



**RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Hudak, Norris, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen, and Waszak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Police Chief Swanson, Fire Chief Seifert, Finance Director Turk, Recreation Director Piepsny, IT Director Baker, Planning & Zoning Director Frantz, Service Director Waldemarson, and Law Director Chojnacki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31, 2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

Moved by Norris, seconded by Philippbar. YAY: Beshara, Norris, and Philippbar.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2023 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Philippbar. YAY: Hudak, Philippbar, and Waszak.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2023 REGULAR MEETING, AS AMENDED

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

MAYOR'S REPORT

I just got back from vacation yesterday, so I don't have a big Mayor's Report.

This Year March DD Awareness Month will be celebrated by Summit DD by allowing Summit County residents free admission to the Akron Zoo from Saturday, March 4 through Monday March 6, 2023.

I signed a contract with Kinetic today that doubled our internet speed at the Village. Everyone will be a lot happier.

I will be accompanying the Mayors Association to Washington DC next Tuesday and will return on Thursday evening. We will meet with both Senator Vance and Senator Brown as well as other departments and divisions.

Even with all their troubles, NOPEC is still allowing us to apply for our \$1,500 annual grant which we use for our summer concert series.



We are getting the architectural drawings done for the pickleball and tennis courts behind Village Hall in order to present to Planning and Zoning, hopefully, at their March 14, 2023 meeting.

I am requesting an executive session for the purpose of economic development and the possible purchase of property for public use.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Swanson – Police

The Police Department Annual Report has been completed and forwarded to Mayor Wheeler. I want to thank all the police department members for another year of hard work and dedicated service to the community, which is all clearly outlined in our report.

Revere Safety Town will be held on June 20-23 at Bath Elementary School, 1246 N. Cleveland Massillon Road. The program is open to all incoming Kindergarten students for the 2023-2024 school year who reside in the Revere community. There will be a morning Session - 9:00 am to 11:45 am and an afternoon session - 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm. All student applications will be done online using the QR code on the flyer that's available on our website. If you have any questions, please email the Safety Town Team at reveresafetytown@gmail.com. Registration deadline is **June 1**.

We are sponsoring another American Red Cross Blood Drive on March 30 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Council Chambers. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: Richfield.



Chief Seifert– Fire

Report:

- 1) I have formed a committee on setting the process to hire the next full-time employee. We are also improving our requirements for part-time help as well. We look to post for the job in March for 30 days.
- 2) I have received word from the State that our request for purchase on the physical wellness grant was approved by them. I will be submitting the mental health proposal shortly and will hope to get them out for bid in early March.
- 3) We are getting quotes now for the capital projects on fixing and replacing the garage doors. We are currently seeking bids from three companies.
- 4) Chuck is working on getting bids for storage room bids for the doors to the air compressor room. This is also a capital project.
- 5) We are still waiting for the contractor to finish up their current job and then they will move to the women's locker room.

Chief Seifert said Sensible Products had donated \$1,800 to the fire department for a mobile command center.

He also talked about the Fire Dependency Board, earmarks funds for a part-time or volunteer firefighter who is killed in the line of duty. The committee includes Chief Seifert, Steve Kormushoff, Mayor Wheeler, Councilmember Norris, and former Fire Chief Phil McLean. Beshara had already been appointed to the Fire Dependency Board, but after discussion, she allowed the new appointment of Norris to stand.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF \$1,800 FROM SENSIBLE PRODUCTS.

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



MOTION: TO APPROVE STEVE KORMUSHOFF AS A MEMBER OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND COMMITTEE.

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

The chief also discussed a free cybersecurity class for senior citizens and elected officials. It will take place on April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at Akron Fire Department No. 4 at 71 W. Thornton St.

Recreation – Director Piepsny

Report:

Administrative Duties:

Multiple showings of Fellowship Hall and Masonic Hall.

Park board meeting on February 6th.

Wrote Park board minutes.

Jenn Hesch and Elizabeth Kelly started summer camp planning, and Spring/Summer Brochure plan.

Many meetings continue with instructors to plan classes and classes in 2023.

Redesigning our parks and recreation website and Facebook page.

Memorial Bench and Tree program draft brochure went to Tree and Landscape.

Met with Snyder and Associates for the Richfield Woods Playground Drawings.

Speaker Series at Eastwoods Preserve February 19th!

Rentals:

Rentals for Fellowship and Masonic Hall have increased. Processed refunds.

Recreation:

Broadview Heights Recreation Center Voucher update as of Thursday, February 17th there were 230 vouchers picked up for the program since it began.

Instructors for spring/summer classes have continue to respond and we are looking forward to launching new recreation programs and classes in 2023 for all ages!



