

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
June 12, 2023**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present.

Also, present were: Fire Chief Rob Starrett, Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Sandy Bear, Tricia Wood, Peggy Wood, Scott Wilburn and Tina Schumaker.

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

Mayor Crawford inquired if Council would like to begin the meeting by addressing the livestock ordinance previously presented at the last meeting. Mr. Bear recommended addressing the matter once the village solicitor arrived as he was bringing an amendment to the original ordinance.

Public Participation

Mr. Scott Wilburn addressed Council regarding the public right-of-way (village alley) near his property. He inquired if Council was going to vacate or maintain the alley. A discussion ensued regarding the matter with Mrs. Adams expressing that it had not been maintained in years and Mr. Null expressed that it was his understanding the Village did not want to give away village owned property.

Resolution 23-23

Motion by: Mr. Null

Seconded by: Mrs. Adams

To not vacate Brown Street (alley) north of Gaines Street.

**Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Bear, No; Mr. Elliott, No; Mr. Moon, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes;
Ms. Wills, Yes**

Mr. Wilburn inquired if that meant the Village would maintain it. It was general consensus of Council that it did not.

Police Department Report

Chief Elliott reported on the following:

- The police department inventory is sixty percent (60%) completed and will be submitted to Mayor Crawford when complete.
- Property located at 210 John Street is being cleaned up
- Guardrail has been replaced at US 52/US 505

Mayor Crawford passed out a completed street department inventory to Council. Ms. Wills recommended that a sign-out sheet be utilized when anyone takes equipment from the garage. All council members were in agreement with Ms. Wills recommendation.

Fire Department Report

Chief Starrett expressed that he was in a familiar position to defend the fire department and that he thought the inventory matter had been settled a couple years prior. He stated that he could provide a detailed inventory to council however no one on council with the exception of Mr. Moon and Mayor Crawford would even know what most of the equipment was. He reported that he had submitted the fire department inventory to the mayor as well as the Fiscal Officer and asked why this continued to be a big deal. Mr. Bear expressed that if the inventory had been submitted to the mayor it was no longer an issue.

Chief Starrett reported he had been approached by someone wanting river access on Olive Street but there is still a rope there as well as a private property sign. He inquired if Council had taken any action to resolve the matter. Mr. Bear expressed Council had decided not to pursue the matter.

Chief Starrett recommended Council consider having all village streets and alleys surveyed. He also explained to Mr. Wilburn that streets, alleys and roads can be classified as an "X" road meaning that the road is open but not maintained. A discussion ensued regarding public river access in the Village with Chief Starrett informing Council that there were funds available for river development. Mr. Bear reported that the village is meeting with planners in hopes obtaining funding for river development in the village.

Old Business

Ms. Wills reported that she had been make aware that the wrong air compressor had been purchased. Mr. Bear confirmed the incorrect one had been ordered by Mr. Plymesser and the company wants a twenty-five percent (25%) restocking fee. The correct air compressor will be an additional \$1,000.00. Mayor Crawford expressed he would follow-up with the company it was purchased from. Mrs. Dufau confirmed she had not yet paid for the incorrect air compressor.

Mr. Null reported that he had obtained an estimate of \$150.00 to \$175.00 per window from Minton Glass to repair two windows in the municipal building (bank building) and requested Council's approval for the repairs. **Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Elliott, to approve the window repairs by Minton Glass. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Null reported six hundred square feet of flooring had been donated for the municipal building lobby/meeting area.

Mr. Elliott inquired the status of the sewer installation at 511 Columbia Street. Mayor Crawford reported he had spoken to the property owner however he had been unable to determine the location of the sewer tap on the property. Mr. Elliott expressed he would assist the mayor with the matter.

Mr. Elliott inquired the status of the sewer installation at the campground facility located at the west end of the Village. Mayor Crawford reported he had been unable to make contact with the property owner.

A discussion ensued regarding possible annexation of additional properties on U.S. 52. Mr. Elliott recommended council approaching Lewis Township regarding possibly adding White Oak Campground to the village sewer system.

