

Village of Chauncey Council
September 27th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Amy Renner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE TO FLAG – The pledge was observed by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL – Taken by Fiscal Officer

Seat 1 – Connaught Cullen, Present

Seat 2 – Tammy Hawk, Present

Seat 3 – Karla Dellinger, Present

Seat 4 – Evelyn Nagy, Absent

Seat 5 – Mike Kraus, Present

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Absent

Mayor – Amy Renner, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Village residents was in attendance.

Motion to excuse Dylan Skees absence made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Evelyn Nagy. AIF

NEW BUSINESS

Michael Betts from DLZ is in attendance to talk about the bid recommendations and answer any questions. We received one bid on our second attempt to have the bidding process take place. The company Menden Pipeline and they are out of WV. I recommend that we accept the emergency bid from Menden due to the timing of the project and the expiration of grants. The village as of right now will only need to secure a loan for roughly 1.1 million dollars and that is an interest-free loan for 30 years. Menden would like to start on March 1st of 2024. The sewer funds will pay for the loan. The loan payment will be around \$35,000 per year.

Nathan Simons from HAPCAP was in attendance for the 2nd phase and the second meeting for the RPIG. This grant will be 750k. Nathan read a notice to the council and the village residence in regard to the grant. The village is not taking on any loans when it comes to this grant. This grant will be used for only 2nd phase of the sewer project. A resident in attendance asked if this would eliminate the loan for phase one or reduce the loan for phase one. Nathan stated that this grant will be used only for the 2nd phase.

A resident asked Nathan if something happens that someone is displaced, will the owner of the home be paid for the appraised value of the home? Nathan stated that an independent appraiser would be hired and they would be paid based on that appraiser.

The application is due for the grant is due October 2nd, 2023.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

Debbie Bowers = I want to tell the council and village administrators for the work they are doing.

Victor Mayles = Wanted to meet the council and the Mayor. He has been a resident of the village for 65 years. I would like to just get council members' names just so that I can contact someone if needed. I love to help the village as much as I can.

Frank Campbell = I am curious about where we stand on the zoning committee. The village council stated that the next meeting for the planning commission is scheduled for October 4th and the next meeting for the council is October 11th. My next question is about the sewer at the park. I believe that the sewer needs to shut down since it is not part of the village. Mayor Renner stated that we are in the process of getting the park in Chauncey's name. Also, Frank would like to see the sewer line extended to a piece of property he has and stated that he gave the solicitor some information. The village solicitor is checking on it. Victor asked about the future of the park and what the plans were and is excited to see what the park and village have in store for the future. Mayor Renner let the residents know that ORCA is the one paying for all the items and stuff going on in the park. Karla Dellinger asked Frank how many acres he has. He stated that he has roughly 18 acres. According to the map and the drawing, it states that it's supposed to be there. Frank asked if the village would like to forfeit the easement if the village is not going to do anything with it. Council stated that they would need to look into this specific case. If the village is not going to do anything with an easement, he would like to do away with the easement.

Jennifer Kirkpatrick = The money for the first sewer line, has the sewer rate increase already taken place to cover the cost? Mayor Renner stated that we do have the money in our sewer funds. What is going to happen with the funds for Phase 2, what will happen if there is not enough grants to cover Phase 2? Mayor Renner we are applying for all the grants we can to take away from funds that the village needs to come up with. Jennifer asked what happens if the grants do come through, can the village still do phase 1 and not do Phase 2. Michael Betts stated that Phase 1 can be done without phase 2.

Joe Jeme = Wants to bring up the hunting that was lost due to the bike trails. The money that has left the town due to the hunters not being able to access the land. When do the bike ridings start have to pay to ride or park in the park? Comments were made that the majority of the land is not owned by the village and it is owned by Wayne National Forest and that this should be taken up with Wayne National Forest. Mayor Amy stated that Bailey's Trails and Ohio University have done research and the research has shown that the area is making more money now than they have in the past. Frank Campbell asked how can help the locals stay and not be pushed out and would like to see something happen to make the park easier to get to for kids in the village. The council is currently working on getting easier access to the park. Joe asked if the bathrooms will

continue to be open throughout the winter? Village Council has not yet decided. Public comments were that they would like to see it open and use this winter to see how much they get used. Joe's last question is that my rent has gone up, is there anything in the plans to be able to cap someone on how much they can charge? Joe is worried that this town will become a smaller Athens and the local residents will leave. Mayor Renner stated that the zoning code is the first step in trying to get this addressed. There are more items we can add to the zoning code to help with all the questions around your rent. Evelyn has met with legal services in the area to help residents and their rent prices. There are steps being taken to help with this. This is an issue that is happening everywhere.

Frank Campbell asked if the council member would consider taking into consideration the current residents when they make laws and rules. For example, if I bring my camper to my house and am loading it up for a vacation, am I going to be fined? The council and Mayor stated that they are looking into the code more and cleaning it up as much as they can.

Frank Campbell asked what is the possibility of the village becoming ATV friendly. Mayor Renner stated that we do not have anything in place to allow it or stop it. Since we do not have local police, we have no way to enforce it.

Another village member would like to make the statement that she does not want to see the village become ATV-friendly.

Drew the village code enforcer is trying his hardest to catch people trying to go against the code.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve bills made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Karla Dellinger, AIF

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from August 9th, 2023 by Tammy Hawk, Seconded by Connaught Cullen, AIF

APPROVAL OF FINANCES AND REPORT FROM FISCAL OFFICER

Motion to approve July and August 2023 Financial Statements made by Tammy Hawk, seconded by Mike Kraus. AIF

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2023-17 - Authorizing the Mayor to apply for the USACE Distressed community floodplain Mitigation rate: The grant can be up to 10 million dollars. This grant will allow some outside resources to come in and do some testing and studies. The application is

due in October. Connaught Cullen made the motion to introduce, seconded, Karla. AIF Tammy Hawk would like to make the motion for emergency. Seconded Karla.

Connaught Cullen = Yes
Evelyn Nagy = Yes
Karla Dellinger = Yes
Mike Kraus = Yes
Tammy Hawk = Yes

Motion to adopt Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Karla Dellinger. AIF

Resolution 2023-18 : Authorizing the Mayor to apply for the Railroad crossing grant. This resolution needs to be passed on emergency due to the due date of the resolution. Karla Dellinger would like to introduce the resolution, seconded by Evelyn Nagy, AIF Tammy Hawk would like to make the motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency due to the timing of the grand deadline Seconded by Karla Dellinger.

Connaught Cullen = Yes
Evelyn Nagy = Yes
Karla Dellinger = Yes
Mike Kraus = Yes
Tammy Hawk = Yes

Motion to adopt made by Karla Dellinger, seconded by Mike Kraus, AIF

Resolution 2023-19: Set the amounts and rates for the Athens County Budget Commission
This resolution is given to the village by the Athens County Auditors office. This should have been passed earlier in the year and the fiscal officer was just made aware of this resolution. Evelyn Nagy would like to introduce the resolution, seconded Connaught Cullen. AIF Tammy Hawk would like to suspend the rules due to the timing of the resolution and it be passed on emergency. Seconded Connaught Cullen. AIF

Connaught Cullen = Yes
Evelyn Nagy = Yes
Karla Dellinger = Yes
Mike Kraus = Yes
Tammy Hawk = Yes

Motion to adopt made by Connaught Cullen, Seconded by Evelyn Nagy. AIF

Ordinance 2023-10: Accepting the bid for sewer phase 1. Karla Dellinger would like to introduce the Ordinance, by Mike Kraus. AIF. Tammy Hawk suspended the rules and would like to declare the ordinance an emergency so that the bid can be accepting and the project can begin as soon as possible, seconded Karla Dellinger.

Connaught Cullen = Yes

Evelyn Nagy = Yes

Karla Dellinger = Yes

Mike Kraus = Yes

Tammy Hawk = Yes

Motion to adopt made by Evelyn Nagy, Seconded by Karla Dellinger. AIF

Resolution 2023-20: HAPCAP Application: This resolution is for the sewer project funding. Connaught Cullen would like to introduce the resolution, seconded by Mike Kraus. AIF. Tammy Hawk would like to suspend the rules and declare the resolution and emergency due to timing of the application. Seconded by Connaught Cullen.

Connaught Cullen = Yes

Evelyn Nagy = Yes

Karla Dellinger = Yes

Mike Kraus = Yes

Tammy Hawk = Yes

Motion to adopt Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Karla Dellinger.

NEW BUSINESS

We had inquired for a village resident to make Ellis and Monroe a 4-way stop instead of a 2-way stop. Village council and Mayor Renner does not know the reason why there was never a 4-way stop there. Council asked Chris what the cost is for a stop sign is. Chris stated that he doesn't think one cost more then \$100 but will check on it before next council meeting.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Chris gave the council member what the cost is to change the billing software. The cost for the software is \$15,000 and will run the village \$ 2,500.00 per year. This is the same company that Sunday Creek Water District uses. This is the same company that Citeo water recommends. We have two other software companies that we are waiting to hear from for a quote. Evelyn asked what the change would be. The bills will look a little different. It will take 3 months for the village to switch software.

Cloth Allowance: Chris and Christopher Jr. will go to Maxx's and get their clothing and they will send us an invoice.

Concrete has been taken out and replaced for the shelter house. ODNR paid for the concrete replacement.

The men's bathroom at the park is now working correctly.

The sign for the park (Trimble Brick) received the contract for it. They will be starting any time.

The sewer line keeps plugging over by Ellis. Nelsonville is coming first thing in the morning to unplug the line.

We will receive 4 more trash cans for the park for recycling.

Evelyn Nagy, is there a way to shut off the electricity in the park? I have noticed people charging their devices. Chris has shut off the electricity by the foot truck pad. There is electricity at the pavilion and shelter house. The cameras at the park is it being broadcast on Nelsonville TV Cable. No, they are not.

SOLICITOR REPORT

The litigation between 47 Main and the land bank, I have had several good conversations with the land bank attorney.

I've been working with Drew on some long-standing issues for years ago.

There has been a lot of talk about making changes to the zoning code. The planning commission will probably be making some recommendations after their October 4th meeting. They are doing a lot of work on the different issues that have been brought to them.

The Mayor did some work on an appeal in regards to the village.

Drew is doing the majority of the work on the violations in regards to our ordinances and resolutions.

MAYORS REPORT

Due to renewed interest in Zoning Code, the Planning Commission held a public forum on September 5 to collect input from residents. There were 20 residents present and 18 said that they did not want zoning. However, there was considerable input received about a dislike over certain sections in the zoning code and many noted the need for more enforcement over trash, grass, and junk as well as a need to have districts. The Planning Commission held a special

meeting on Sept. 7 for the purpose of Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, residents were also present to share additional input which was collected including an ask for Council to pause the zoning code or stop issuing citations and fines until the Planning Commission has time to review the code. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for October 4 at 5:30pm, location is still to be determined. The agenda for the meeting will be shared with the public in advance. This meeting will serve as a working meeting to make revisions to the zoning code to be submitted to Council for review at the October council meeting.

I have reached out to ODOT in regards to traffic control during Phase 1 of the project. I sent over some information to them. Once they take a look at everything they will get back to me.

ARPA funds need to be "obligated" by Sept. 30, 2024 so once a final cost is realized for the storage building we need to reevaluate to make sure everything has been obligated by that time.

There is an online survey at <https://forms.office.com/r/QyTsTYFcNr> that needs to be shared across Chauncey to help with transportation planning in the County if you can please fill it out and share with others.

Athens County Realtors Association: I'm waiting on further guidance on how to specifically do it but we will need to submit an invoice for \$7500 to the Athens County Realtors Association for the grant awarded to them to be used in Chauncey for economic development planning.

EPA Equipment Grant: We were awarded nearly \$10K in an equipment grant for our water department from the EPA. It is a reimbursable grant so we need to make the equipment purchases then submit for reimbursement. This needs to be done soon so I'll work with Chris and Jeff to get this going.

Library Update: The library will be posting a Request for Qualifications next month to hire design services for their new construction project on Converse. So far their timeline is looking like construction could begin by the end of 2024.

AMLER: There are some really interesting AMLER projects being submitted around Chauncey. One is between Chauncey & Millfield along Sunday Creek and this is their description "funding is for the Chauncey-Millfield Nature Preserve and Conservation Burial Cemetery on formerly mined land near Chauncey, Ohio in Athens County. Applicants are the Athens Conservancy in partnership with the Athens County Conservation Burial Association. The project includes construction of a small nature/spiritual center; trails; watercraft put-in; development of a natural burial ground; and wildlife conservation activities involving the conversion of coal mine openings for bat hibernacula. These initiatives will attract visitors, improve the expanding local tourism economy in an economically distressed area, create jobs, and meet a growing demand for more environmentally sound burial practices." The other project is part of Solid Ground Farm in Millfield to develop a community education center/farm to table cafe/market down on Barnes road. We hope to install a fishing/recreation lake for community use and to help expand our camp programming. We will also build hiking trails and an access road that connect

Barnes Rd to the farm, allowing us to mitigate the traffic on Liars Corner Rd. The woods are then going to be used for community economic development as we pilot a project to sustainably manage a forest to provide for local needs, while increasing forest health and fostering biodiversity. We think that by integrating education, recreation, production, and habitat restoration that we can demonstrate a non-extractive, sustainable community economic model for Appalachian forests. Pretty interesting projects and exciting to see so many creative ideas being sought after.

Baileys Research Project: An OU grad student and business owner from Amesville, John Wood, reached out because he is interested in investigating what barriers exist that prevent locals from benefiting economically from the increase in visitors. Ultimately he would like to know what questions he can investigate that the village feels is important as it relate to this topic. This would be for his Capstone research paper.

Invisible Ground: The augmented reality experience created by Invisible Ground to be placed at our park is nearing completion. There will be a sign made that explains the history and how to use their phones to see and hear the "experience".

Texas Eastern & Storage Building: I received a call from Riverside Towing asking if we'd consider advertising again to lease out Texas Eastern. I told them that option may depend on when the winning sewer contractor could start construction there but it's up to you all if you want to try this route again.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Connaught: Nothing

Mike: Does the sewer line run in the alleys or in the roads? The majority of our lines run in the road but the one we are having trouble with is on private property.

Karla: The budget, we need to have in the budget to buy a diffuser in 2024. This is to flush the fire hydrates. Chris will get the fiscal officers some prices. Holiday bonus for this year? Can we bring it earlier then later so there is not due for an emergency passing.

Tammy: The active transportation committee has been meeting every month. We have done a lot of walk studies.

Evelyn: Trick-or-treat? Setting a date? October 28th 5:30 – 7:00. Parks and rec meeting? There has not been a time or date set.

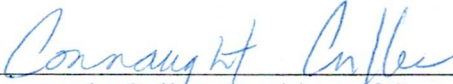
ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on October 11th, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Tammy Hawk at 8:28 pm, Karla Dellinger seconded. AIF

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

RECORDED BY



Connaught Cullen, President of Council



Kevin Simons, Fiscal Officer