We currently continue to advertise for instructors for the 2023 Spring/summer classes. If there is anyone that has a unique hobby or skill set that they would like to teach as a class, we are currently looking and will hire. Please contact John Piepsny at jpiepsny@richfieldvillageohio.org.

Director Waldemarson - Service

Report:

The Service Department Continues to respond to normal and emergency work activities. Administratively, permitting, Cemetery, responding to phone calls and emails. The following are some of the highlights of the Service Department's activities over the past two weeks.

- 1) Highway Division has been working on Cold patch roads, Drain patrol, Rock kills, Snow & ice removal, Trash pick-up, Installed catch basin on Broadview Road.
- 2) Utilities Division has been working station checks & maintenance, Power outage at Hillcrest pump station, Everett Point generator repair, Sewer inspection at new home Briarwood.
- 3) Grounds Division has been working on Removal of overgrown, dead, or dying trees and shrubs encompassing headstones at Fairview Cemetery. Removing large pile of dirt and rock from bottom of sled riding hill at Hawkins Park.
- 4) Vehicles & Properties Has been working on vehicle maintenance, removed damaged streetlight, disconnect electrical and clean up debris from vehicle accident and working on a quote for Insurance company for replacement, Removed streetlight from Brecksville Road disconnect electrical, Pole was blown over by the wind, Working on quote for replacement. Triangle Park electrical repairs and light bulb replacement, West Richfield Cemetery Electrical repairs, and light bulb replacement. Working on quotes for Fire Department garage doors.



Director Baker – Information Technology

Report:

1. Historical Society internet service was completed on 2/15/23 and they are now connected to the 1gig internet service that Windstream provides.
2. Still waiting for equipment to come in so we can set a date for install of the new servers and switches.
3. I am preparing to get items ready for auction, stuff that has been sitting around for a while (old computers, monitors and misc. hardware). I will do an inventory and prepare legislation for public auction.
4. I continue to sign up for trainings, I have 3 on the schedule.

Director Frantz – Planning & Zoning

Report:

1) Planning and Zoning updates to items discussed at the February 7th Council meeting: a) The columbarium project at Fairview Cemetery does not require a referral from Council to Planning Commission. Director Waldemarson is finalizing the site plan to include the distance to the rear property line and setback; and will review with Planning and Zoning.

b) Director Plepsny reported the Park Board met and voted/approved to move the location of the basketball court to the west side of Johnson Barn (at their 2/06 meeting). Council will need to make a new 9.06 Charter Referral to Planning Commission for review and recommendation, to include the new location for the construction of the basketball courts, since the last referral was acted upon and expired.



c) It was also discussed that plans for the pickleball courts and tennis courts are progressing and should be reviewed with Planning Commission. Council will need to make a 9.06 Charter Referral to Planning Commission for review and recommendation for the construction of pickleball courts and tennis courts at 4410 W. Streetsboro Road.

2) The February 14th Planning Commission meeting was cancelled due to no agenda items. The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 28th. Please note the February 28th meeting is scheduled as a joint meeting with the Park Board to discuss Resolution 57-2022 and the GPD Geotechnical report, however the joint meeting may no longer be necessary given the above updates.

3) The February Board of Zoning Appeals meeting was rescheduled from the 22nd to the 27th to accommodate an applicant's request.

4) The new Planning and Zoning administrative assistant, Kayla Disantis, started this week. As she gets trained and up to speed, Amy Nauer will transition more into her role which includes code enforcement. The department has been busy with zoning inquiries and processing applications (upcoming Spring projects).

Beshara asked about the sports courts. The mayor said there will be eight pickleball courts and two tennis courts. Beshara asked if there would be lights, and Wheeler said yes.

Waldemarson said Brecksville Road turnpike construction would take place next week. It will include removal of the old bridge and last for the rest of the year. Waldemarson said he is still waiting for quotes on the Historic Building. Beshara asked if they would be under \$500,000, and Waldemarson said he hopes so.

Boester said he was opposed to the basketball court at Richfield Woods Park. He passed out maps depicting the past 2015 plans for a sports complex and outdoor courts to council. He noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously opposed the location. He said other communities are getting rid of sports courts because of too much noise and trouble. Even pickleball, he said, makes noise, sounding like this:

“noknookonnononknnononkonknoknononk”

Hudak said that the 2015 plans had an access road so safety forces could access the sports courts. Boester said we should put the road in. Beshara said it was a beautiful plan, but it would take take out a lot of trees. Philipbbar said it makes sense for the basketball court to go in Richfield Woods because that is our active park with soccer, baseball, volleyball, etc. Wheeler said the cost of the road was \$2 million back in 2015. The mayor added the Richfield's current basketball



court has not caused problems with noise or fights. He said added that his tennis expert said that tennis courts should not be located too close to trees.

