

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
November 13, 2023**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with all members present except Kathy Adams and Anthony Moon.

Also, present were: Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Dean Miracle, Tricia Wood, Sandy Bear, Mark Fester, Linda Fester, Chris Bishop, Dustin Faul, Peggy Wood, Tina Germann and Duane Germann.

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

Public Participation

Mrs. Linda Fester announced the village had been awarded the Ohio NatureWorks Grant. The village would be receiving \$11,550.00.

Mrs. Fester reported the next Ohio Riverway webinar will be on November 16, 2023. She had contacted Scott Wilburn regarding the use of the community center for the webinar for anyone wishing to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Fester provided information regarding additional grant possibilities for infrastructure as well as other possible grants for sidewalk and street improvements but that some of the grant opportunities require some type of village match.

Mr. Mark Fester inquired if it would be possible to develop an estimate for additional sewer grinder pumps and additional sewer infrastructure needed. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter.

Ms. Tricia Wood provided an update on the recent America 250 meeting. The group is working on grants available, local student involvement and sponsors for the event. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Police Department Report

Chief Shawn Elliott reported that he was monitoring the police funds closely as current funds are very low.

Old Business

Mr. Bear requested direction from Council pertaining to the locations of the new playground equipment in the park. He recommended removing the current playground equipment, salvaging any useable parts and installing the new equipment. A brief discussion ensued regarding the matter.

Motion by: Mr. Null, seconded by: Ms. Wills, to remove the old playground equipment and the installation of the new playground equipment. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Elliott inquired the status of the sewer issues at 110 Columbia Street as well as 111 Columbia Street. Both have flashing lights on the control board. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Bear reporting the property owner of 111 Columbia had been given a copy of the

village's sewer ordinance. Mayor Crawford expressed he would follow-up on the matter and Chief Elliott agreed to go with Mr. Plymesser to investigate the situation.

Mr. Elliott inquired the status of the "dead" sewer tap billing. A brief discussion ensued regarding the recommendations from the sewer committee as to eliminating the \$15.00 monthly fee for "dead" sewer taps and implementing a \$2,000.00 tap reactivation fee for taps that are inactive for more than thirty (30) days. Mrs. Dufau stated she would have the village solicitor prepare an amendment to the village's current sewer ordinance to implement the changes recommended by the sewer committee.

Mr. Elliott expressed that Mr. Duanne Germann had received the plans and books for the new playground equipment and had volunteered to assist the village with the installation of the new equipment. A discussion ensued regarding the current playground equipment and the replacement of the shelter roofs. Mr. Null stated that Roger Bruan had at one point offered to install the shelter roofs if the village supplied the materials. Mr. Germann reported that the small shelter was not structurally sound and would require more than roof repairs.

New Business

Mr. Bear inquired if Mrs. Fester wanted to address council regarding the additional expense to the village for the water tap and electronic sign at the park as both will be an additional monthly cost to the village. A discussion ensued with Mrs. Dufau confirming the additional annual cost for both would be approximately \$2,500.00 to \$3,500.00.

Motion by: Mr. Bear, seconded by: Mr. Elliott, to proceed with the installation of the water tap and electronic sign at the village park. Motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mrs. Dufau presented the 2023-2024 Property & General Liability insurance policy renewal and financing agreement for council's approval.

Resolution 23-35

Motion by: Ms. Wills

Seconded by: Mr. Null

To approve the 2023-2024 liability and property insurance renewal with U.S. Specialty Insurance Company at an annual cost of \$15815.00. (20% of premium due upon renewal with the balance financed through NCMIC Finance Corporation with nine (9) equal installments of \$1,477.00 per month. Finance costs of \$641.00).

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

Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Null to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 9, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Null to approve the special meeting minutes of October 23, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion by: Ms. Wills, seconded by: Mr. Elliott, 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 Beair, Council Member

Anthony Moon, Council Member