

Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

December 11,

2023

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

Previous Minutes: Minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Mr. McSparran made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Evans 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: 1. No Report

Citizens Comments: 1. Corey Bremigan/Mote & Associates. Mr. Bremigan was present to let Council know we have been awarded a \$50,000 reimbursable grant to use for a back up generator for the water plant. The estimated cost of the generator with engineering costs included is \$102,000. We will have to pay for the generator and its installation, but will be reimbursed \$50,000 upon completion. Along with the approximately \$52,000 in COVID money we received, the generator is paid for. Mr. May asked about the invoice we previously received from Mote & Associates for engineering fees when we did get approved for a grant. Mr. Bremigan noted that invoice did not need to be paid. It may take around eight months to get things going, the availability of a generator may hold things up. The Village will need to have the Asset Management Plan ready by the first payout when the project starts. Mr. May made a motion to apply for grants for a new water tower, with the condition the grant is large enough to make the project viable for the Village. Mrs. Deere 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. WWIG Grant. Mr. Bremigan also asked if Council was interested in pursuing another grant for the new water tower. If so, he needs the Mayor's signature to start the application process, the application deadline is January 17. Council discussed the significant increase in the cost of a new tower, almost doubling since we first applied for a grant. Mr. May noted we can't keep up with our share the increased costs of the tower, we planned for our share of the first grant, but the costs now have outgained our ability to meet the desired share we would need. Mr. Bremigan noted Mr. Hewitt is looking into income surveys, new census numbers and other ways to help increase our chances of increasing our "number" for grant consideration.

3. Paul Reece/Miami County Sheriff Candidate. Mr. Reese spoke to Council as a candidate for Miami County Sheriff in the March 19th election.

Solicitors Report: 1. 25 Laura Circle. Mr. Johnston stated Wayne Miller took some pictures of the Rex property between November 30 and December 5, there doesn't seem to be much improvement in terms of removing things from the property. The next court date is January 23, at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Miller will take some more photos on January 22nd. Mr. Rex filed a motion to dismiss and have Mr. Johnston sanctioned. Mr. James asked why the court date wasn't set for day 91? Mr. Johnston noted that Judge Nasal was supposed to be the presiding judge, but since he was not available, a temporary judge was assigned. The assigned judge's tenure is over and a new acting judge was assigned to the case. We have no control over the judge's schedule. Mr. James wanted it to be put on record that he doesn't have much confidence in the Miami County judicial system's willingness to prosecute those who violate the Village's ordinances.

2. Annexation/Wagner Paving. No Report

3. Contract. Mr. Johnston noted if the Village was happy with their relationship with Mr. Johnston and Shipman, Dixon & Livingston, he would be happy to continue to act as our solicitor, we haven't had a year to year contract for a while.

4. Open Council/BOPA Seats. We will start next year with some seats available for appointment. We can appoint people similarly to how we did last year.

BOPA: Mr. May reported:

1. Back-Up Generator. See #1 of Citizens Comments.
2. Mr. James asked about the sewer plant doors being unlocked, Mr. May noted he didn't think this was brought up, he would mention it at the next meeting.

- Old Business.** 1. Leaf Pick-Up. Mr. James stated West Milton picked up leaves once. He checked around town and didn't think there were enough leaves raked and ready for the 2nd pick-up, a lot of leaves had not fallen yet. He spoke with West Milton about rescheduling the second pick-up, they were done with their leaves and ready to put their equipment away.
2. Davis Voice & Data. No Report.
3. No Parking/Stop Signs. We have the signs, but they are not up yet.

- New Business.** 1. **Resolution 12-23/Amend 2023 Permanent Appropriations.** This resolution was reviewed, Mr. Evans made a motion to accept Resolution 12-23, Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mr. Evans- Yes. May - Yes, Mr. McSparran -Yes Mr. Foster - Yes. The motion passed.
2. Resolution 12-23A/2024 Temporary Appropriations. This resolution was reviewed, Mrs. Deere made a motion to accept Resolution 12-23A, 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, Mrs. Deere 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	\$852.11	AES	\$1001.76
Gretchen Slagle	431.12	Ken James	108.78
Amy Elmore	75.00	Shipman Dixon	285.00
BWC	341.00	Name Cheap	16.06
Menards	32.76	Angela Deere	72.88
Monte Evans	32.88	Chris Foster	108.72
Mark May	109.32	Glen McSparran	108.72

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

Kenneth James, Mayor

Gretchen Slagle, Clerk