Frantz said he and Waldemarson met with Dave Neumeyer of GPD to make sure the village's capital projects are on track.

Stoppenhagen said that Storage in Motion still has 30 storage trailers outside their building. Frantz said that is allowed during their application process with the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Director Turk – Finance

Report:

2022 Annual State Financial Statements & Annual Report

Per the Ohio Revised Code, the 2022 JEDD annual financial statements have been completed and filed with the State Auditor's office before the March 1st deadline. We are working on compiling the 2022 Village Financial Statements. Once those statements are filed, we will work on Finance's annual report.

2023 Financials

Through February 15th, we collected \$2,564,996 of the \$35,805,590 budgeted for all funds revenue, or 7.1% of the budget. In 2022, we collected \$33,529,586 in total. On the expenditure side, \$2,809,120 was expended overall by the Village through February 15th, or 6.4% of the \$44,159,235 budgeted for expenditures. The expected rate at the mid-February should be approximately 12.5% of the budget being expended. In 2022, we expended \$34,787,367. Looking only at the General Fund, 7.2% of the revenues have been collected and 11.2% of the budget was expended.

Income Tax

Since April 15th is a Saturday, and Monday, April 17th, the IRS D.C. office is closed in observance of Emancipation Day, income taxes are due on Tuesday, April 18th. Staff has not processed any refunds for individuals who are employed by Richfield companies, but they worked from home living in other communities. Regular refunds processed totaled \$12,100. We did receive \$38,299 in withholding for individuals who are



employed by entities in other communities but live in Richfield and worked from home.

Sewer Bills

Sewer payments are due by Friday, March 3rd.

National Opioid Settlements

We were notified that the State has settled with the following vendors over Opioids: Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, and Walgreens. The allocations are unknown at this time. To-date we have received \$19,130.

Recommendations/Considerations:

Consider adopting Resolution Numbers 4-2023 (As Amended 1/26/2023) for VFIS insurance for Fire employees and 5-2023 (As Amended 2/14/2023) for property and casualty insurance coverage. Both resolutions will have the third readings at the meeting.

Legislation:

A. Resolution No. 4 – 2023 (As Amended 1/26/2023) Authorizing to Enter into an Agreement with VFIS for Accident and Sickness Insurance Coverage for Firefighters

This resolution is submitted for third reading and consideration for adoption. The resolution was amended to reflect the renewal quote of \$4,703 and included Exhibit A, the renewal offer. The current coverage expires on February 28th and costs us \$4,346. The increase of \$357 represents an 8.2% increase. VFIS can provide their customers education, risk control, and management programs for little or no cost. Examples of the training would include emergency vehicle driver training, or emergency vehicle response safety classes, etc. This insurance was picked up primarily to have coverage for the part-time fire employees and it is extended to the full-time employees also. The briefing memo provides additional details.

B. Resolution No. 5 – 2023 (As Amended 2/14/2023) Accepting the Proposal of Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. for Property and Casualty Insurance Coverage.



This resolution is submitted for third reading and consideration for adoption. The current coverage with Ohio Plan expires on February 28th and costs us \$69,758. The renewal came in at \$74,679, a \$4,921 increase broken down as follows:

- 1) Exposure changes amounted to \$3,912 in additional premium.
 - Property/Boiler exposures increased \$1,386,414;
 - Inland marine values increased \$388,981;
 - Computer coverage exposures increased \$32,745;
 - Operating expenditures increased by \$560,528;
 - Auto units decreased by one;
 - Auto physical damage exposures increased \$213,695;
 - Fire/Rescue replacement cost exposures increased \$23,123;
 - Added 3 unmanned aerial systems (drones).
- 2) Comprehensive Cyber coverage renewal increase \$773.
- 3) Ohio Plan renewal rate increase \$236.

Ohio Plan will also reimburse the Village 30%, or approximately \$1,775, of Fire's Lexipol subscription fee. They offer a three-year subsidy program of 50% subsidy the first year, 30% subsidy the second year and 20% subsidy the third year. Police received all three subsidies for their subscription fees. We sought proposals in 2020, and providers declined to submit proposals either because we were too small a client or the brokers indicated that the quotes would not be competitive with Ohio Plan's. We did receive one quote that was higher than Ohio Plan's renewal rate.

The Ohio Plan, a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association, offers the following services that we have not seen from prior providers:

- A Plan Advantage program that is a renewal premium credit that may be rewarded to a member on an annual basis based upon the number of consecutive years of membership, loss ratio calculation, and risk management practices. The 2023 credit was 6.6%, or \$5,272. That credit can climb by 1% each year basically with a maximum credit of 20%.
- We are provided a risk manager who makes a visit at least once a year and actually walks the property to identify probable sources of risk and recommends



improvement strategies. They also respond to requests via email.

