

**VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 7, 2024**

The Bolivar Village Council met in a regular session at Village Hall on Thursday, March 7, 2024. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:05 pm.

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

A motion to approve the February 1, 2024, regular meeting minutes was made by Diveley and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes.

A motion to approve the February bills totaling \$53,313.27 was made by White and seconded by Bellinger. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes.

Receipts for the month of February totaled \$67,174.48.

Additions/Correction to the Agenda – None.

**Public Speaks –**

Mayor Lloyd introduced Jodi Salvo who is running for State Representative Tuscarawas and Stark County District 51. Jodi gave a brief description of her intent to passionately protect our communities if elected to office. She thanked all for their hard work.

Tom Graef presented a drawing of the bicycle path where the bike stencils had been paved over. He said he has helped several cyclists find their way and would like to see the stencils re-painted. Levi has this on his summer schedule.

Tom also requested a \$155 water usage forgiveness at his property due to a frozen pipe. Diveley made a motion to forgive, seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes.

Ann Ackerman, Fiscal Officer for Lawrence Township presented the council with the new fire contract. She said the trustees signed at their last meeting. She requested passage and signatures tonight so she could take it to Zoar for signatures at their meeting next week. Once all have signed, she will get a copy with the original signatures to Maria for the Village files.

George Baumgardner of the Bolivar Historical Society presented his vision through Atlas Preservation to restore the Bolivar cemetery headstones, also known as Lawrence Township cemetery. He has applied for a program through Atlas, the 48-state tour, and stated the application is being viewed favorably. If the cemetery is selected, Atlas Preservation will provide expertise, materials, and instruction on how to repair and stabilize sunken and deteriorated headstones. All these services are free of charge

however, they require permission to use the cemetery, parking, restroom facilities, and a water source. George has secured all these requirements. If selected, the project could begin as soon as this summer.

George also said there is confusion as to whether the Bolivar Historical Society is part of the Bicentennial Committee. He said they are not part of the committee, but they do have their bicentennial committee, selected in October of last year, working on events for the bicentennial that are historically related.

George said all are welcome to attend the Bolivar Historical Society's monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Wilkshire Event Center, at 6 PM. The Bolivar Historical Society is a 501C3 Educational not-for-profit organization.

Erin Wright from OMEGA updated the council on the status of the 2.1 Million dollar grant submittal for water line replacement. This grant is available for water and waste line replacement through HB 33.

Erin introduced a Resolution for the council to adopt allowing the Village of Bolivar to apply for, accept, and enter into a water supply revolving loan account (WSRLA) agreement for planning and design of the 2024 waterline replacement project and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan.

Erin also presented the nomination forms for the EPA planning design funding. She and Maria are working on the ARC pre-nomination documents that are due by the end of April. Erin stated letters of support are needed by March 18, 2024. She suggested the Village obtain letters of support from Mike Jones, Tuscarawas County Water & Sewer District, the Bolivar Fire Department, and the County Commissioners, saying these would be very helpful.

Erin suggested that funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) may be available in the fall for Planning and Design work. All of these grants will better position the Village to be awarded the water and wastewater line replacement through HB 33. OMEGA representatives are going to the Capital next week to meet with Bill Johnson and Senator Sherrod Brown concerning this funding.

GPD has submitted the engineer design contract proposal. The Village retained GPD in November 2023. Erin said the grant is available for only shovel-ready projects, so GPD must begin design work to better position the Village for possible funding awards. GPD's planning design contract proposal includes a scope of work to allow for a total of \$174,458 to complete the engineering design phase so the project is shovel-ready. The grant cannot receive funding unless the project is shovel-ready.

The council deferred both items (WSRLA and GPD contract proposal) to be discussed at this meeting in the Legislation section with Steve Babik, Solicitor.

Erin presented a copy of the 2023 Annual Report for OMEGA showing all submissions and awards.

Maria confirmed the Village will be obligated to the cost of the planning design phase in the amount of \$174,458 but not the construction dollars until the grant is awarded.

**Old Business** – None.

**MAYOR** - Robert stated the legislation for and discussion of the waterline project have been covered.

He continues to investigate the option of leasing a police cruiser.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE** – Will Bellinger reported a total of \$2,081.76 in interest received from StarOhio and Huntington for February.

Will stated the use of the American Legion for council meetings is on hold awaiting a contract proposal from the owner.

The Finance Committee continues discussions on the use of ARPA funds. Maria and Patty will investigate whether the Village is eligible to report the funding as loss during COVID-19 with having to define a project for funding use. They will brief the council at the April meeting.

The \$1000 PEP safety grant will be used to purchase the solar-powered flashing stop sign for the intersection of Park and Water. Levi will complete the application for this grant. Levi will also work to find additional grant funding for three additional lighted signs the street and alley committee has recommended.

All of the council are registered to attend the OML (Ohio Municipal League) new Council training on March 23, 2024.

Will said the committee recommends approval of up to \$1,500 for the purchase of office furnishings for the mayor. The council rendered a voice vote, and all were yes.

The committee also recommended approval of Fiscal Officer Maria App to attend a two-day training session in Columbus this month. The council rendered a voice vote, and all were yes.

**Planning and Zoning** – Bellinger stated the Zoning committee met on March 4, 2024. The demolition of the elementary school was discussed.

**Safety**- Loretta read a letter she received from Chief Haugh who has been sick for the past several weeks. The Chief thanked everyone for all the prayers for improved health. Chief Haugh has returned to work, on light duty, working on administrative tasks in the office. The Chief has updated policies and procedures for his officers and updated the call center through Staley Technology.

The Tahoe brakes have been replaced. Quotes are being received for changing all fluids on the Ford. Mayor Lloyd continues investigating the purchase of a new police cruiser.

It was reported that Officer Eric Minor would be out on medical leave for another 6 weeks.

Levi has scheduled the Dodge truck for a safety recall on March 23, 2024. All other maintenance equipment is ready for summer work.

**Chief-** Absent. See Safety

**Street & Alley-** Tim said the committee met on February 15, 2024. White, Oberlin, Nussbaumer, and Kaser were present.

Tim reported several sidewalks have been identified as in need of repair in the Village. Specific locations identified are 280 Poplar, the west side of Park Avenue between Poplar and Cherry, and the South side of Cherry between Park and Sassafras.

Steve Pancoe brought to the attention of the street and alley a large deep pothole at the corner of Poplar and Fairview. Tim agreed that the pothole was very deep and needed attention. Levi stated he is assessing all potholes throughout the Village and will begin repairs soon.

The committee recommends the purchase of four solar-powered flashing stop signs for the Village. The estimated cost is \$3000. Locations: Water and Park with the sign facing traffic on Water, Water and East with the sign facing traffic on East, Bolivar and Park with the sign facing traffic on both sides of Park.

No Parking signs on King Street have been removed. Investigating possibly removing One Way and Do Not Enter signs near the elementary school.

Several signs in the Village will need to be replaced.

Investigating removing fencing around Advertising signs on Main Street and replacing them with signs similar to the signs in Zoar.

**Shade Tree-** Dan Oberlin stated planting season is coming soon—March and April. He will have good numbers on the cost of trees at the next street and alley meeting. He would like the council to commit to the number of trees to replace each year stating many have been removed and not replaced. Robert stated he has purchased 25 seedlings for planting along the trail or the ballpark area.

**Parks and Recreation –** Zac stated he has signed insurance documents from the baseball association. He will need the same forms for the football league. He said the committee continues discussion on the planned use of playground equipment, basketball, tennis courts, etc. when the elementary school is demolished. Zac encouraged the use of the kids from Trail Life USA to clean the village this summer

stating they will be looking for a project with community service hours to earn their Freedom Award.

### **Village Administrator/Street Superintendent –**

Levi stated he would soon receive the bill for salt use this past winter. He said he feels most residents were happy with the condition of the roads over the winter.

Bridges Excavating repaired a water line break on East Street. Levi believes future leaks can be handled by the Village without hiring an outside excavator.

A pothole assessment is ongoing, and repairs will begin this spring.

Several street signs have been replaced. Levi will assess the need to order additional signage. The entrance/exit one-way signs have been removed from Pine to Poplar and Strawberry Alley. The school bus is no longer traveling though, so the signs were no longer needed.

Planting of trees, bushes, and flowers will be done in the spring at the monument park on Canal.

King Street needs a riser on the manhole cover. Levi will bring the cost to the April Finance meeting.

Levi has been talking with the Tuscarawas County Water and Sewer District concerning vault and line locations for the upcoming transfer to purchased water. He anticipates the process to be completed in April or May. The Village will begin being billed for purchased water in June.

Levi spoke with GPD concerning the water line replacement project. He provided the information and documentation both GPD and OMEGA were requesting.

Levi has been reviewing water rules and regulations. Hammond Construction, the contractor who will demolish the elementary school, requested the use of hydrant water for the demolition project. Levi granted permission. Maria stated this may be a problem. She said in 2017 the EPA stated the Village was not qualified to sell water use through the hydrant system. Levi will contact Hammond and let them know they will need to secure an alternate source. He will also talk with the EPA asking for a ruling on this.

Levi is working with Stephanie Long, the Water Clerk, to enforce timely payments and shutoff rules.

Levi briefed the findings from the compost discussion at the Joint Solid Waste meeting. The current compost funding will evaporate in the next three years so the Village will need to prepare for disposal of all its leaf/compost waste. Robert and Levi explained the use of a Bulk Compost bin to haul away the compost. They obtained some pricing and anticipated a cost not to exceed \$1000 per season to dispose of the waste. They

also stated that the Village may have to purchase a dump trailer to haul bulk compost in the future. Estimated cost of dump trailer: \$15,000.

Levi is looking into moving some of the playground equipment from the school to the waterworks park. He said the basketball courts will require some sealing. The hoops and backboards will also need to be replaced. Levi said the tennis courts are in bad shape and will require substantial repair or replacement.

Levi continues to work on developing a plan for sidewalk replacement for the summer months.

**Fiscal Officer** – Maria requested the council present all items they would like on the agenda by the Friday before the meeting. She said introducing matters at the meeting without proper review before the meeting is inappropriate. All matters of discussion need to be on the agenda unless they are of an emergency nature.

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

Steve stated he sent the letter proposing a deed of easement to the property owner concerning the Welcome to Bolivar sign at the 3-way stop. He also spoke with the owner and does not feel they are going to agree to a deed of easement, as they have stated they feel this is an eminent domain issue. Steve will need the legal description to continue this matter. Levi will contact the surveyor and request a quote for the cost of them preparing a legal description based on their staking of the property in the fall. Steve stated the Village will not remove the sign but will continue to maintain the sign and surrounding landscaping.

### **Legislation:**

An Ordinance to grant an increase of 2% in employee wages. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

An Ordinance to amend permanent appropriations. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

An Ordinance to move regular council meetings to the former American Legion Building. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

An Ordinance by Emergency retroactive back to 2/1/2024 to hire Robert Sterling, auxiliary police officer to the position of part-time patrol officer at a rate of \$16 per hour not to exceed 30 hours per week. Motion to approve made by Bellinger and seconded by White. Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes. **Ordinance O-5-2024.**

An Ordinance to approve the Fire/EMS contract with Lawrence Township and the Villages of Bolivar and Zoar. By Emergency. Motion to approve made by Bellinger and seconded by Pancoe. Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes. **Ordinance O-6-2024.**

A Resolution allowing the Village of Bolivar to apply for, accept, and enter into a water supply revolving loan account (WSRLA) agreement for planning and design of the 2024 waterline replacement project and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan. Oberlin made a motion to suspend rules and regulations, and it was seconded by Bellinger. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes. A motion to pass was made by Bellinger and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes. **Resolution 2-2024.**

A Resolution for Street Closure for the Strawberry Festival, Canal Street Cruisin Car Show, and Christmas on the Canal 2024. Strawberry Festival June 5-8, Cruisin Car Show July 20, and Christmas on the Canal November 9, 2024. Motion to suspend rules and regulations made by Pancoe and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes. Motion to pass made by Oberlin and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes. **Resolution 3-2024.**

Discussion arose concerning the need to approve the contract proposal received from GPD for the engineering/design phase of the water line replacement in the amount of \$174,458. A motion to approve GPD to begin engineering/design on the project at the amount of \$174,458 was made by Bellinger and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, Pancoe yes, Nussbaumer yes.

Steve stated a resolution is not necessary for the GPD contract proposal as they were hired in November of 2023. He will prepare legislation for he April meeting if the council would prefer.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024, by Oberlin and seconded by Bellinger. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, White yes, and Pancoe yes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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Mayor, Robert Lloyd

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Fiscal Officer, Maria App