

Village of Chauncey Council

April 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Tamara Hawk call the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL: Taken by Tamara Hawk

Seat 1 – Connaught Cullen, Present

Seat 2 – Debbie Gibson, Present

Seat 3 – Karla Dellinger, Present

Seat 4 – Evelyn Nagy, Absent

Seat 5 – Mike Kraus, Absent

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Tamara Hawk, President Pro Tem, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

APPROVAL OF BILLS/FISCAL OFFICER:

A motion to approve the bills was brought forward by Connaught Cullen and seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

Approve March Financial Reports, motion to approve presented by Dylan Skees, seconded by Debbie Gibson. All were in favor. Karla Dellinger expressed her appreciation at receiving them a few days prior for better review.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Approval of the March 13, 2025 was made by Connaught Cullen and seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Village had applied for Community Project Funding of \$750,000 through US Representative Troy Balderson's office to be used toward sewer replacement and was awarded the amount. They are no longer needed for the initial project and the hope was to use them toward repairs to the sewer plant and to stormwater drains throughout the village. Notification was sent that the funds had not passed in the legislature and the village was unable to change the use to the sewer plant project. The village will need to re-apply for the monies in the next cycle and intend to do so. Tammy will get the eligibility requirements and will work with Chris Russell and Bobby Fuller of DLZ to apply. Chris will also look into CDBG funding.

Preliminary work is being done on the storm drain improvement project. A representative and Chris Jr have been counting drains and shooting elevations for the design phase of the project. DLZ will provide the designs and project oversight. Funding for this project derives from monies not being utilized in Phase II of the sewer project and will be approximately \$2 million.

Projected start date for storm drain improvements is by the end of summer. It will begin on May Avenue and then Sycamore; areas with the most need and move on throughout the town.

The signatory at Hocking Valley Bank needs to be changed to include Tammy Hawk, President Pro Tem and withdraw former Mayor Amy Renner. A motion was brought forth by Karla Dellinger and seconded by Debbie Gibson to make those changes. All were in favor of the motion.

A Railroad Crossing Elimination Study has been performed and council was presented with the results. The study was done to improve the crossing on West Bailey and help with pedestrian traffic to the park. The goal of the study was to see if the village could eliminate the crossing for safer passage yet not disrupt the flood route entrance. There is a grant available that provides funding to eliminate railroad crossings.

There seven options given in the report but the first five were not viable due to cost and the impact to area homes. The last option was to do nothing.

Option 6 – Improve the existing crossing by raising Converse Street elevation to help with the deep dip that vehicles have to navigate. This option would disturb four acres surrounding the crossing and includes five properties. The advantages to this option are: the cost is minimal and the flood route would be preserved. Disadvantages include: pedestrian safety is poor and as there is no elimination of the crossing the grant would not be applicable and funding would need to come from another source.

Option 7 – Construct a new at-grade crossing in the more level area toward Village Hall and tie higher into the West Bailey route. Advantages of this option: funding could come from the grant as the current crossing would be eliminated and a walkway could be created for pedestrian safety. The disadvantages would a new road would need to be constructed and the water line would need to be relocated.

A special meeting will be held on April 24 at 6:00 pm in Village Hall to collect council's thoughts on the appropriate option. Feedback has been requested from the study company by May 5, 2025.

Tammy Hawk also suggested that the village look into funding for a sidewalk with a gate for bikes and pedestrians to the park. She had attended the Mayor's Partnership for Progress meeting where Mayor Patterson spoke of "Safe Routes for All" grants and feels this may be a great funding source to coincide with the crossing relocation or repair.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe is working on the Edward's easement to hopefully reach a conclusion. Mr. Edwards would appreciate expediency as he would like to have access to his property in order to place cabins for overnight stays.

He also reported that a letter should be written and sent to the lawyer of the resident who has contested the hang tag fee due to bankruptcy issues. The bankruptcy rule does not apply to this situation as the fee was placed post-bankruptcy filing.

The resident in the house being purchased by the village at 44 Converse Street needs to be allowed extra time to vacate. The solicitor suggests a one-month extension.

A public records request was made to the village for SOPEC documents. Solicitor Robe advised to hand over anything that the village has (barring anything with attorney/client information) to the law firm requesting the documents. Ways to provide the documents was discussed; email? Print? If providing printed copies, the village can charge for the copies and postage. The firm would be billed and payment would need to be made prior to the delivery of the documents.

He and Drew, the code enforcement officer, are working on the condemnation cases that are open. The house on 20 Smith Street was discovered to be listed on two parcels. A filing for both parcels will have to be made to proceed.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 2025-08 Special Election in November for the Mayor (2nd Reading). Dylan Skees presented the motion to approve the 2nd reading, seconded by Debbie Gibson. All were in favor.

Resolution 2025-09 Purchase of a New Village Dump Truck. A motion was made to table the resolution until the Fiscal Officer could be consulted by Dylan Skees. Karla Dellinger seconded the motion and all were in favor of the motion.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Tammy Hawk reported that she had attended the Mayor's Partnership for Progress meeting in McConnellsville. She learned of the "Safe Routes for All" grant and plans to apply for it in the future. Attendees were treated to a tour of Emergency Solutions Building and the guest speaker was the State Fire Marshall. He spoke of grants available to fire departments and trainings for fire personnel. Tammy encouraged those who are interested to look into becoming a volunteer fire department member and look into these offered trainings.

The mayor also expressed volunteers from council were needed to lead groups of people helping that day. It will be held on Saturday April 26, 2025.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Phase I of the sewer project is approaching completion and a punch list has been developed. Berming is almost complete. Chris Russell asked for input from council regarding areas that are in need of repair from the project. There is a one year warranty.

Connaught Cullen asked Chris about the paint for the Rainbow Bridge. It is for the paw prints that will be painted on the walkway leading up to and including the bridge. Chris said that he is ready to purchase it.

COUNCIL REPORT:

Karla Dellinger spoke of the Community Yard Sale to be held the first Saturday in June. The date this year will be June 7. She asked if it would be possible for people to set up in the park. Spaces of 12x12 will be marked for those interested. Priority will be given to residents that have their yard block from construction. More information will be available closer to the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Transportation and Utilities – Dylan Skees, chair Nothing to report

Planning and Development – Evelyn Nagy, chair Absent No report

Parks and Recreation – Connaught Cullen, chair

Connaught reported that the committee is finalizing plans for the Community Trail Celebration. Prizes for the scavenger hunt is needed along with food. Planned activities: Ames-Bern Ridge Rounders band, face painting, chalk art, scavenger hunt, foam party, balloon animals, and many other family activities.

Karla requested information from Chris regarding the stolen items from the park. She would like to recover them from the Athens County Sheriffs Department. She also asked about name tags for the Clean Up day volunteers. It was decided to not have them.

Finance and Personnel – Mike Kraus, chair Absent. Tammy Hawk requests the committee to update the employee handbook.

RESIDENT COMMENTS: No residents in attendance.

ADJOURN MEETING:

Connaught Cullen made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

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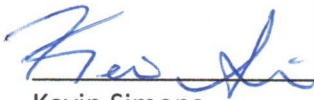
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Kevin Simons
Fiscal Officer



Evelyn Nagy
Council President