- Risk Manager also reviews established policy and procedure manuals.
- They serve only Ohio public entities, they stay abreast of the changing conditions affecting Ohio's public entities, while anticipating and planning for changes in state law, technological developments, and new insurance services. If they feel coverage needs to be changed, they roll that coverage out to their members at no cost in that coverage period; and
- Legal hot line for member inquiries with a panel of attorneys throughout Ohio specializing in public entity litigation.

The first year we went with Ohio Plan was in 2011. The premium declined to \$73,502 from \$86,961. Ohio Plan has been in existence since 1988, and it is a not-for-profit entity that services only public entities. They have over 780 Ohio public entity clients with over a 97% retention rate. Services are provided from Toledo. The briefing memo provides additional details.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Waszak said the Streets & Highways Committee would meet on Friday and attempt to have legislation ready for the March 7 meeting. The Tree & Landscape Commission met on Feb. 15. They selected officers and discussed the Adopt a Spot program, the Arbor Day tree giveaway.

Philipbar said the RJRD Board will meet on Monday, Feb. 27. Mr. Deluca resigned from the board, so the township will need to choose a new member.

CAUCUS

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

First Readings:

RESOLUTION 18-2023

Offered by Mayor Wheeler

A RESOLUTION DECLARING VILLAGE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE SUMMIT COUNTY TRANSPORTATION



IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR FUNDING RELATED TO THE KINROSS LAKES PARKWAY SOUTH ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO WAIVE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF RESOLUTION 18-2023.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 18-2023.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 19-2023

Offered by Mayor Wheeler

A RESOLUTION DECLARING VILLAGE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL AND SUPPORT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT REQUEST TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF JOBS AND COMMERCE FOR THE HIGHLANDER PARKWAY – WEST CONGRESS PARKWAY EXTENSION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO WAIVE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF RESOLUTION 19-2023.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 19-2023.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 20-2023

Offered by Mr. Waszak

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH, RECOGNIZING MARCH 6, 2023 AS INCLUSION DAY, AND COMMENDING THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND DIRECT SERVICE PROFESSIONALS FOR THEIR DEDICATION

MOTION: TO WAIVE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF RESOLUTION 20-2023.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 20-2023.

Moved by Hudak, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 21-2023

Offered by Mayor Wheeler

A RESOLUTION REFERRING THE POTENTIAL CONSTRUCTION OF A BASKETBALL COURT IN RICHFIELD WOODS PARK TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY



MOTION: TO WAIVE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF RESOLUTION 21-2023.

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

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 21-2023.

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

Second Readings:

ORDINANCE 11-2023

Offered by Council President Philippbar

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 142.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR TRUSTEES OF THE RICHFIELD CEMETERY BOARD

RESOLUTION 14-2023

Offered by Mrs. Beshara

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A 2019 CHEVROLET TAHOE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO SELL THE VEHICLE BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE 17-2023

Offered by Council President Philippbar

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 121.03, 123.01, 123.02 AND OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE PERTAINING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OF COUNCIL AND THE ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL

Third Readings:

RESOLUTION 4-2023 (as amended 1/26/2023)

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VFIS FOR ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR VILLAGE FIREFIGHTERS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 4-2023.

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

RESOLUTION 5-2023 (as amended 2/14/2023)

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF OHIO PLAN RISK MANAGEMENT INC. FOR PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE VILLAGE AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 5-2023.

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



RESOLUTION 7-2023

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ADVERTISE AND SOLICIT SEPARATE BIDS FOR WELLNESS CHECKS AND EAP COUNSELING SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND DISPATCH

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 7-2023.

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

RESOLUTION 8-2023

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS OF THE LEASING OF VILLAGE-OWNERS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3771 GRANT STREET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 8-2023.

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

RESOLUTION 57-2022

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SITE TECHNOLOGY INC. FOR THE BASKETBALL COURT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT RICHFIELD WOODS PARK, WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Waszak asked if the five-minute speaking rules should be included in the new Council rules. Chojnacki said yes. Following extensive review and discussion council made additional amendments to 121.03 Rules and Regulations of Council. Chojnacki and Philipbar will add these adjustments and disperse the amendments before the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Waszak said a neighbor sighted a bald eagle in the Richfield Heritage Preserve.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Sandy Norris of Humphrey Road said the Richfield Heritage Preserve should be called by that name as opposed to RJRD. She directed the comment to Waszak for calling the park the RJRD.

WORK SESSION

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE HIRING OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE AND COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE.

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



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The executive session lasted from 8:13 to 8:55 p.m., when Philipbar adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman
Clerk of Council

Sue Ann Philipbar
Council President

