

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
February 28, 2023**

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Peter Wilson

**PRESENT:** Darcy, Cox, Donnalley, Thomas, Hiner

**ABSENT:** Beech

The regular meeting on February 28, 2023, was called to order at 6:30 with Mayor Peter Wilson presiding.

Paster Shuman Lisbon Assembly of God opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

Thomas made the motion to approve the minutes from the 2/14/23 regular meeting.

Temple 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes

Motion Passed

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Darcy made the motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$21,790.77

Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes

Motion Passed

Darcy made the motion to approve payroll for PPE 2/18/23 in the amount of \$53,769.31

Temple 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes

Motion Passed

**GUEST (S)**

Pastor Shuman inquired about participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month events for strawberry season for the church. Mayor Wilson said this is a chamber event, therefore she would need to speak to the chamber regarding a spot.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RE: REMODEL OF STREET GARAGE**

Councilman Cox reported with information that he has found he would like to remove the this from the agenda. Mr. Cox would like to meet with the street and finance committee on a building maintenance program before making any decisions regarding the street garage. Mayor Wilson ask why Mr. Cox said he would like to request a street and finance committee meeting to discuss. There was some discussion that a personnel committee meeting is also needed so instead of several committee meetings set up a committee of the whole meeting. This meeting was scheduled for Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

**RE: GOVERNOR'S APPALACHIAN INITIATIVE UPDATE**

Mayor Wilson reported funding for the Governor's Appalachian Initiative has begun to be awarded. There is an approved list of qualified firms that can be used according to the mayor. Columbiana County should find out next month if they have been awarded the \$250,000.00 for planning.

**RE: EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT UPDATE**

Mayor Wilson explained he put this on the agenda because of all the different information that has been reported regarding the train derailment on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. He has met with several mayor's in the county who are reporting the equipment they had on scene has anywhere from aluminum rusting, tires rotting and rubber valves falling apart. His primary concern is our firefighters who responded, Chief hall reported we had eight on scene. Mayor Wilson said he has talked with Wesley Vins, the health department will be setting up a clinic for all first responders who were on scene to be tested. The mayor would like to have all tested who were there, Chief Hall stated he has

suggested to all who responded to be tested however he does not feel we can mandate the testing. The chief reported that 2 who were on scene have already tested for base line information. The trucks on scene were not village trucks but trucks owned by the townships.

**RE: HSA EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Council woman Hiner reported that during the finance committee meeting the committee discussed several things, one being an employer contribution of \$500.00 to FT employees HAS accounts. The village currently has 19 FT employees on the health insurance, 17 with HAS and 2 on a buy up plan. Those on the buy up plan would be eligible for up to a \$500.00 reimbursement on approved medical expenses. These reimbursements would be done in house by the fiscal officer and the HAS contribution through payroll as a non-pensionable disbursement. This contribution is not a guaranteed yearly contribution, it is something that will be looked at each year. The reasoning behind this being the village looked at health insurance plans during the renewal to lower the \$5,000.00 deductible plan and add family coverage to village insurance. All the plans available were cost prohibitive to maintain at this time. This contribution will help with deductible and out of pocket expenses for employees. All at the finance committee were in full support.

Hiner made the above into a motion  
Temple 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mayor Wilson questioned why this is being done since it was not done in 2021 or 2022. Ms. Hiner explained it is way to help with lower deductible cost and out of pocket expenses for employees. Mayor Wilson than mentioned that council just motioned to table the street garage building maintenance program because of funds but wants to spend this and don't the village PT employees deserve something also. Council man Darcy stated we have motion on the floor can we just vote on it, there was a small exchange between Mayor Wilson and Council man Darcy on who is running the meeting. Mayor Wilson than ask for a vote.

All Ayes  
Motion Passed

**RE: PURCHASE USED POLICE CRUISER CENTER TOWNSHIP**

Council woman Hiner reported this also was discussed at the finance committee, the committee is suggesting approving up to \$12,000.00 to purchase the used cruiser from Center Township if approved at their meeting. Ms. Hiner also reported that since the meeting Chief Abraham has reached out to Center Township to make an offer of \$10,500.00 they than told him they have 2 guns to include in the sale making the offer \$11,500.00. The chief told Ms. Hiner one of these guns will go in the K9 unit, the department had to purchase a weapon anyway this will save the department some money by purchasing from the township. Council Cox ask for clarification on the scheduled purchase of a new cruiser with the department rotation. The purchase of this used cruiser will replace the new cruiser purchase in 2023 with a new cruiser being purchased in 2024 instead. This cruiser being purchased at this time will replace Unit #1.

