

# Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

April 10,

2023

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

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere - Abstain, Mr. Evans - Abstain, Mr. McSparran -Yes, Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

**Sheriff Report:** No Report.

**Citizens Comments:** None.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. 25 Laura Circle/Nuisance Ordinance. Mr. Johnston noted Mr. Rex asked for a records request for copies of contracts for himself and Wayne Miller. Mr. Johnston stated he couldn't find the most current contract with the Village, but noted this was not a problem.

The pre-trial for the five new charges against Mr. Rex was held, the trial date will be in June.

At the pre-trial Mr. Rex gave letters to Mr. James and Mr. Johnston, Mr. James has given copies to Council. The letter was a list of grievances against the Village. Mr. Johnston stated there was no time stamp, there was nothing legally required from him in response to Mr. Rex's letter. Mr. Rex cited various legal cases that stated drone use was not legal, Mr. Johnston disagreed and noted there were cases that allowed drone use, in the same scope of interest as our case. Mrs. Deere asked Mr. Johnston for his suggestions on how to proceed in regards to the letter. Mr. Johnston stated if Council feels it's important to respond to Mr. Rex they could. Mr. Foster asked if Council members could be held accountable if a suit is filed by Mr. Rex. Mr. Johnston said Council acts on behalf of the Village, the Village has sovereign immunity, individual members can not be sued.

2. 111 Pike Street/ House Fire. Council is concerned about the remaining house structure at this property, as a result of a fire at this residence. The owner of the property has died as a result of arson, his wife had died previously and we don't know if there are any relatives. Nothing has been done to remove the debris, the property is a safety issue. Council does not know how to go about trying to get the structure cleaned up. Mr. Johnston will look into this.

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

1. Shut Off Valves in Street/ St. Rt. 721 and Chestnut St. Council agreed it would be a good use of State Highway Fund money to fix the street around the shut off valves on St. Rt 721 or 571.

**Old Business.** 1. Curb Painting. Ben Herron/West Milton would be able to paint the curbs in town sometime mid-summer.

2. Street Sweeping. Mr. Herron also noted West Milton would do street sweeping for \$350.00 per sweep this Spring. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve West Milton sweeping our streets, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

3. Wagner Paving/ Spring in Street/South Main Street. Wagner Paving has repaired the street.

**New Business.** 1. Port-a John. Mrs. Deere asked about a port-a john for the park. Ms. Slagle said Porta-Kleen sent the last bill last year, dated beyond when we had the unit at the park. The billing cycle for Porta-Kleen was a 28- day cycle. Ms. Slagle paid the last bill, with a refigured breakdown of the amount we owed included with the bill. Porta-Kleen says we still owe the original amount. Ms. Slagle has not paid it. Mrs. Deere will look for some new quotes.

2. Town Clean-Up. Mrs. Deere noted the area along the curb at the south end of S. Main Street from the last property in town on the east side of the street to the bridge, does not get mowed or maintained. This has been an ongoing problem. Mr. James will speak with Kurt Troutwine to see if he can maintain that stretch of grass.

3. Dumpster. Mrs. Deere asked if Council wanted to get a community dumpster this year. Council did. We will have one at the Village building the week of June 5-9, or until it is full. Mrs. Deere will take care of contacting Rumpke.

4. Community Garage Sales. Garage Sales will be June 1-3 this year.

5. Mr. James reported there are FEMA funds available for flooding issues.

6. Storm Drain/ 204 Chestnut Street. The storm drain in front of this residence is not working very well.

7. Main Street Baptist Church/Wagner Paving. Mr. James noted Wagner Paving bought the church, they will be moving their offices out there.

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

PERS	\$866.51	AES	\$1603.31
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	285.00
Twilio	6.21	Connie Hinkle	150.00
RD Holder	728.62	Union Township	33.15
Kurt Troutwine	50.00	Segdwick	185.00
Haney's Mowing & Landscape	680.00	Arens Corp	26.00

Mrs. Deere 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