



Village of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 15, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sean Stanart Called to Order the Village of Johnstown Regular Council Meeting for Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Cheryl Robertson; present, Bill Van Gundy; present, Bob Orsini; present, Sharon Hendren; present, Mayor Sean Stanart; present, David Keck; present, Carol Van Deest; present.

IN ATTENDANCE – STAFF: Jim Lenner-Village Manager, Don Corbin-Chief of Police, Josh Boudinot-Police Lieutenant, Jim Blair-Zoning Inspector, Jack Liggett-Service Director, Glen Hacker-Service Department, Patti Barlitt-Service Department, Tim Perry-Service Department, Newt Long-Service Department, Teresa Monroe-Clerk of Council

IN ATTENDANCE – PUBLIC: Joseph Robertson-Monroe Township, Jim Kiracofe-Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, Jerry Pulley, Gordon Cromwell-Commander/American Legion Post 254

INVOCATION: Given by Councilwoman Sharon Hendren

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 1, 2014

David Keck moved to approve the Council minutes as presented. Bob Orsini seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes. **Motion passed 7-0**

CORRESPONDENCE: Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Notice of liquor permit transfer from Shellenbargber Oil Co Inc.to Dolpuri LLC, the new owners of the Marathon gas station at 5 North Main Street. There were no objections from Council and there was no request for a hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Stanart opened the floor for Public Comment.

1. Jim Kiracofe is an administrator with the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Kiracofe said that we are blessed in this country with productive soils that grow good food; we have clean water to drink and he stressed the need for continued care of these important resources. Licking County Soil and Water Conservation works to preserve farm land by clean up soil environments and preventing erosion, also they continue improving water quality by removing trash, tires and debris. They will have an issue on the May 6th, 2014 ballot for Soil and Water operations. The levy is .15 mil and the average homeowner with a \$100,000 property evaluation will pay \$5.25 per year. The money would pay for a needed technician; currently they are only able to go make on site investigations for 1 out of 3 requests. These dollars would also give the ability to further their assistance with community gardens, farmers markets, and food pantries.

2. Gordon Cromwell with American Legion Post 254 asked Council members if another meeting could be scheduled with the American Legion Project Committee regarding the Recreation Center lease. Committee members were agreeable and the meeting was set for April 28, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Cromwell also announced that they will again be hosting the Farmers Market and it will be held in Bigelow Park starting on Saturday June 14th, 2014 and run every Saturday 9:00 a.m. to noon through September 13th, 2014.

There were no further comments and Mayor Stanart closed Public Comment.

VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT – April 2014

Jim Lenner said that he had updates on several items; there was no written report.

1. Chief Corbin provided an update on the Police Department: On behalf of the Johnstown Police Department, Lieutenant Josh Boudinot applied for and was awarded a grant through Homeland Security for an ALPR (Automatic License Plate Reader) valued between \$16,000 and \$18,000. This device will be mounted to a Police cruiser and it will scan license plates. It has the ability to scan 1800 plates per minute and will alert Officers to any violations attached to that vehicle license registration such as stolen vehicles, suspended licenses, warrants, sexual predators, unpaid taxes and fees, homeland security initiatives, and will assist in Amber Alerts. Also Officer Smart and Officer Cooperrider conducted a “Click it or Ticket” and received enough points to get a free radar for the cruisers through the State of Ohio. Mr. Lenner said that this is a wonderful piece of equipment and he appreciates Lieutenant Boudinot and all the officers for what they have done for us.

2. Officers Smart and Cooperrider along with Chief Corbin passed out books to the Elementary students and Thirty One Gifts donated a little bag to each student as well. Mr. Lenner said that he liked our presence in the school promoting the officers as a resource rather than a threat.

3. The Village Administrative offices and Police Department have a new automatic door locking system for added security.

4. Email addresses are being changed from “villageofjohnstown.org” to “johnstownohio.org”
5. Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) extended the municipal tax deadline by one week, April 21, 2014, due to technical difficulty.
6. Mayor Stanearth and Mr. Lenner were given a tour of a local business; All’asta. They are housed in the Atrium building and have twelve employees. They are a direct selling company with about three hundred consultants. They share resources with Atrium and Thirty One Gifts.