Cox made the motion to approve up to \$12,000.00 for the purchase and lettering of the cruiser from Center Township, if approved by the township at their meeting.  
Darcy 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes  
Motion Passed

**RE: HEALTH INSURANCE STIPEND**

Council woman Hiner reported the health stipend was also discussed during the finance committee it was also brought up in a January council meeting, currently the village offers to an employee who declines the health insurance a stipend of \$6,000.00 per year. The committee is suggesting ending the stipend for new employees hired after January 1, 2023. This will not affect any employee who was hired before January 1, 2023 they will be grandfathered for the current stipend.

Hiner made the above into a motion.  
Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes  
Motion Passed

**RE: 2023 CHIP AND SEAL**

Street Supervisor Jim Oliver reported that he has measured the area around both the street and water garages in addition to the entrance to Willow Grove Park the total is under a ½ mile he estimates the cost to be around \$15,000.00 for both stone and emulsion, this cost does not include any grant monies the county may offer. He is scheduled to meet with the county March 14<sup>th</sup> to present what the village would like to have done, he would like to add some alleys with the total being around 1 mile for the village. Council man Cox encouraged those on council to take a ride around town to suggest any alleys they feel could be done.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RE: RESOLUTION NO. 2143-2023 – A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

The above resolution is a result of a call to action by the Ohio Municipal league. The 2011 administration of Governor Kasich cut the local government fund from 3.68% of the states general revenue distributed to local governments to 1.66%, they also cut the personal tangible tax and inheritance taxes local governments received. Fiscal Officer estimates that since these cuts the village has lost approximately \$550,000.00 over the years. This resolution is to urge the Governor and General Assembly to restore the local government distribution to the 3.68%. The one thing to keep in consideration is if this is restored the state income tax has been reduced this will have an impact on the funds distributed to the local governments, this could be a wash in funds gained and lost over a period of time.

Hiner made the motion to pass Resolution No. 2143-2023.  
Donnalley 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes  
Motion Passed

**RE: RIGHT OF WAY VACATION SR 154 – DOLLAR GENERAL REQUEST**

Zoning Inspector Barkley reported to council that the engineer for Dollar General has inquired to see if the village would be willing to even consider a motion to vacate a portion of their right of way along SR 154 on the property just east of the sewer lift station. The right of way is larger on this portion of the highway than the normal right of way along the road, Dollar General would need this access to build what they are wanting to develop. Mr. Barkley also mentioned there would be a few other variances needed through zoning for this development not just the right of way vacation. Mr. Hoover BPA chair reported there is a 12-14" main sewer line that runs in this right of way than with the vacation it could be possible the lift station would have to be moved. He feels all at Dollar Generals expense not village. Mayor Wilson reported this piece of property is also in the flood plain therefore approve would need to be obtained from the flood management of the village, by virtue of being Mayor he serves as chair of this committee. He also said that he went to talk to County Engineer Dawson about tie ins for the sewer and what would be needed, hover Mr. Dawson was in meetings. In the past though when ask the county did not allow tie ins directly to the main according to the mayor. Council President Thomas indicated she would rather not vacate any of the right of way, to which both Council woman Donnalley and Temple agreed.

Hiner made the motion to not vacate any of the right of way along SR 154 as ask to consider.  
Temple 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes  
Motion Passed

**RE: ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Zoning Inspector Barkley reported the committee met to discuss a computer program for record keeping and organization of the zoning applications. He had presented four quotes to the committee Mr. Barkley and the committee agreed the cost associated with these programs were to cost prohibitive for the village based on the

current activity of the zoning. Mr. Barkley reported that the record keeping is possible with the one drive access the village currently has and the Ms. Crane is utilizing this for records retention. The draft of the ordinance changes has been given to the solicitor for review.

