

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Jeff Smith, Liz Dreher, Don Wallick, Martin Zehnder, and Dustin Briggs. Other's present were Police Chief Dave Warrick, Legal Counsel Attorney Richard Fox, Planning Commission Chairman Mike Durbin, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Doug Dreher, Adam Hall, and Sharon Smith.

Mayor Smith noted a correction to the cost of trapping stray cats of \$ 40.00. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the amended minutes from the March 2, 2021 council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

The February financial statement, February Unified Bank Statement, February SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills was presented and reviewed. A discussion was held on the expense of the fence at the green space. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the February financial statement, February Unified Bank Statement, February SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 188,208.77. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, no; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes.

Mayor Steve Smith noted that at the February 3, 2021 council meeting information and an estimate was distributed to council on the proposed fence for the green space. Mayor Smith noted that the property committee made the decision on the fence. Marty Zehnder noted that the fence looks bad and that Dustin Briggs also expressed to him that he thinks that the fence looks bad. Legal Counsel Fox noted that he does not know if the property committee has the authority to spend funds, noting that the committee can recommend to council for the expenditure. Mayor Smith noted that at the February 3, 2021 meeting he proposed a fence for the green space to help protect the sprinkler system because people were driving through the green space. Jeff Smith asked for clarification for the property committee. Zehnder noted that the fencing along Village Garden should be torn down and Briggs noted that it is a nice fence but not along Village Garden.

Mayor Smith noted that the Route 250 traffic study has been completed and supplied council with the study information. Mayor Smith noted that ODOT favors option number 3 which is the turn lane north and south bound and would leave 11 parking spaces. Mayor Smith asked council to review the study and have a decision at the April 6, 2021 council meeting. Liz Dreher asked if we have in writing the opinion from ODOT. Mayor Smith noted that he has an email from ODOT and that the ODOT representative was unable to attend the meeting but will reply to any questions. Zehnder noted that we are here to serve the public and that he has not had anyone say that this is a good idea. Briggs noted that he texted residents to see what they had to say and 51 were in favor and 6 were not in favor, and some were undecided. Kathy Burrier noted that she heard back from residents and that less than five were for it. Jeff Smith noted that he texted residents also and that 85 to 90 percent were favorable for the turn lane and that the majority of the emails on the village's website were in favor of the proposed turn lane concept. Smith noted that we have increased traffic with the formation of the JEDD. Barb Limbacher noted that she has not heard from one person that is in favor of the turn lane concept and noted that it will place the traffic closer to the homes on Wooster Avenue and that the parking spaces are needed downtown. Briggs noted that businesses downtown do not want to lose their parking spaces. Zehnder noted that it will be dangerous for children on the sidewalks. Police Chief Dave Warrick noted that he hopes that the three-lane concept would help with the traffic and also that he understands the fear from Wooster Avenue residents for children walking on the sidewalk. Zehnder noted that ODOT has never said anything about suggesting three lanes to help with the traffic. Mayor Smith noted that the proposal is a three-lane concept from south to north, turn lane downtown, and parking reduced downtown. Mayor Smith noted that Briggs suggested option 1 which leaves the downtown the same. Mayor Smith noted that the traffic study shows that a narrower lane slows the traffic down. Council held a brief discussion on the proposed three-lane concept. Briggs noted that traffic has been a complaint and this would be a chance to make a change. Briggs noted that he is open to do something with the traffic and noted that ODOT has reviewed the study and agree with the concept. Sharon Smith noted to council that she is the transportation director for Strasburg Franklin Schools and that she has discussed the proposed concept with the bus drivers. Smith noted that they feel it would help with the traffic and that it is important to them because the traffic at times will make the bus late coming back from Buckeye, noting that the bus needs to be back by school dismissal. Smith noted that the busses run on a very strict timeline. Smith noted that the village should be proactive as the village grows and that council should look to the future as the village grows with new housing and new businesses. Smith agreed that change is hard but must look at the future. Smith noted that she hopes that council reviews the study to make a proper decision. Strasburg Principal Adam Hall noted that on behalf of the school, he supports Smith as the school transportation director. Liz Dreher noted that Chase Willis has offered up some of his trucks to see if this can be done turning onto Wooster Avenue without going into the middle lane if they would be narrower.

Jeff Smith noted that the study shows that traffic travels slower in narrower lanes and that accidents are reduced in the three lane concepts. Zehnder noted that he likes the concept for businesses but not in the residential areas. Smith noted that ODOT recommends a twelve-foot lane. Doug Dreher asked what the three-lane concept will cost the village. Mayor Smith noted that there is no cost to the village that the striping will be included in the cost to ODOT when they pave. Dreher expressed his concern of future damage to storm drains, utility poles, and curbs with the proposed three-lane concept. Legal Counsel Fox suggested getting in writing from ODOT that there will be no cost to the village. Dreher noted that the crown is too high and the drainage should be done downtown. Zehnder noted that he will vote no and will be able to look the people in the eye that live on Wooster Avenue. Dreher asked about emergency response vehicles getting out into the traffic. Mayor Smith noted that there are stop bars on Wooster Avenue and that members of the fire department are in favor of the three-lane concept. Council will review the traffic study for a decision on the proposed three-lane concept for the April 6, 2021 council meeting.

A brief discussion was held on future annexations north of the village and future businesses joining the JEDD. Legal Counsel Fox will review the JEDD agreement. Jeff Smith noted that Franklin Township has voiced that they feel that future properties should not be annexed but should join the JEDD.

Doug Dreher addressed council regarding the three-way intersection of Railroad Avenue and Fourth Street SE in the park. Dreher noted that drivers are not understanding who has the right of way at the intersection and feels that it is negligence of the village not having control at this intersection. Dreher suggested making it a dedicated street and control the intersection. Dreher noted that he has witnessed village trucks going through the intersection thinking they have the right of way and people entering the park thinking they have the right of way. Jeff Smith noted that there is a plan that was made twenty years ago, a sort of round about in that plan. Dreher suggested an intersection. Smith suggested that the park committee, safety committee, and the Police Department meet to address this intersection. Dreher expressed the need for paving of village streets. Smith noted that with the income tax revenue we have been able to pave streets through the county paving program and can address streets that need more work than just paving. Dreher noted that he is a registered civil engineer and suggested that the streets should be dragged, have decent fill, and put the stone back so the roads will last a lot longer.

Mayor Smith reported that council met at the new village hall before the meeting and noted that the painting is almost complete and that the carpet will be installed on March 23, 2021. Mayor Smith asked council if the current furniture will be moved. Liz Dreher asked that no expenditures be made on any furniture and that council will make that decision. Mayor Smith noted that he is getting office furniture estimates and an estimate for a new counter and will bring them to the next council meeting for council to review. Mayor Smith noted that the financial statement is posted on the website with the minutes when approved, noted that the Spring clean-up date is Tuesday, April 13, 2021, and have advertised for a park employee. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to authorize Legal Counsel Fox to draw up an ordinance to hire Ted Foster as the Zoning Inspector effective April 1, 2021. At roll call, all members voted approval. Mayor Smith noted that we will need a replacement for Foster on the Planning Commission.

Park – Chairman Dustin Briggs reported a receipt of a letter from Bob Fair about a traveling baseball team from West Lafayette to use fields at our park. Briggs will discuss the request with our Youth Baseball Association regarding the request. Briggs noted that the Youth Baseball Association would like to meet with the park committee to discuss possibly converting the north end pavilion into a concession stand. Briggs noted that the Park Committee will meet Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Safety – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier reported that the fire department applied Friday for the new safer grant noting that this time the candidates must be full time positions, we have to hire 12 personnel, four shifts each day. Burrier noted that the grant will completely cover the wages, benefits, and pensions. Burrier noted that the turn out gear grant was approved and that the committee will meet to discuss the park intersection.

Street – Chairman Don Wallick handed out information to council on suggested streets for paving through the county paving program. Wallick noted that Engineer Don Dummermuth is reviewing the bids for the Maple Avenue NW project and will have information for council at the April 6, 2021 council meeting.

Don Wallick reported a demo and garage rebuild, an addition permit, new construction permit, shed, cement pad with open shelter permit, and a permit for a duplex on 7th Street NW. Wallick reported a pending business permit for a thrift store, a pending permit for solar roof panels, and a pending sign and flagpole permit. Wallick noted that he denied a permit on 7th Street SW and that the Board of Zoning Appeals Public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6 pm. Zehnder asked if there was a permit for the fence on the green space, Wallick answered no.

Legal Counsel Fox handed out reading material to council and a revised draft on the Red Rhino football agreement. Fox noted that Superintendent Cindy Brown has given approval on behalf of the school. Doug Dreher asked if liability is covered. Fox noted that they will provide liability insurance. Dreher asked if they are paying anything to the village. Fox noted that they are not. Doug noted that they are using the village and townships facilities for a profit business. Fox noted that they will provide their own security and will be responsible to remove their refuse and that if they fail to observe the agreement, they will be asked to cease operation. Dreher noted that it sounds one sided and that the village residents pass the park levy and asked why no compensation from them. Fox noted that the agreement has not been adopted by the village as of yet. Dreher noted that outside parties should not be able to use for free. Fox noted that council could request a deposit.

ORDINANCE O-09-2021

Ordinance O-09-2021 was given its third reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Kathy Burrier, to approve Ordinance O-09-2021, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES OF PAY AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 AND 2022, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, no; Burrier, yes; Briggs, yes. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Jerry Schultz distributed flyers of the dates for the American Legion Chicken BBQ's and asked council if there has been any decision on the Corn Fest for this year.

Jeff Smith noted that council held a couple work sessions about the green space use and suggested a committee and asked for a nomination of a chair for the committee. Jeff Smith and Liz Dreher nominated Kathy Burrier and she accepted the nomination. Burrier asked Don Wallick and Dustin Briggs to join the committee for the green space. The committee was set.

A discussion was held regarding the need for the bond to be posted by the Stenwood Developers. Village Administrator Ron Lambert will contact them regarding the bond. A brief discussion was held regarding the sewer expansion and Mayor Smith noted that the study has begun on ground water. Zehnder suggested that the fence along Village Garden be torn down and Fox noted that the new committee can discuss this suggestion and that he will look into the issue of the property committee spending funds.

A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to adjourn at 7:45 pm. At roll call all members voted approval.

MAYOR STEVE SMITH

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY

**STRASBURG VILLAGE CORPORATION
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021**

FUND	CASH BALANCES ON 1-01-21	APPROPRIATION 2021	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES	ENDING BALANCE	YEAR-TO-DATE RECEIPTS	YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES
GENERAL					79,924.76			115,245.29
POLICE					37,916.68			74,349.16
FIRE					13,536.32			25,541.41
SERVICE					16,350.16			33,162.07
GENERAL BAL.	730,977.30	1,897,675.50	698,944.44	99,939.29	147,727.92	651,155.81	168,476.44	248,297.93
POLICE LEVY	20,891.10	73,891.10	4,864.23	75.00	2,870.80	2,068.43	145.00	18,967.67
FIRE LEVY	176,357.28	323,357.28	192,054.49	20,111.71	29,163.45	183,002.75	39,003.58	32,358.11
STREET	63,537.62	263,537.62	72,897.13	16,465.76	10,606.73	78,756.16	34,107.96	18,889.42
HIGHWAY	8,354.95	23,354.95	2,940.32	1,228.03	3,432.18	736.17	2,555.36	10,174.14
PARK	130,525.10	242,525.10	134,118.24	15,402.18	501.54	149,018.88	19,576.13	1,082.35
LAW ENFORCEMENT	251.50	251.50	251.50	0.00	0.00	251.50	0.00	0.00
JEDD	79,564.43	129,564.43	83,831.02	0.00	0.00	83,831.02	75,437.02	71,170.43
FIRE DEBT SERVICE	14.31	14.31	14.31	0.00	0.00	14.31	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL IMPR.	40,680.52	198,180.52	46,941.46	10,268.11	0.00	57,209.57	16,529.05	0.00
WATER FUND	131,310.40	541,310.40	70,063.30	35,330.50	28,124.91	77,268.89	70,166.44	124,207.95
SEWER FUND	556,566.13	1,326,566.13	575,292.17	57,992.99	71,638.46	561,646.70	121,000.58	115,920.01
SSI	391,905.03	426,905.03	394,904.77	3,004.89	0.00	397,909.66	6,004.63	0.00
SEWER RESERVE	72,804.13	72,804.13	72,804.13	0.00	0.00	72,804.13	0.00	0.00
WSI	916,634.08	1,091,634.08	931,160.91	15,013.07	0.00	946,173.98	29,539.90	0.00
WATER PLANT	6,634.29	6,634.29	6,634.29	0.00	0.00	6,634.29	0.00	0.00
SEWER PLANT	143,191.83	143,191.83	143,191.83	0.00	0.00	143,191.83	0.00	0.00
INCOME TAX	3,676.75	1,023,676.75	53,262.48	68,427.25	103,313.16	18,376.57	171,108.42	156,408.60
PARK IMP TRUST	5,366.30	5,366.30	5,366.30	0.00	0.00	5,366.30	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	3,479,243.05	7,790,441.25	3,489,537.32	343,258.78	397,379.15	3,435,416.95	753,650.51	797,476.61