LEGISLATION

A. ORDINANCE 02-2014 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 15-13, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN TO APPROVE NECESSARY CHANGES OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2014 AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY

Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote

Jim Lenner introduced this ordinance as an amendment to the existing budget that we are currently operating on. Mr. Lenner said as it stands the current budget has been decreased by \$491,000; a lot of historical review has been done and some significant cuts were made. This has the potential to fluctuate as we try to “hone” in, but we will operate under this for the rest of the year. One item that could potentially change is Police Officer salaries with changes in staffing and an Officer out on a medical leave. Mr. Lenner said that he believes even with passage of these changes in appropriations we will still be over budget by \$50,000 however if the Legion lease of the Recreation Center goes through as expected, that would decrease another \$25,000. Jim Lenner said that his goal is to present a 2015 balanced budget; it is not fair to the taxpayers not to have a balanced budget. Over the past few years we have done better, every year the carryover has decreased. Carol Van Deest asked why the largest decrease was Engineering Services. Mr. Lenner said that we received money for inspection fees, it is not seen on the revenue end but it drops engineering costs, also decreased was economic development incentives. A majority of the budget decrease is a health care savings we have gotten by switching companies. Bill Van Gundy asked if the Officer out on medical leave were to return, would that salary need to get added back in. Mr. Lenner said yes and we should know that within two months. Any needed changes will be brought back for Council review.

There were no public comments for or against the ordinance.

David Keck moved to approve Ordinance 2014-02 as presented. Carol Van Deest seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanearth; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

Motion passed 7-0

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-18 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO HAVE THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN JOIN THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Jim Lenner introduced the Resolution and said that the County Commissioners pay our portion to join Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) and we have gotten \$800,000 for the State Route 62 center turn lane project through LCATS. By joining Mid-Ohio Regional

Planning Commission (MORPC) we will now be able to dive into their funding resources. There are funding sources such as loans and grants that MORPC members have available to them that currently we do not. The cost to join is based on population and we would pay \$1538.00 per year. Joining at this time, we would pay a pro rata price of \$1154.00. Jim Lenner would be representing the Village and it would give us a vote for our region. Mr. Lenner believes that this is an important membership as we grow and could well pay for itself with one grant.

Sean Stanearth moved to approve Resolution 2014-18 as presented. Bill Van Gundy seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanearth; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

Motion passed 7-0

C. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-19 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WAGE AND SALARY STRUCTURE FOR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Jim Lenner introduced the resolution and said that William Long passed his Ohio EPA Class I Wastewater Operator testing. Jack Liggett said that William has also now completed the necessary working hours to be granted his certification and added that the position given is to replace a retired Wastewater Operator.

There were no public comments for or against the resolution.

Bill Van Gundy moved to approve Resolution 2014-19 as presented. Sean Stanearth seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanearth; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

Motion passed 7-0

D. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-20 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2014-2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSTOWN *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Jim Lenner introduced the resolution as an amendment that would delay the Park and Recreation Master Plan discussed previously and use the dollars approved for the more immediate purpose of making additional improvements to the new shelter house in Hanna's Park. Picnic tables will be added and electric for floodlights making the space more usable for our residents. An addition of temporary toilets will be researched as well; Jack Liggett said that he will be looking at models and prices. Also in looking at possibly replacing the playground equipment, we learned that there is a new standard for playground mulch that will need to be put down.

Joseph Robertson from Monroe Township added that he did talk with his trustees regarding the joint venture and cost sharing of a Park and Recreation Master Plan and there is interest but as they have been working through their budget there was hesitation and more discussion is needed before they would go forward with any plans. Jim Lenner said that in meeting with the local companies an overriding theme is cultural activity for their employees close to work; restaurants, shops, and parks. Mr. Lenner would like to ultimately like to see a joint recreation district shared by the Village, Schools, and the Youth Association.

There were no further public comments.

David Keck moved to approve Resolution 2014-20 as presented. Sean Stanart seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; yes, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Stanart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

Motion passed 7-0

E. RESOLUTION NO. 2014-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY CONTRACTS TO INITIATE PHASE I OF THE TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN *Introduction/Public Hearing/Vote*

Jim Lenner introduced this resolution and said that our roadway system is obviously not in the best of shape and there would be many steps to this plan. Further legislation would need to be passed to issue debt; this would just allow him to work more freely with the people that are needed to pull this plan off. Mr. Lenner said that this resolution would start the ball rolling for road improvements to Concord Road from Main Street to the Village/Township limit past the bike path, South Kasson Street from Coshocton Street to Pratt Street, West Jersey Street from Main Street to Anna Way and North Oregon Street from Coshocton Street to Edwards Road. Also it would involve \$400,000 in maintenance budget to allow for slurry seal and crack seal of the "New Addition" and Concord Crossing West (the old Concord Crossing). It also includes mill and fill of Bigelow Drive by McDonalds. In reviewing the charted financial plan with Councilmembers, Mr. Lenner said that there are some assumptions to be made; for Concord Road phase I (Main Street to just past the lift station) he said we are working on a zero percent loan and grant from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). Mr. Lenner said that we did not get it this year but believes we should receive it next year. He said would be financing \$282,800 at zero percent and the grant is \$606,000. If we were to not receive the grant, Mr. Lenner said that we could go back to OPWC and up the loan amount, still at zero percent. For South Kasson Street he said we are attempting to secure Community development block grant money which involves taking income surveys of that area to see if it would qualify for low to moderate income. The loan amount could change depending on the amount of the grant. North Oregon would also be an OPWC grant at zero percent; we would apply for that in 2015, construct in 2016 and would not have to begin repayment until 2017. Mr. Lenner said that Engineering costs plus inspection services are included in these figures.

Joseph Robertson with Ross, Sinclair & Associates provided Councilmembers with a handout titled "Tax Exempt Bond Issue Overview", reviewed the bonding process and tax exempt borrowing and answered questions from Council.

After the presentation Jim Lenner asked for thoughts; there was discussion among Councilmembers about further options such as road and bridge levies and income tax options. A road levy would need to be repaid over five years, if borrowing notes and bonds; those have a twenty year repayment. Mr. Lenner said that we would be locking in funds for twenty years out of our CIP and based on projects we see in the near future, funds would be tight until 2018 when the 62 turn lane is completed. Mr. Lenner said that the project as a whole is significant and as presented tonight would, in its highest payback years, be pledging \$233,000 per year out of the CIP, at least until 2023. Tying up Capital Improvement Fund dollars could have a negative impact on the potential need for City trucks, Police cruisers or other equipment that may be needed but could not be purchased for a while, at least until 2018. Other Council discussions

were which debts would be dropping off in 2018, reducing the package cost by exclusion of roads from the plan, adopting a CIP plan that has a funding number and a dedicated percentage to roads, asking voters to share the cost, and income tax vs. property tax funding.

Carol Van Deest moved to approve Resolution 2014-21 as presented. David Keck seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; abstain, Bill Van Gundy; no, Bob Orsini; no, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Staneart; no, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

Motion failed 3-3 with one abstention

Bill Van Gundy moved to approve a verbal Resolution revising Phase I of the Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAM). The Resolution will state revised Phase I includes the Maintenance package, Concord Road (phases one through four), and West Jersey. This Resolution excludes South Kasson and North Oregon from Phase I of the TAM at this time until other funding can be arranged. David Keck seconded and the vote was as follows: Cheryl Robertson; abstain, Bill Van Gundy; yes, Bob Orsini; yes, Sharon Hendren; yes, Sean Staneart; yes, David Keck; yes, Carol Van Deest; yes.

Motion passed 6-0 with one abstention

The new Resolution will be written as Res. No. 2014-22

Mayor Staneart's recommendation is to start looking at what funding sources are available to tackle the rest of it. Jim Lenner said this could be directed to the Finance Committee along with himself. Jack Liggett said that with Council approval he would still like to see us apply for grant dollars on South Kasson as it is a prime candidate for that funding source. Jim Lenner said that a grant application would need to be prepared and then brought to Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joseph Robertson added that he would be glad to work with the Finance Committee to explore ways that answer Council member questions of income vs. property tax etc.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, David Keck moved to adjourn. Carol Van Deest seconded and all were in favor. **Motion passed 7-0.**

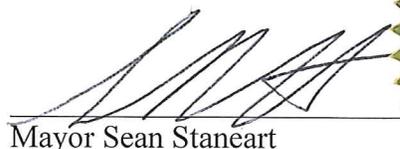
Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



Teresa Monroe, Clerk of Council

APPROVED AS PRESENTED



Mayor Sean Staneart

