

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

June 12,

2023

Attendees: Mayor-Ken James, Monte Evans, Mark May, Glen McSparran, Gretchen Slagle-Fiscal Officer, Absent-Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present: Mote & Associates- Corey Bremigan and Phillip Hewitt

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: None

Citizens Comments: 1. Mote & Associates/ Grants. Mr. Bremigan and Mr. Hewitt presented handouts about the cost of a new water tower and various grant opportunities/ options. The cost of a new tower has increased from \$865,000 in 2019 to \$1.626 million today. With Council/BOPA concerns about making sure ARPA money is being used, Mr. Hewitt noted he thought we should pursue an available grant specifically for a back-up generator foremost, then continually work on a water tower grant towards the round of grants available next year. The generator grant opens in July and would be awarded later in the year. An income survey could help secure some grant money, we've had trouble getting enough surveys returned to qualify for this grant. We may have to wait until the census results to see if we qualify for additional grant money. Mr. Bremigan would like to come look at the water plant to requote the cost of a back-up generator. There are certain requirements we would have to meet to apply for the EPA grant. Mr. May stated the BOPA has concerns about unknown costs, will there be a charge for another quote for the generator. The charge for the first quote was unexpected, and the quote was high compared to what everyone thought it would be. We had been told in the past there wouldn't be a charge unless we received the grant.

Mr. Hewitt explained grants were awarded based on a point system, we fall short of the 62 points cut off for OPWC Small Government Designation. He explained how we might be able to increase our number of points to help reach the total needed. The cost of a water tower has almost doubled, the Village's eleven percent share of the grant has gone from \$96,000 in 2019 to \$165,000 in 2022. Mr. Hewitt stated it would be challenging to get a grant currently, he was looking at all kind of grant possibilities to help with the cost of a new tower. There are six grants available right now. If we get a water tower grant next round, it could be 2026 or later before anything would start to happen with the build.

We would like to know how much water our tower holds, how much the new tower would hold and what the lifespan of the new tower would be.

Solicitors Report: 1. None.

25 Laura Circle. Mr. James noted the pretrial hearing was held, the trial is set for July 10.

BOPA: Mr. May reported the following:

1. The water tower overflowed about two weeks ago, the transducer has been installed, there was some calibrating, but seems to be working.
2. Mr. James said Kurt Troutwine couldn't mow around the aerator at the water plant because it was overflowing. Wes has the part to fix this, he will make the repair.
3. The new dialer is installed, we will be getting rid of Frontier for phone service and going with internet service at both the water and sewer plants. We need to get Davis Voice and Data to install internet at the water plant per our contract. Mr. James needs to contact him about ruts, he will also ask him to install internet at the water plant, and run the cable up into the attic crawlspace at the Village building.
4. The Board is getting quotes for a new flowmeter. The EPA requires flow rates as water comes into and out of the plant.

Old Business. 1. Curb Painting. Done. The cost is \$455.00.

2. Dumpster. The dumpster was filled, there was some paint, (it spilled and dried, therefore wasn't a problem), and 2 tires dropped off in the dumpster that Rumpke would not take. Mrs. Deere suggested taking the tires to Saunders's Towing, the cost use to be \$5.00 per tire.

Mr. May made a motion to approve up to \$20.00 and take the tires to Saunders Towing for disposal. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

3. 8 School Street/Vacant, Open Door. Ms. Slagle stated Mrs. Davis called and left a message saying she is unable to do anything with the house or property due to health and other issues. Council discussed. Mr. Evans will check the house to see if a piece of plywood would secure the door. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve up to \$100 for plywood and materials to secure the door to the house. Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

4. Tall Grass/Bexley Property, South Main St. Ms. Slagle noted not sending a letter to the property owner. She will send a letter asking them to maintain the grass along the road on their property.

5. True-Green. Mr. James noted if we wanted to spray the grass/weeds along curbs and in cracks in the streets/alleys. We'll do this next meeting.

New Business. 1. **Resolution 6-23/2024 Budget.** The 2024 Budget was presented. Mr. May asked if the cost of lowering the shut off valve covers on St. Rt. 571 were included in the expenditures in the State Highway fund. Ms. Slagle stated they were not. Mr. May made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget with the addition of the estimated cost of expenditure for lowering the shut off valves at the intersection of St. Rt 571 and 721 in the State Highway fund. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes. The motion passed.

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

PERS	\$866.51	AES	\$20.67
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	2375.00
Kurt Troutwine	870.00	West Milton	455.00
OnSolve	32.00	Ohio Public Works	2321.92
Treasure of State- UAN	762.00	Twillio	6.35

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk