

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Pastor Matthew Wald led the prayer.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Liz Dreher, Dustin Briggs, and Martin Zehnder. Don Wallick was absent from the meeting. Other's present were Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger, Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Pastor Matthew Wald, Pastor Jason Rissler, Chase Willis, Jesse Stallings, Maggie Mullen, Roman Chisman, and Michael Rosenberry.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Pastor Matthew Wald reminded everyone about Christmas in the Village on Saturday, December 10, 2022 including the run, parade, live nativity, and Santa at the fire station. Pastor Jason Rissler added that the events are a wonderful way to bring the community together.

Roman Chisman noted that he is a member of the Boy Scout Troop #72 and is attending the meeting to get his communication merit badge.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone to come to the Christmas events in the village, noted that we are working with Franklin Township to complete the contract for the fire department, and we are applying for a grant to extend our current walking path north.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster provided council with a report that included permits for a fence and shed, and a front porch.

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported that the department received a donation from the Dover Exchange Club on behalf of Brad Malcuit for \$ 171.00. Warrick noted that the department is thankful for the donation and thanked the residents that voted yes for the new police levy. Warrick noted that the deadline to order a 2023 cruiser is February 2023 and that currently we have a 2013 Dodge Charger, 2016 Ford Explorer, 2017 Explorer, and 2020 Ford Pickup. Warrick reported 204 calls for November.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported that we are working with OMEGA for assistance on the TAP grant application for improvements to our downtown. Smith noted that we will be required to hold town hall meetings for input from residents for the TAP grant and the safe routes to school grant. Smith reported that finance provided information for a 2023 pay ordinance including a 5% increase for all employees, add Martin Luther King Day holiday, and created a four-step laborer for the Street Department. Smith noted that the mayor and council rates of pay will remain the same as 2022, no increase.

ORDINANCE O-51-2022

Ordinance O-51-2022, An Ordinance establishing rates of pay and other benefits for elected officials and employees of the Village of Strasburg, Ohio, for calendar year 2023, effective January 1, 2023, was given its first reading by title only.

RESOLUTION 2022-16

Resolution 2022-16 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Resolution 2022-16, A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF A TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF POLICE PROTECTION THAT EXCEEDS THE CURRENT POLICE PROTECTION LEVY, AND EXCEEDS THE TEN MILL LIMITATION, WITH A TAX LEVY BEING FOR A FIVE YEAR TERM (BEING THE TAX YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2027). At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Chase Willis addressed council regarding the need for the higher police levy. Police Chief Dave Warrick explained that the current levy is used for everything for the department except for payroll, fringe benefits, utilities, and uniforms. Jeff Smith explained that the new levy would cover all expenses of the department and would leave more money in the General Fund for village projects. Smith reported that in 2022 \$ 342,000 for the police department payroll came out of the General Fund. Willis suggested that council provide a statement explaining the need for the levy so that people have the information when they go to vote. Jerry Schultz noted that the public needs the information to make a decision. Martin Zehnder noted that residents are still upset about the proposed dewatering plant and the change to the three lanes on Wooster Avenue and that is probably the reason the levy failed. Dustin Briggs expressed his disgust with Zehnder's statements.

RESOLUTION 2022-17

Resolution R-2022-17 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Resolution R-2022-17, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION (“OMEGA”) TO SERVE AS THE LEAD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICANT FOR THE APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM IN TUSCARAWAS COUNTY. At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION 2022-18

Resolution R-2022-18 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Resolution R-2022-18, A RESOLUTION APPROVAL AND GRANTING CONSENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAVING AUTHORITY TO, APPLY, MAINTAIN AND REPAIR STANDARD LONGITUDINAL PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND ERECT REGULATORY AND WARNING SIGNS ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG CORPORATE LIMITS, AND GIVING CONSENT FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REMOVE SNOW AND ICE AND USE SNOW AND ICE CONTROL MATERIAL ON STATE HIGHWAYS INSIDE VILLAGE CORPORATION LIMITS, AND GIVING CONSENT FOR THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR ON STATE HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG. At roll call, all members voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION 2022-19

Resolution R-2022-19 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Resolution R-2022-19, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AND PARTICIPATION IN MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG AND COMMUNITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION 2022-20

Resolution R-2022-20 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Resolution R-2022-20, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM, AND TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED. At roll call, all members voted yes and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Martin Zehnder asked for a moment of silence in memory of Ed Haswell. Zehnder noted that Haswell worked many years for the village on the fire department and water/sewer department. Zehnder noted that since graduating from high school he is very proud of the time he has given to the fire department, the school, and the village.

Dustin Briggs apologized to the guests for his language earlier in the meeting.

Barb Limbacher noted that she has been told by residents of pine ridge that they do not feel attached to the village and they do not vote in favor of levies for the village and the school. Limbacher noted that she covers the council meetings in Sugarcreek and that Seth Miller is constructing a dewatering plant across from Dutch Valley and that the Village of Sugarcreek will be annexing the property into the village. Limbacher noted that once the dewatering plant is completed our village will now lose the revenue that we have received from them hauling sludge into our plant and that there has been no opposition from Sugarcreek residents regarding the building of the plant. Limbacher stated that it is sad that we have so many negative residents in our village and that we will now lose that revenue. Village Administrator Ron Lambert noted that Miller has hauled in roughly 1.4 million gallons from the start of their hauling.

Chase Willis asked how the fire department has the funds to purchase a new truck but the police department is in need of a new levy. Jeff Smith explained that the fire department has a levy through the village for equipment, has a levy through the township for equipment, and also a staffing levy through the township. Smith noted that the current police levy is for equipment only and that the proposed new levy would generate the funds for payroll, fringe benefits, uniforms, equipment, and maintenance of the department. Smith noted that we will work harder to get the information out to the residents so people understand the need for the new levy. Warrick noted that anyone is able to ride along with the department to see what we do and see our equipment so people can understand the needs of the department.

Liz Dreher noted that there are residents in Pine Ridge that have been residents of the village many years and they support the village and the school. Dreher noted that a lot of residents in Pine Ridge work and pay taxes to the village and to the school.

Mayor Smith noted that a presentation of the Love Tusc Sculpture Project will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 from 6-8 pm at the Kent State Performing Arts Center.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, at 7:01 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY