

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
December 11, 2023**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Patrick Elliott.

Also, present were: Fire Chief Rob Starrett, Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Dean Miracle, Tricia Wood, Sandy Beair, Mark Fester, Linda Fester, Dustin Faul, Peggy Wood, Tina Germann, Drew Smith, Scott Wilburn and Wanda Crawford.

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

Public Participation

Mr. Mark Fester recognized and expressed his appreciation to Mayor Crawford and Council Moon for their years of service to the village.

Mrs. Linda Fester reported the Appalachian Grant application has been which included thirty-three other recipients. The village's proposed project portion of the grant is for \$6.7 million dollars.

Mrs. Fester reported that information has been submitted for the capital budget projects to Kelly Cole.

Ms. Tricia Wood presented a handout from the recent America 250 committee meeting. She highlighted information from the recent meeting and reported the next committee meeting would be held February 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Scott Wilburn commended the village administration for the progress that had been made in the village in 2023.

Fire Department Report

Chief Rob Starrett reported the 2024 fire contract with Lewis Township should be ready by December 18, 2023. It is expected to be the same amount as 2023. He requested Council hold a special meeting to approve the contract prior to December 31, 2023.

Chief Starrett reported there had been a slight leak in the roof of the fire department/municipal building. The needed repairs have been completed but the village may receive an invoice from the gentleman that assisted with the repairs.

Chief Starrett expressed his appreciation to Mr. Beair for assisting with the Lewis Township clean-up days. The township received the Golden Boot award for the most trash received for township clean-up days. A total of sixty-seven tons of trash were collected during the three-day clean-up event.

Mr. Fester inquired if Chief Starrett knew the status of Lewis Township's letter of support for the ballfield project. Chief Starrett stated he would follow-up with the Lewis Township fiscal officer.

Mayor Crawford expressed his appreciation to Mr. Starrett for his many years as a Lewis Township trustee, taking care of the village as well as being a great fire chief for the village.

Police Department Report

Chief Shawn Elliott reported the handheld lidar cameras are now operational and being utilized. It is his hope to generate approximately seventy-five lidar violations per month with a forty-five-day turnaround for collection of revenue generated by them. The lidar cameras at the park have now been relocated to the utility pole at that location.

Chief Elliott expressed he was concerned regarding the current police department funding and did not recommend hiring an additional officer at this time.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mrs. Dufau presented the following for approval:

- Revised 2024 Acceptance of Rates
- 2024 Temporary Appropriations
- Resolution for reappropriation of funds
- Resolution for payment of police department expenses from general fund

Resolution 23-36

Motion by: Mr. Null

Seconded by: Ms. Wills

To approve the revised 2024 Acceptance of Amounts and Rates as provided by the Brown County Auditor.

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Beair, Yes; Mr. Elliott, Absent; Mr. Moon, Yes;
Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

Resolution 23-37

Motion by: Mr. Null

Seconded by: Mrs. Adams

WHEREAS, the Village Council previously approved appropriating one hundred percent (100%) of the mayor's court revenue (after monthly mayor's court expenses have been deducted) in the general fund to be utilized for police department expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the police department portion of the mayor's court revenue is not currently enough to pay the necessary police department expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the Village Council desires to continue the safety and security services for the Village,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council authorizes the Village Fiscal Officer to continue paying from the general fund the necessary expenditures for the police department that exceeds their appropriated portion of the mayor's court revenue for the month of December 2023 and January 2024.

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Beair, Yes; Mr. Elliott, Absent; Mr. Moon, Yes;
Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

Resolution 23-38**Motion by: Mrs. Adams****Seconded by: Mr. Null**

To approve the following 2024 temporary appropriations:

General Fund	\$202,508.11
Fire Fund	\$140,530.84
Police Fund	\$ 40,865.22
Street Fund	\$ 64,214.21
State Highway Fund	\$ 4,326.92
Permissive Motor Vehicle	\$ 2,507.27
Parks & Recreation	\$ 4,500.00
Court Computer	\$ 6,224.51
Sewer Fund	\$ 91,732.18
Mayor's Court Fund	\$ 42,500.00

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Bear, Yes; Mr. Elliott, Absent; Mr. Moon, Yes;
Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

Resolution 23-39**Motion by: Mr. Null****Seconded by: Mr. Moon**

To approve the following reappropriations for the general liability and property insurance premium renewal retroactive to November 29, 2023:

General Fund

From: 1000-930-930	Contingencies	\$82.00
To: 1000-790-350	Insurance	\$82.00

Street Fund

From: 2011-930-930	Contingencies	\$54.00
To: 2011-620-350	Insurance	\$54.00

Fire Fund

From: 2903-930-930	Contingencies	\$27.00
To: 2903-120-350	Insurance	\$27.00

Sewer Fund

From: 5201-930-930	Contingencies	\$60.00
To: 5201-549-350	Insurance	\$60.00

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Bear, Yes; Mr. Elliott, Absent; Mr. Moon, Yes;
Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes**

Mayor's Report

Mayor Crawford reported he had contacted the property owner at the west end of the village regarding tapping in to the village's sewer system. Mayor Crawford informed Council that the property owner has requested proof that he is required to tap in to the sewer system. Mayor Crawford explained to the property owner that he would no longer be the mayor at the beginning of the year and that he had provided Mr. Bear the property owner's contact information.

Mayor Crawford provided estimates from Great Lakes for the needed equipment in order for the property owner to tap in to the village's sewer system.

Mayor Crawford also informed Council that Mr. Plymesser was still considering retiring.

Mayor Crawford congratulated Mr. Bear on winning the village mayor position. He expressed that when he was appointed as village mayor in 2013, he had three goals:

1. Bring back the village police department
2. Clean-up the cemetery
3. Clean-up the village park

Chief Starrett expressed his appreciation to Mayor Crawford, stating that he had been village fire chief since 1985 and had worked with several mayors and council members and that he and Mayor Crawford had worked as a great team making a lot of good things happen for the village.

Motion by: Mrs. Adams, seconded by: Ms. Wills to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 13, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Moon to pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Eddie Crawford Jr., Mayor

Sheila G. Dufau, Fiscal Officer

Kathy Adams, Council Member

Patrick Elliott, Council Member

Linda Wills, Council Member

Scott Null, Council Member

Lester Bear, Council Member

Anthony Moon, Council Member