**RE: ENGINEERING FIRMS**

Mayor Wilson brought up how the county currently has 2 engineering firms who are inundated with work, it is sometimes hard to have work completed in a timely manner. The village has been contacted by firms from Wooster, Canton and New Philadelphia regarding engineering services, as much as he likes keeping work local he would like council to consider talking to these firms about services. Council President Thomas said she is not against using firms outside the county however she prefers the village first attempt to use their services than move outside of the county if needed. It would be better to consider this on a project by project basis than an overall change. All agreed this was a good idea.

**RE: HIRING OF CEMTERY MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE**

Cemetery Board member Gene Krotky reported the cemetery has had 2 resignations one being a PT maintenance employee and the other the clerk. Mrs. Krotky would like approval to hire Dustin Bowers as a Maintenance II employee 100% of the based on his experience and he will not need insurance. If approved the board would like him to start March 1<sup>st</sup> with employment contingent on passing the pre-employment drug test.

Thomas made the motion to hire Dustin Bowers at 100% of the Maintenance II base for the cemetery maintenance position.

Hiner 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Ayes  
Motion Passed

**FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

The following reports were submitted to council in their packets: February month end fund summary. All vouchers were presented prior to the meeting for review and signatures.

**STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT**

The street department report was distributed to council in their packets for review.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Hall reported that the turnout gear for the department the guys have been measured with the gear being ordered. Those firefighters whose gear needs to be replaced with the East Palestine call has also been ordered. Chief Hall compiled a list of equipment to be turned into East Palestine for reimbursement from Norfolk Southern as requested, a section of 4"x100' LDH hose with storz fitting \$1,019.00 and 8 sets of turn out gear \$24,481.50, total loss \$25,500.50. The chief will be attending a meeting hosted by Chief Drabick in East Palestine of all the chiefs who responded to the call, this is a chief's only meeting. Chief Hall will keep council and the mayor informed during this process. The mayor mentioned how he feels with work that will be done at the station some type of shower for decontamination should be considered, Chief Hall said there is a portable shower available for that type of call when needed.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Council woman Donnalley reported she has talked to last year's manager Jace Frank, he will be reapplying for this year. The internship he needs is not available until 2024, so he would like to return for the summer, there are also 5 of last year's lifeguards who will be reapplying for the 2023 season. Ms. Donnalley reported she has 2 others who will be applying and there are 2 applications already turned in. The first class at the Calcutta YMCA is early March, this will not work for the village she ask to be notified of the next class. The Calcutta YMCA cost is \$200.00 per person where Salem Community Center is \$350.00, the village will again pay for needed certification. The staff will also need new whistles and swimsuits. She ask if the exercise equipment has been installed on the walking path yet, no it has not locations need to be decided than they will be placed. Council man Cox had submitted to the finance committee approximately \$22,800.00 in estimated expenses for budget purposes including the new diving board

and concrete in the area of the board, fence and fence painting. Mayor Wilson reported the Columbiana County Parks District is donating 2 bike racks, they are in the shape of a bicycle. The village will need to decide where to place these.

**BPA REPORT**

BPA Chair Bill Hoover reported the department on EPA recommendations has done a direct collection from wells 3,4 and 5 to test for the VOCs from the East Palestine derailment. Those samples have been sent to Ream and Haager for testing, the results should be back soon. The work on the bike trail by the parks district has started in SR 154, the engineering will have to install extensions on the village fire hydrants with the change in elevations with the excavating needed for the project. The board has been told the lead time on these extensions by the engineer is 3 months.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Abraham reported the body camera training and set up is still ongoing. The department will have to purchase a new computer for redacting purposes on the camera's as required. The specifications have been given to the distributor for the computer, just waiting on the price before bringing to council.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Mayor Wilson reported the Christmas lights have been turned off in the village squares, they are now back to being dark and gloomy.

The Chamber Wine about towns was a big success with more attendees than in the past, he thanked village businesses that participated.

With nothing further to come before council, Mayor Wilson adjourned the February 28, 2023, meeting at pm.

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Mayor Peter Wilson

**ATTEST:**

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Tracey Wonner, Fiscal Officer