



**RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021
6:30 p.m.
(Meeting conducted via Zoom)**

ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen and Waszak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Wheeler, Police Chief Swanson, Fire Chief McLean, Finance Director Turk, Interim Recreation Director Toth, Planning and Zoning Director Frantz, Service Director Papp and Law Director Cortes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2020 WORK SESSION AND THE DECEMBER 15, 2020 REGULAR MEETING, AS CORRECTED.

Moved by Stoppenhagen, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Debbie Bluso-Rogers asked Council to join her in recognizing all the hard work over the past 12 years that led to the conclusion of the Briarwood agreement. She especially recognized Beshara, Lyons, Frantz, Cortes, engineer Dave Neumeyer and attorneys Todd Hunt and William Hanna.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Happy New Year – let us hope and pray the coronavirus gets under control.
- The Ohio Central Board extended federal COVID-19 money from the federal package to Dec. 31, 2021. Also, the curfew of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. has been extended to Jan. 24.
- Ilene Shapiro said Summit County will receive \$22 million for municipal payroll. Our appropriation will be coming shortly. The Mayor is working with Turk and Cortes on the TIF so the village won't have to wait too long for funds.
- Wheeler is working with the department heads on capital projects; we will do our best to finish them by the end of the year.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Swanson – Police



Calls for Service:

1000 -Village
195 -Township

Report:

Detective Ryan Kellackey was nominated by Summit County Asst. Prosecutor Zachary Neuman and named the December 2020 “Top Cop” by Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh. This was for Detective Kellackey’s diligent work in a complex embezzlement scheme, which resulted in the successful prosecution of a suspect for stealing close to \$130,000. We are very proud of Detective Kellackey’s efforts for this above and beyond recognition.

We had one more officer test positive for COVID-19. The officer is quarantined at home and is doing well. We continue with regular decontamination procedures of the building and vehicles, and the remainder of the staff is continually being monitored.

I would like to make a motion for Council to accept a very generous donation of 10-\$25.00 gift cards from a resident who wanted to remain anonymous.

I would like to make a motion for Council to accept another very generous donation of \$100 from Mark and Ramona Baytos.

We are all very appreciative of the generosity and support of our residents during the holiday season, as well as throughout the year, and we are all are looking forward to another year of service to the community.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE DONATIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Moved by Philipbar, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.



Chief McLean– Fire

Assistant Chief Seifert said half of the EMS calls were related to COVID. Sometimes we will find this out from the medical staff after the transport. We are expecting more supplies from the county.

Report:

- **Response calls for December:** Village EMS-71, Fire 10, Township EMS-12, Fire 4, Mutual Aid 19, **Total Response 116**
- We had our first in-house positive case of one of our full-time employees on the 25th. He is doing well and should be back to work on the 5th.
- We participated in several conference calls in regards to the vaccination procedures with the Summit County Health Department and Fire Chiefs Association. The Vaccination process started on December 26th and continued until the 30th. A pre-registration was required to be filled out. We have successfully had 10 members vaccinated.
- Our PPE levels are all in good shape as we start the new year, and the calls were down just before the holiday, but now have increased. We are expecting a spike in a few weeks due to holiday gatherings.
- EMS & Fire Training plans are ongoing for the first part of 2021. Inspections are very limited again, but we are concentrating on current and new building Pre- Plans.
- Our Mobile Santa Program went off very well; thanks to all that contributed.

Recreation – Interim Director Toth

1) Due to the holidays, most items remain the same.

The Rental Facilities remain closed, Programs and Events are in the finalization process, Babb's Orchard Park pond renaming continues to be on hold and the Eastwood Barn Grant deadline was extended.



2) RECREATION CENTER:

Continuation of file documentation and organization

a. Items for AUCTION:

- i. Have Council Members had the time to review auction items and walk through the recreation center?
- ii. Confirmation of Auction Items?

b. Items for DONATION: can we get approval of times to donate?

3) FEASIBILITY STUDY:

- a. As of Monday, January 4th 454 residents participated in the Community Center Survey.
- b. Survey participation is 31% out of 1468 households.
- c. Will give update at the next meeting

4) PARKS & RECREATION MEETING RESCHEDULED:

- a. Monday January 11th 6:00 p.m.

Director Papp – Service

Report :

The Service Department continues to respond to normal and emergent work activities. Administratively, with respect to public interface, we continue to complete permitting, plan review, sewer billing, cemetery sales and burials and responding to calls and emails. The following are some of the highlights of the Service Department's activities over the past two weeks:

- The Service Director on behalf of the Village requested and was granted a time extension for the Eastwood Barn project. The Service Director has not received any information from NuVision Construction.
- The ramp at the Historic Town Hall building is waiting for the installation of the railing. The railing is undergoing some repairs to make it comply with the requirements of the plans.
- The Motor Road Drainage Improvements project started January 4th. The project's contractor is Cavanaugh Construction. They will be working on the project through the winter, as the weather allows.



- The Service Department had the following statistics from the snow and ice control over from December 21, 2020 to January 3, 2021: 289 tons of road salt used, 241 man-hours worked and 2,844 miles traveled.
- The Service Director has been working on coordination for the Briarwood project.
- The Service Director received approval of the CCS funding from NEORS for the GIS mapping project.
- The Service Department continues to work with the Fire Department to make sure safety protocols are current and PPEs for Service staff are available. Administration building and Service Department facilities "spray" decontamination occurs weekly at the end of the week. It is highly recommended that no one without proper PPE is present during this operation.
- The Service Department is utilizing the new time and attendance software, CBIZ. This last pay cycle was the first live pay cycle with the software.
- The Service Director received a copy of the revised cemetery rules from cemetery rules subcommittee on 01/03/21.
- On behalf of the Service Department, I would like to thank administration and Council for the Holiday lunches. They were much appreciated.

Recommendations/Considerations:

- 1) Kindler & Associates has completed our pavement condition index ratings for the Village. Please consider a future workshop to discuss the results and analysis.

Beshara asked about the railing repair at the Historical building. Papp said some issues came up after manufacturing, and the railing had to be returned. Waszak said he has not seen the expanded recycling list from Rumpke. He added that Simply Recycling was back in operation. Papp said they are on again, off again.

Director Frantz – Planning & Zoning

Report:

- Residents are inquiring about the water line expansion to the center of town, and that is a good sign. The project should be bid in late January or early February.
- Planning and Zoning Commission will go over this year's goals at the Jan. 12 meeting.
- PZC will also consider a conditional zoning certificate request from a dog groomer that is looking to move in above Pierogies of Cleveland.



Director Turk – Finance

Report:

Update on Financials

Through December 29th, we have collected \$27,764,645 of the \$27,962,193 budgeted for revenue, or 99% of the budget, just slightly below the expected rate of 100% since we are nearing the end of the year. In 2019 we collected \$27,118,311 for the year. Keep in mind that in 2020, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we received \$484,517 in Federal CARES Act funds (this excludes the Township's \$257,845 Cares Act funding that they used to fulfill their contractual obligations) and received two additional Bureau of Workers' Compensation premium rebates totaling \$341,609. On the expenditure side, \$27,172,165 was expended overall by the Village through December 29th, or 86% of the \$31,563,724 budgeted for expenditures. Last year, we spent \$26,649,167. We will continue to closely monitor both revenue and expenditures during 2021.

Income Tax Collections

As of December 29th, December's income tax collections are down 9.9%, or down by \$94,235. Year-to-date, collections are down 2.1%, or down by \$236,799. All of the loss is in withholding collections. Net profit and individual collections broke even. Once the month closes, a detailed memo will be distributed next week.

Recommendations/Considerations:

We have to discuss Akron's Prosecutor's resolution of past due payments for services rendered.

Wishing everyone peace, happiness, good health, and good riddance to the Coronavirus in 2021!

Beshara asked how the new CBIZ payroll system is working. Turk said there have been a few bugs, but it should be okay.

Law Director: No report.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAUCUS

COMMENTS FROM FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Kelly Clark again urged Council to table Resolution 97-2020. Bob Hooper said he would like it to pass. Paul Swan and Judy Bowman agreed.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

First Readings: None.

Second Readings:

RESOLUTION 108-2020

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION DECLARING VARIOUS ITEMS OF VILLAGE PERSONAL PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO DONATE SAID PROPERTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO WAIVE THIRD READING OF RESOLUTION 108-2020.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 108-2020.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Third Readings:

RESOLUTION 97-2020

Offered by Mr. Lyons

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR SAVING THE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT OVIATT HOUSE LOCATED AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF THE RICHFIELD HERITAGE PRESERVE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

DISCUSSION: Lyons said this was an expression of Council's viewpoint and not a dramatic step. Beshara said she would vote no because the RJRD Board can make its own decision. Stoppenhagen said RJRD should consider what would happen if the funding for the renovation runs out. Swan and Pat Norris said the project has drawn \$53,000 in pledges and another \$50,000 for maintenance.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 97-2020.

Moved by Waszak, seconded by Philippbar. YAY: Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen and Waszak. NAY: Beshara.



RESOLUTION 104-2020

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION DECLARING VARIOUS ITEMS OF VILLAGE PERSONAL PROPERTY AS SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO SELL SAID PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 104-2020.

Moved by Stoppenhagen, seconded by Boester. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Hooper thanked Council for approving Resolution 97-2020. Kelly Clark expressed her disappointment in the vote, as well as Council not choosing any women for leadership positions at yesterday's organizational meeting.

WORK SESSION

Topics for the Jan. 9 work session will include Mayor's Court, New PCI Rating system for road pavement, and Water extension assessments for corner lots.

Lyons adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman
Clerk of Council

Mike Lyons
Council President