 2025.

BOPA: Mr. May reported the following:

1. The Board wants Mote & Associates to come to discuss progress on the water tower grant.
2. Generator for water plant. Last year, Mote and Associates supplied a quote for a County grant we applied for but didn't get. The quote was higher than the Board thought it should be. The size of the generator used in the quote was for a very large generator, larger than the Board thought we needed. Mote sent an invoice for the quote for the generator grant, they had said several times previously if we don't get the grant, there would not be a charge. It is common practice in many industries to give free quotes for services like this, the Board is questioning the bill for the back-up generator quote. The Board thought we might consider other firms for projects the village may want to pursue.
3. Bradley Ingle was elected President of the Board.
4. The Board got two quotes for having a generator installed, both companies quoted an 80kw generator as the size of generator needed. The Board wants to move forward with getting a generator, the COVID money has to be used by September, but suppliers are having a hard time getting generators.
5. Electric Meter/ 404 Ludlow St./Stuart Hinkle. Board will work toward an agreement to compensate the Hinkle's for the monthly electric costs of the lift station.
6. Grease/Restaurant. The sewer line hasn't been scoped yet.

Old Business. 1. Tree Limbs/301 and 303 S. Main Street. The tree has been trimmed.

2. Plantz/Limbs in Alley. This has been trimmed back.

3. RV/Ludlow Street. Camper is gone.

New Business. 1. President of Council. Mr. Foster made a motion to elect Mrs. Deere President of Council. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

2. Miami County Council Dues. Annual dues are \$30.00, Mr. May made a motion to approve the annual dues, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. May-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

3. Trash/West Milton. Mr. James spoke with Jeff, Hayworth, of West Milton and asked if they might be interested in giving us a quote for trash pick-up. Milton sounded willing to look at the possibility of collecting our trash. They have sent an e-mail with some inquiries about the number of houses, etc. Ben Herron asked if we might be interested in hooking into West Milton for our utilities. They are getting grant money to upgrade their system and were looking into future potential uses. Mr. James told Mr. Herron he would bring it up at Council meeting. Mr. May noted he was happy with our water, our water is unmetered, well water, the BOPA has two licensed operator that have done a good job of running the plants. He would have to see the same rates if we would ever consider switching. West Milton's water comes from Troy, we don't know what their water quality is. Mr. Foster noted it was nice to be self-sufficient, Mr. James agreed. The EPA may try to push smaller towns to combine into larger systems down the road.

4. Hole in Pavement/Hill-South Main Street. There is a hole in the road along the curb, where Wagner Paving previously installed a French drain and grate. Mr. James thinks it might be a tile that has washed out. Mrs. Deere asked if we could have Wagner's look at it.

5. **2023 Committees.** Everyone will stay on the same committees as last year.

Bills. None

Mrs. Deere made a motion to close the meeting, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk