

**VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 1, 2024**

The Bolivar Village Council met in a regular session at Village Hall on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said. White opened the meeting with a prayer. Bellinger, White, Diveley, Oberlin, and Pancoe all answered yes to roll call. Nussbaumer was absent.

A motion to approve the January 4, 2024, regular meeting minutes was made by White and seconded by Pancoe. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes.

A motion to approve the January bills totaling \$85,057.02 was made by Diveley and seconded by Bellinger. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes.

Receipts for the month of January totaled \$70,972.32.

Additions/Correction to the Agenda – None.

**Public Speaks -**

Chris Berens updated the council on the status of the statue park stating that they were given a bench, made of recycled plastic bags, by the Lions Club. Chris said Giant Eagle in Dover has a collection point for unwanted plastic bags that can be recycled.

Chris asked the council for additional police presence in the evenings stating there are a lot of cars running stop signs and speeding.

Chris explained how the grant money received from TAP (Tuscarawas Arts Project) was distributed. Artists were given gift cards to Hobbie Lobby in the amount of \$500 as well as a check in the amount of \$1,000. The TV school art department was also given \$2,000.

Courtney Wallace, Bolivar Branch Library Supervisor briefed council on the goals reached and customer contact for the library in 2023. She provided a handout showing there were 20481 visitors to the library in 2023 and 54807 books/media were given out. Courtney thanked Levi Kaser for his quick response any time she would call needing assistance for the building and thanked the council and community for their continued support of the library. She said the community values the library and it shows. The library will hold a birthday celebration the week after this year's Strawberry Festival. It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library which started in 1937. Nellie Oberlin was the first librarian in Bolivar.

**Old Business – None.**

## **MAYOR**

Robert stated he is researching the best option of either purchasing or possibly leasing a Police Cruiser. He will keep the council informed as the information becomes available.

Robert reported the 2+ million-dollar grant application through OMEGA for water line replacement of approximately 5500lf below 4" has been submitted, stating it will be up to a couple of months before we hear about the award.

Robert met with Mark Murphy, Tuscarawas Valley Schools concerning the sidewalks in the very front of the elementary school. The previous administration of the Village had expressed interest in saving these sidewalks during demolition. Mr. Murphy explained that the contractor, due to heavy equipment for the demolition, will not be able to salvage the sidewalks that lead to the school, however, the sidewalks on the street in front of the school can remain. The council agreed that the sidewalks leading to the school would be removed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE** – Will Bellinger reported a total of \$2,237.77 in interest received from StarOhio and Huntington for January.

He said the committee continues discussions on the use of ARPA funds.

A \$1000 PEP safety grant is also under discussion as to the best use of the funding.

The OML (Ohio Municipal League) is offering new Council training. Several members are to attend.

Will stated the committee would like to get a first reading at the March regular council meeting on the possible 2% employee raises for this year.

The Finance Committee began discussion on the library contract as the current funding provided by the Tuscarawas County Library does not cover the utilities completely. The past year utility expenses were approximately \$7,300 and the current contract provides for only \$3,000. There will be further discussion as the Village nears contract renewal. Robert said the Village will be power washing and cleaning up the leaves etc. around the library this spring.

Maria is currently working on obtaining bids for computer support (IT). Contract renewal is in March of this year.

Loretta reported that the American Legion building is available for the council to hold the regular council meetings for \$50 per month. Mayor Lloyd stated the committee meeting will remain being held in council chambers. Will Bellinger and other council members will visit the building and bring recommendations back to the council.

**Planning and Zoning** – Bellinger stated this month’s Zoning meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2024, at 5:30 pm, village hall.

**Safety-** Loretta stated there were 21 calls for Police support in the month of January. She reported that Eric Minor is out with knee surgery and that the Chief will need to bring auxiliary officer Robert Sterling on as a part-time patrolman. Steve Babik said he can be hired as a part-time patrolman with a voice vote. Steve will bring legislation to the March meeting for this hire. Oberlin made a motion to bring auxiliary officer Robert Sterling on as a part-time patrol officer at \$16 per hour not to exceed 32 hours per week. The motion was seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes.

Loretta stated she believes the solar-powered flashing stop light is on order for the intersection of Water and Park.

**Chief-** Absent

**Street & Alley-**

Tim said the committee met on January 19, 2024, and discussed the following:

Discussion of solar-powered stop light for Park and Water. Tim stated the committee feels the 3-way stop at the Bell store and the intersection of Park and Bolivar streets would also benefit if these were installed.

Tim identified sidewalks north of Poplar between Sassafras alley and Park, and sidewalks on the east side of Park that need serious attention.

Parking concerns during the Strawberry Festival were discussed. Mike Hauter attended and offered to draw up a map for presentation at the next meeting for further discussion. Will Bellinger will assist Mike with creating the map.

The tires on the Bobcat skid loader have been replaced.

Robert met with the soil conservancy concerning the stormwater runoff on the South end of the Village. They are assisting with recommendations to correct the

pooling of water coming off the farm fields. Robert is researching piping to divert the water to the Tuscarawas River and grant funding to support this.

Oberlin stated he feels the Village Street Department needs a part-time street worker for backup at all times. He said turnover in the past has caused a problem and he would like to see a part-time year-round person in the street department. Robert stated he is leaving this matter for Levi to decide his needs in his department.

**Shade Tree-** Oberlin would like to research pricing and possible grant funding for small trees to plant in 2024. Robert stated he is also pursuing pricing for seedlings to be planted in 2024. Robert anticipates asking the council for up to \$200 for seedlings with shelters to be planted for Arbor Day. He said the cost of each seedling is \$1.00.

#### **Parks and Recreation –**

Will stated Zac is working on Insurance with the Baseball Association. The Committee is also discussing uses for the Basketball and Tennis Courts at the school.

#### **Street Superintendent – Absent**

**Fiscal Officer –** Patty briefed the council on the status of closing the books for 2023. She said the State Auditor has finished the bank reconciliation and currently has billed a total of approximately 77 hours. Patty and Steve clarified that Will Bellinger is the Village credit card compliance officer. Maria and Steve will determine if legislation is necessary.

#### **Village Administrator – Absent**

#### **Law Director- Solicitor Steve Babik**

Steve discussed the confusion of the terms of the agreement with the library. The contract has been extended for 5 years but the dates will need to be cleared up as to the extended term.

Steve stated he is waiting for the legal description of the property at the 3-way stop entering Bolivar. Once he has the legal description, he will present the Deed of Easement to the property owner which will take the risk of concern from the homeowner to the village. The council discussed there will be no monetary offer as the sign has been in place for over 21 years.

**Legislation:**

**Second Reading:** An Ordinance to Approve 2024 Permanent Appropriations. Request to pass as an Emergency. Bellinger made the motion to pass as an emergency and the motion was seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes. **Ordinance 4-2024.**

Steve introduced a Resolution defining the check signers for the Village. He said this will be approved effective 12/12/2023 as an emergency. Signatures changed with the appointment of Maria App as Fiscal Officer and the determination that a representative on the council becomes a check signer. A motion to approve was made by White and seconded by Pancoe. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes. **Resolution 1-2024.**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024, by White and seconded by Oberlin. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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Fiscal Officer

Maria App

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Mayor Robert Lloyd