Mr. Bear reported he had researched obtaining water access at the village park. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter. Several council members expressed that there had been a well at the park several years ago and possibly investigating if it may still be accessible.

New Business

Mr. Bear reported progress is being made on cleaning up the village. He also reported that the Ohio River Way has assigned the village planners to assist with possibly obtaining funding for river development.

Mr. Elliott expressed his appreciation to all those that helped get the weather siren repaired. He recommended the box on the siren be locked now that it has been repaired.

Mr. Moon recommended Council have all the streets and alleys that access the river be surveyed. Council briefly discussed his recommendation.

Resolution 23-24

Motion by: Mr. Moon

Seconded by: Mr. Beair

To approve obtaining an estimate to have all village streets and alleys surveyed.

Vote: Mrs. Adams, Yes; Mr. Beair, Yes; Mr. Elliott, No; Mr. Moon, Yes; Mr. Null, Yes; Ms. Wills, Yes

Mayor's Report

Mayor Crawford reported that the village has no extra sewer grinder pumps and that there were three that needed repaired. He requested direction from Council as to whether a new pump should be ordered to have on hand. A discussion ensued regarding the matter with Mrs. Adams recommending having one repaired to have on hand versus purchasing a new one.

Mayor Crawford requested direction from Council as to how they would like to proceed with the possible elevator inspection as well as possible repairs. Council discussed the matter with general consensus to make some additional telephone calls to obtain estimates for the inspection.

Mayor Crawford inquired if Council would like to address the proposed livestock ordinance although the village solicitor was not in attendance nor did they have the amendment he had prepared. **Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Mrs. Adams, to table the proposed ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.**

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mrs. Dufau presented information regarding placing an operating tax levy on the November 2023 ballot.

**VILLAGE OF HIGGINSPORT
BROWN COUNTY, OHIO
RESOLUTION NO. 23-25**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR A TAX LEVY IN
EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR GENERAL OPERATING
EXPENSES AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY
MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.**

The Council for the Village of Higginsport, Ohio, met in regular session on June 12, 2023 at the Village Municipal Building with the following members present:

Kathy Adams	-	Present
Lester Beair	-	Present
Patrick Elliott	-	Present
Anthony Moon	-	Present
Scott Null	-	Present
Linda Wills	-	Present

Mr. Moon moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Higginsport Council anticipates levying a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation as described herein; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, this Council is required to certify to the county auditor a resolution requesting the county auditor to certify certain matters in connection with such a tax levy;

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

SECTION I That pursuant to the provisions of 5705.19(A) of the Ohio Revised Code, it is necessary to levy a five (5.0) mill levy for general operating expenses of the Village at a rate not exceeding five (5.0) mills for each dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to (\$0.50) for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of valuation, for a period of five (5) years.

SECTION II That the tax levy shall be imposed upon the entire territory of the Village of Higginsport, all of which is located in Brown County, Ohio.

SECTION III That the question of the passage of said tax levy shall be submitted to the electors of the entire territory of the Village at the election to be held on November 7, 2023, and if approved by the electors, shall first be placed upon the 2023 tax list and duplicate, first collection shall take place in calendar year 2024.

SECTION IV That pursuant to the provisions of Section 5705.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, the county auditor is hereby requested to certify to the Village of Higginsport Council the total current tax valuation of the Village and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the number of mills specified in Section I hereof, and the Fiscal Officer of this council be and is hereby directed to certify forthwith a copy of this resolution to the county auditor at the earliest possible time so that said county auditor may certify such matters in accordance with such Section 5705.03.

SECTION V 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. Elliott seconded the motion and the roll was called on its adoption with the following results:

Kathy Adams	-	Yes
Lester Beair	-	Yes
Patrick Elliott	-	Yes
Anthony Moon	-	Yes
Scott Null	-	Yes
Linda Wills	-	Yes

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Ms. Wills to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 16, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by: Mr. Elliott, seconded by: Mrs. Adams to pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by: Mr. Elliott, 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