

**Village of Higginsport  
Village Council Meeting  
February 12, 2024**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present.

Also, present were: Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Rob Starrett, Dylan Branham, Dean Miracle, Trica Wood, Peggy Wood, Sandy Bear, Linda Fester, Chris Bishop and Conner Babb.

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

**Police Department**

Chief Elliott reported he as checking into to the department's eligibility for the COPS Grant program. He expressed his appreciation for Council's support and his continue effort to reduce police department expenses.

Chief Elliott expressed that he had done some research on several properties in the village with delinquent property taxes. He encouraged Council to consider condemning the properties in order to have them cleaned up and possibly get interested investors to purchase and/or develop.

Chief Elliott provided information regarding a recent SWAT incident in the village and confirmed the suspect had been taken in to police custody.

Chief Elliott requested Council's approval to sell an unused cruiser light bar and siren controller to the Village of Sardinia.

**Resolution 24-03**

**Motion by: Mr. Adams**

**Seconded by: Ms. Wills**

To approve selling an unused cruiser light bar and siren controller to the Village of Sardina for \$900.00

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

**Fiscal Officer's Report**

Mrs. Dufau presented the following for approval:

- Re-allocation of lidar violation funds resolution
- 2024 permanent appropriation budget

**Resolution 24-04**

**Motion by: Ms. Wills**

**Seconded by: Mr. Fester**

**WHEREAS**, the revenue generated by the lidar camera violations is currently allocated with one hundred percent (100%) collected being deposited into the police fund per previous village resolution, and

**WHEREAS**, due to restructuring of the budget for the village police department Council desires to allocate and deposit one hundred percent (100%) of the revenue collected from the lidar camera violations into the general fund,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that one hundred percent (100%) of the lidar camera violation revenue received be deposited into the general fund, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the new allocation become effective with the revenue disbursement received in February 2024.

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

**Resolution 24-05**

**Motion by: Ms. Wills**

**Seconded by: Mr. Adams**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Village of Higginsport wish to adopt permanent appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Fiscal Officer has presented the final appropriation budget for Fiscal Year 2024 to the Village Council,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Council of the Village of Higginsport adopt the permanent appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021 as presented.

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

**Old Business**

Ms. Wills recommended Council return the unused “no parking” signs to A&A Safety for a refund or possible credit on a future purchase. Chief Elliott expressed he would like to purchase “children at play” signs for Washington Street and the village park area.

Mrs. Bearir inquired if Washington and Jackson Street could be made a four-way stop. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter.

**Public Participation**

Chief Rob Starrett, Higginsport Fire & EMS Association reported the association would be applying for a seatbelt grant and requested a letter from the village stating the association provides EMS services to the village. He also reported the association had received a donation of a new “used” ambulance from the Ripley Life Squad.

Mrs. Linda Fester reported her attendance of the Regional Commission Appalachian grant meeting regarding possible grant funding for the village.

Mrs. Fester provided information regarding upcoming free “Ready Local Government” training. The training would be available to the top two ranking officials of the village. The training would provide information for the grant process. If interested an application would need to be completed to be accepted to the program. If the training is completed there would be eligibility for a \$50,000.00 leadership grant.

Ms. Tricia Wood reported the next America 250 meeting would be February 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Old/New Business**

Mr. Fester recommended Council considering re-hiring David Osborne as village solicitor. He reported he had spoken to Mr. Osborne regarding the matter and Mr. Osborne had requested if re-hired that he be hired as a village employee for \$1,500.00 per year. A discussion ensued regarding the matter as well as the terms and requirements in which Mr. Osborne would be employed by the village.

**Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mr. Adams to advertise for a village solicitor. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Wills inquired the status of the modular/doublewide, if it currently had water or electric. A discussion ensued with Mrs. Dufau confirming the water service was now being invoiced to the village however as far as she knew the electric service had not been transferred back to the village.

Ms. Wills inquired the status of reimbursement for the guardrail that was replaced at US 52/US 505. She expressed the former village solicitor had reported there was a case pending in Brown County Court however the court records do not reflect an open case regarding the matter. Mr. Fester stated that he would follow-up on the matter with the former village solicitor.

Mr. Null inquired the status of the sewer service for the campground on the west end of the village. Mayor Bear reported he had been unable to reach the property owner.

Mr. Null inquired if Council could do anything about all of the old vehicles in the village that haven't been moved in months. Chief Elliott stated that if the vehicles were licensed there was nothing that could be done.

Mr. Fester expressed that the village had always had committees but not much had been accomplished. A discussion ensued regarding possible committees. He requested that a grant committee be established. The discussion continued with no formal action taken to establish committees.

Ms. Wills inquired if the new electronic sign would require an internet account which would be an additional bill. Mrs. Fester confirmed that it would not.

Mayor Bear reported he had been unable to reach the elevator inspector however everything should be okay since the village was moving forward with addressing the matter.

Mayor Bear inquired as to how Council would like to proceed with increasing the sewer rates. A discussion ensued regarding the matter which included rate increases or possibly selling the sewer system.

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

**Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Smith to approve the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Adams, 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