

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

August 14,

2023

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

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: None

Citizens Comments: 1. None

Solicitors Report: 1. 25 Laura Circle. Mr. Johnston noted the court date was around the end of the month. Mr. Rex has sent public records requests, the request to Ms. Slagle was a broad request, Mr. Johnston was communication with Mr. Rex to see about being more specific in the requests. Ms. Slagle noted Mr. Rex had requested the training records for Council, Ms. Slagle noted she would have to find these, she was the representative for all Council when she participated in a webinar. She also knew that Mr. Evans and Mr. McSparran would need the training or have a designate take the course for their term. Mr. May made a motion to check to see if everyone is in compliance with this Sunshine Law, if we are not, Ms. Slagle be designated as our representative, and take a course to be in compliance. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

2. Tree Trimming. Mr. James stated that West Milton has told him because of the low-hanging limbs, they can't get their equipment down Chestnut and Main Streets to pick up leaves. Mr. James asked Mr. Johnston if the Village could pay to remove the limbs that need trimmed. Mr. Johnston noted the limbs were in the easement, and could be trimmed. Mrs. Deere asked who would be responsible for uneven sidewalks throughout town, Mr. Johnston stated we should have a specific set of guidelines to follow. The homeowner would be responsible for fixing the sidewalk. If the homeowner doesn't fix the walk, the Village could repair the walk and ask the property owner to pay the bill, if not paid, we could assess the property. Mrs. Deere noted the need to be consistent with how Council addresses violations/safety issues, etc.

BOPA: Mr. May reported the following:

1. Daniel Barker was appointed to the vacant BOPA seat.
2. A resident reported having an open water pit at his property, he recently built a dwelling and is having a hard time getting a plumber to finish the work.
3. A back-up generator grant application was filed by Mote & Associates.
4. Mr. James noted a meeting will be September 12, at 2:30 at Abby Credit Union for Union Township government entities to discuss interest/feasibility for possible joint wastewater projects, West Milton is adding plats around Iddings Road, Ludlow Falls has hooked into Milton water and sewer. Mr. May will try to attend this meeting. It has been the general consensus by the Village that our water and sewer systems are in good shape, and we would like to continue to run our own systems.

Old Business. 1. Curb Painting. Mr. Foster painted the missed section of curb by his house.
2. Tall Grass/Bexley Property, South Main Street. Mrs. Deere noted a mower's width of weeds along the curb had been sprayed, things were dying.
3. True-Green. Done.
4. Repeal Pool Fee Reading. The second reading was noted.

New Business. 1. Junk Ordinance Properties. Mrs. Deere had a list of properties that she thought needed addressed:

17 North Main Street. The Sheriff will have to be notified about an inoperable red car sitting in the street. Cars are being parked and worked on in the yard.

4 N. Main Street. Things are accumulating in the parking lot again. There are weeds around vehicles, stuff sitting alongside of the building. Ms. Slagle will send a letter asking them to clean up.

Shed between 108 and 112 N. Main Street. Mrs. Deere noted a very nice small building between these two residences and wondered if it was being used as a residence. Council discussed zoning codes and our ordinances as to how they might apply to water and sewer connections if they are put in outbuildings.

Mr. James noted Zoning was responsible for making sure structures meet zoning guidelines such as distance from property lines, easements, etc. The Village does not have zoning codes for electrical or plumbing, we let the property owner know if they should contact the county, but the Village has no responsibility to inspect these. Discussion about possible bathrooms, drains, sinks in other buildings besides the house on a property. Mr. May noted that we don't have zoning codes for plumbing, so residents can add new bathrooms to their house as they wish, as long as the new additional pipe was introduced on the resident's side of the plumbing, from the septic tank line toward the house. Council discussed.

27 North Main St. Mr. James stated the owner had contacted him about starting a business in a remodeled barn that is on an out lot of this property. Mr. James told her there could not be a business in the structure. Internet information showed there are two bathrooms in this building. The resident said the building was used for family parties and other gatherings. No one is aware of how the septic was connected to the septic tank. There is a new owner of this property, if there is a violation, how do we correct the issues, there are some gray areas.

There is also a property at 107 Second Street that went through Zoning as putting a barn on the property. The owner came to the BOPA meeting and stated he was having a hard time getting his plumber to finish work. The water pit/shut off area is exposed. The property owner was worried someone might fall into the hole, as it is right at the sidewalk. We weren't aware of anyone connecting to water or sewer at this address, they should receive a utility bill. We will pass this information along to the BOPA.

129 N. Main St. There are a lot of HVAC parts accumulating on the property again, along with weeds and other junk. There are remnants of an old barn that need to be removed. Ms. Slagle will send a letter asking the owner to clean up the property.

2913 Pemberton. There are a lot of miscellaneous items at this property, Truck parts, scrap vehicles, boats, etc. Ms. Slagle will send a letter to the property owner.

307 S. Main St. There is a dead tree that has fallen across the sidewalk. Ms. Slagle will send a letter to the property owner to remove the tree.

12 Second Street. The No Parking sign has been defaced, we need a new sign.

Mrs. Deere noted these are some of the issues she has seen around town. She sees the need to address these issues thru our junk ordinance and/or zoning codes. There are people parking on the sidewalks, in their yards, working on cars in their yards, with parts sitting around, there are people who don't maintain their yards. The ORC allows Council to create ordinances that are clear if we feel our current ordinances are insufficient. Mr. May noted he felt he should represent the opinions of the residents of town, if someone comes to Council with a concern, Council should consider the request and act accordingly. He thinks the residents like the idea of being able to work on their house, or in their yard without too much rule from local government. We aren't a town with lots of restrictions, or like country living where there are few rules to follow, we are a small town somewhere in between. If Council creates new ordinances, are we or future Councils willing to police all the rules. Mr. James stated that people move away from larger entities because of all the rules, they move to small towns because there are fewer restrictions. He noted that it is hard to sometimes enforce the ordinances we have now, would creating more help? Our job is to act on things to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our residents.

2. 2023 Assessments/ Resolution 8-23. Ms. Slagle presented this resolution to assess delinquent utility bill property owners and for mowing two vacant properties in town.

Mr. May made a motion to assess the delinquent property owners, if not paid by August 31, 2023.

Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

3. Tree Trimming/Chestnut and Main Streets. West Milton has told us they can't get their equipment thru the streets to pick up the leaves unless we have the trees trimmed. Mr. James has quote from Gunkle Tree Service for \$4000 and a quote from Triple A Landscaping for \$6500 to trim the low hanging limbs on Chestnut and Main Streets for 10-12 feet clearance. Mrs. Deere made a motion to hire Gunkle Tree Service to trim the trees, Mr. May seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

4.Snow Plowing/Haney's Mowing & Landscape. We have a quote from Haney's to plow the Village streets again this coming season. They will charge the same as last year, \$115 per hour to plow, \$320 per ton of salt used. Council is happy with the plowing they did last year. Mrs. Deere made a motion to approve Haney's Landscaping to plow the Village streets this coming winter. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.

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

PERS	\$866.51	AES	\$674.36
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	412.50
Kurt Troutwine	630.00	Gunkle Tree Service	800.00
Twillio	6.35	Ohio Dept of Tax	76.65
School Tax	144.09	Internal Revenue	468.15
Rumpke	163.78	TruGreen	1400.00
Amy Elmore	75.00	Wertz Hardware	47.98

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk