

**Village of Higginsport  
Village Council Meeting  
March 10, 2025**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Mark Fester.

Also, present were: Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Greg Wilson, Scott Wilburn, Linda Fester, Sandy Bear, Leslee Hasenstab, Tricia Wood, Eddie Crawford and David Osborne, Jr.

Mayor Bear called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Special Presentation**

Mr. Greg Wilson presented quotes for the needed sewer equipment and installation costs for each with the total cost of \$103,000.00 with \$5,000.00 for contingencies included. He provided information regarding a low interest twenty (20) year loan through the Ohio Water Development Authority to fund the project. If the loan application is submitted by May 1, 2024 funding could be approved by the end of May and loan funds received by June 2025 with the first loan payment being due July 2026.

**Resolution 25-04**

**Motion by: Mr. Null**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wills**

**WHEREAS**, the village sewer plant needs equipment replacement/repairs, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Greg Wilson has provided estimates for the replacement equipment and installation at an estimated costs of \$103,000.00, and

**WHEREAS**, the village will need to funding to complete the project,

**THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Village of Higginsport approve proceeding with the equipment replacement and installation, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Council of the Village of Higginsport approve submitting a loan application to the Ohio Water Development Authority for funding for the project.

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Absent; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

**Police Department Report**

Chief Elliott reported on the following:

- Vehicle Repairs
- Pending citations for clean-up of properties in the village.
- Working to determine who owns the property at the corner of Gains Street with the abandoned camping trailer.
- Received a call from a realtor regarding cleaning up the property at 115 Columbia Street.

### **Public Participation**

Ms. Tricia Wood provided an update from the recent America 250 meeting. She requested information regarding upcoming event be posted on the village sign at the park.

Mr. Scott Wilburn addressed Council regarding the “blind spot” when pulling out from Plum Alley onto State Route 221 due to overgrown bushes. Mayor Bear expressed he thought they were in the village right-of-way. Mr. Null recommended speaking with the property owner prior to the village trimming or removing the bushes.

### **New/Old Business**

Mr. Null reported he had met with Kelly Faas regarding the upcoming Community Project Funding. He expressed that Ms. Faas biggest concerns for all small villages was their ability to apply for grant and hoped the grant process could possibly be simplified.

Mr. Null reported that the air conditioner was scheduled to be replaced on March 12, 2025.

### **Fire Department Report**

Mr. Smith reported the fire department had been awarded a \$15,000.00 equipment grant from the State Fire Marshal to replace the department’s SCBA’s. The grant would make it possible for the department to purchase fifteen (15) SCBA’s each with a fifteen (15) year life-span. The State Fire Marshal had two (2) million dollars for grant funding and received two point nine (2.9) million dollars in grant applications.

Mr. Smith reported that work was being completed on the department radios which will be funded by the MARCS radio grant the department received.

Mr. Smith announced the annual Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The fire department is accepting donations (toys, eggs, etc.) Chief Elliott informed Mr. Smith that there was a surplus of toys from the village’s Christmas event that could be utilized for the egg hunt. Mr. Wilburn expressed that he had Gatorade he was willing to donate for the event.

### **Additional Business**

Chief Elliott reported that the village will need replacement flags for the main street. Mrs. Bear inquired as to how many were needed. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter.

Mayor Bear reported that he had received a request to rent the village community center for a birthday party. A discussion ensued regarding renting the facility as well as the rate and terms of doing so.

### **Resolution 25-05**

**Motion by: Mr. Null**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wills**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Village of Higginsport desires to rent the village community center to members of the public for various events (birthday parties, baby showers, etc.), and

**WHEREAS**, by doing so the village can generate revenue to assist with maintaining the village facility,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Village of Higginsport approve renting the village community center for the following rates:

\$50.00 cleaning deposit  
\$10.00 per hour

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a rental agreement and facility inspection form be developed and utilized for the facility rental

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Adams, Yes; Mr. Fester, Absent; Mr. Null, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

Mayor Bear reported the county Board of Health meeting will be March 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Southern Hills Career Center.

Mayor Bear inquired if Council would like to contract the cemetery mowing. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Adams confirmed she would contact Mr. Maloney for a quote for the 2025 mowing season.

Mr. Null reported that the mayor had received notification that demolition of the old school building is schedule for May 2025. He also reported that the county will be opening contractor bids on March 14, 2025 for the demolition of the houses in the village.

Mrs. Dufau presented the ordinance for the fire levy renewal for Council's approval

**VILLAGE OF HIGGINSPORT  
BROWN COUNTY, OHIO  
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE RENEWAL OF AN EXISTING FIVE (5.0)  
MILL TAX LEVY FOR FIRE PROTECTION IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-  
MILL LIMITATION AND TO PLACE THE ISSUE ON THE NOVEMBER  
2025 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT AND DECLARING AN  
EMERGENCY.**

The Council for the Village of Higginsport, Ohio, met in regular session on March 10, 2025 at the Village Municipal Building with the following members present:

Kathy Adams	-	Present
Matt Adams	-	Present
Mark Fester	-	Absent
Scott Null	-	Present
Drew Smith	-	Present
Linda Wills	-	Present

**Mr. Null** moved the adoption of the following Ordinance:

**WHEREAS**, this Village Council of the Village of Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio has declared the necessity of levying a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill

limitation within the Village for the benefit of this Village pursuant to the provisions of Section 5705.19(I) of the Ohio Revised Code for providing adequate funds for fire protection; and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, this Council has heretofore certified to the County Auditor a Resolution requesting the County Auditor to certify to this Council the total current tax valuation of the Village and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by five (5.0) mills per year as specified in such Resolution, and this Council has received the certification of the County Auditor that such total current tax valuation is \$4,258,450.00 and that such dollar amount of revenue is \$13,000.00 per year (a copy of such certification is attached hereto as Exhibit A);

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Village of Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio, that:

**SECTION I** That it is hereby declared that the amount of taxes which may be raised in this Village within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of this Village.

**SECTION II** That pursuant to the provisions of Section 5705.19(I) of the Ohio Revised Code, it is necessary to proceed with levying a renewal tax of five (5.0) mill in excess of such ten-mill limitation for the entire territory within the Village for fire protection, at the rate not exceeding five (5.0) mills for each one dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to fifty cents (\$0.50) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation, for a five-year period of time.

**SECTION III** That the question of the passage of said renewal tax levy shall be submitted to the electors of the entire territory of the Village at the election to be held on November 4, 2025, and if approved by the electors, shall first be placed upon the 2026 tax list and duplicate, first collection shall take place in calendar year 2027.

**SECTION IV** That the form of the ballot to be used at said election shall be substantially as follows:

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)  
VILLAGE OF HIGGINSPORT

A majority affirmative vote is  
necessary for passage

A renewal of five (5.0) mill levy to constitute a tax for the benefit of the Village of Higginsport, County of Brown, Ohio,

for the purpose of fire protection at a rate not exceeding five (5.0) mills for each one-dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to fifty cents (\$0.50) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation, for a five (5) year period of time, commencing in 2026, first due in 2027.

	FOR THE TAX LEVY	
	AGAINST THE TAX LEVY	

#### **SECTION V**

That the Clerk of this Council be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this ordinance to the board of elections, not later than four o'clock (4:00) p.m. of the ninetieth (90th) day before the date of said election and to notify said board of elections to cause notice of the election on the question of levying said tax to be given as required by law.

#### **SECTION VI**

That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Village Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council; and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Adams seconded the motion and the roll was called on its adoption with the following results:

Kathy Adams	-	Yes
Matt Adams	-	Yes
Mark Fester	-	Absent
Scott Null	-	Yes
Drew Smith	-	Abstain
Linda Wills	-	Yes

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

**Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mrs. Adams to approve and pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously**

**Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mrs. Adams to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 10, 2025. Motion passed unanimously**

**Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Null to approve the special meeting minutes from February 24, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

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**Lester Beair, Mayor**

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**Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer**

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**Kathy Adams, Council Member**

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**Matt Adams, Council Member**

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**Linda Wills, Council Member**

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**Scott Null, Council Member**

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**Mark Fester, Council Member**

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**Drew Smith, Council Member**