**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of The Regular Meeting

Held January 8, 2024, @ 7:00 P.M.

Council met in Regular session with Brad Bohland, Lora Lyons, Annette Danner, Jason Hower, Nancy Speice, and Jennifer Zartman present. Allen Wobler was absent.

Guests Present: Police Chief Rodney Miller, Fire Chief Jesse Hefner, EMS Coordinator Travis Zartman, EMT Bill Lyons and Street Department employee Randy Miller. Present via Zoom were Development Director Leah Grossman and Development Nilanjana Bhattacharya from Cultivate Power. Present via telephone was Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey to listen to and participate in the Cultivate Power discussion.

The Minutes from the December 18, 2023 meeting were read. Councilwoman Zartman a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lyons welcomed Development Manager Nilanjana Bhattacharya and Development Director Leah Grossman from Cultivate Power. Via Zoom, they presented a proposal for a non-exclusive community solar easement. They are seeking permission for a 25 foot wide electrical easement to interconnect to AEP’s line on County Road 55 on parcel number 17-36S015-00 (Village Lagoon location). The proposed site for a 5 MW solar project is at 6747 County Road 82. The proposed terms include a non-exclusive easement for the duration of the useful life of the solar project (up to 35 years), a five year option period with annual option payments and one time payment upon start of construction. The representatives from Cultivate Power stated that a typical payment for this type of project would be $1,500.00 for 5 years and $5,000.00 when the project actually starts equaling a total of $12,500.00. Mayor Lyons assured Cultivate Power that Council will discuss the proposal and contact Cultivate Power with questions. The representatives from Cultivate Power stated that they would like a decision as soon as possible.

Mayor Lyons recommended that Jason Hower be appointed to the open Council seat. Councilwoman Speice made a motion to appoint Jason Hower to the open seat. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**EMS: EMS Coordinator Zartman** was present and reported the following to Council:

1. There has been one run this month.
2. Katelyn Strickler has completed the necessary runs to receive her second $250.00 bonus.
3. Zachary Manfield has moved from Payne and has resigned as an EMT and Firefighter. Councilwoman Danner made a motion to accept Zachary Manfield’s resignation. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Coordinator Zartman stated that he is stepping down as EMS Coordinator at the end of January. He will remain on the Fire/EMS Department as an EMT and Firefighter. He informed Council that they are accepting applications for a new Coordinator and plan to have a recommendation for a replacement at the next meeting on January 22, 2024.

**Fire Department: Chief Hefner** was present and reported the following to Council:

1. There has been one run this month.
2. Veronica Willams has completed the six-month period Council suggested to see if she would be able to attend meetings and trainings. Chief Hefner stated that she did attend the meetings and trainings as required. He said if Council approves Veronica to continue in firefighter training, she will need fire gear. After a discussion, Councilwoman Danner made a motion to approve Veronica Williams for firefighter training. Councilman Hower seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Police Department:** **Police Chief Miller** was presentreported the following to Council:

1. Police Officer Brandon Shuherk has been getting quotes for the security improvements to the entrance of the Village Hall. The quotes should be available for the next meeting on January 22, 2024.

**Street:** **Mayor Lyons and Street employee Randy Miller** reported the following to Council:

1. A quote has been received for $8,980.00 from Tawa Tree Mulch and Landscape Supply to grind the bush pile, load/haul brush grindings and haul leaves. They are available to do the work in February. Mayor Lyons and Randy Miller stated that the Village of Antwerp paid $15,000.00 to have their mulching done. Go Green was also contacted for a quote. They only provided a verbal quote of approximately $6,000.00 to $7,000.00. Councilwoman Danner made a motion to have Tawa Tree Mulch and Landscape Supply complete the grinding and hauling for a cost of $8,980.00. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Mayor Lyons suggested stocking the Village Park pond with fish. She will contact Remilinger Fish Farm for a quote.
3. Mayor Lyons reported that Fairfield Avenue resident, Jason Bauer, has asked for a street light to be added to Fairfield Avenue because the area is dark and they have experienced some vandalism. Mayor Lyons stated she will contact AEP.

**Zoning: Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Two new members are needed for the Zoning Committee. Deb Brigner is interested in serving on the committee and will attend the next meeting on January 22, 2024.
2. Mayor Lyons informed Council that Tony Gonzales has resigned as Zoning Inspector. Councilwoman Zartman made a motion to accept Tony Gonzales’ resignation. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Mayor Lyons reported that she has interviewed Dave Mielke and Kenny Slade for the position of Zoning Inspector. She recommended Kenny Slade for the position. Councilman Hower made a motion to hire Kenny Slade as the Zoning Inspector. Councilman Bohland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports:** There were no Committee Reports.

**Correspondence Letters:** There were no Correspondence Letters.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Mayor Lyons provided Council with a list of improvements for the Village Park to including picnic tables, walking path exercise equipment, playground equipment, improvements to the walking path and improvement to the pavilion. Mayor Lyons asked Council to review the improvements and cost for future discussion.
2. Mayor Lyons informed Council that the tops are on the pavilions or sun shades being constructed by Johnny Schwartz for the Nature Works Grant. This project should be completed soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mayor Lyons informed Council that she and Fiscal Officer Rhonda Stabler would look to see if the two easements the Village gave AEP for the Haviland-Payne line in 2022 were non-exclusive easements so that Council has that information for the future discussion of the Cultivate Power proposal.
2. Mayor Lyons stated that the Palmer Energy contract expires in May 2024. She has spoken to Amy Hoffman who is preparing rates for a new contract with the Village.
3. Mayor Lyons provided examples of resident surveys from the Villages of Holgate and Montpelier for Council to review. These surveys are to help Villages identify and prioritize needed community improvements.
4. Mayor Lyons provided Council with the 2024 Agreement for Provision of Fire-Fighting and Emergency Medical Services for Benton and Harrison Townships. Councilman Hower made a motion to approve and sign the agreement. Councilwoman Zartman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
5. Mayor Lyons asked for nominations for Council President for 2024. Councilwoman Zartman nominated Councilwoman Danner. Councilman Hower nominated Councilwoman Speice. Mayor Lyons called for a vote for Councilwoman Danner. Councilwoman Zartman voted yes and Councilman Bohland voted yes. Mayor Lyons called for a vote for Councilwoman Speice. Councilman Hower voted yes. Councilwomen Speice and Danner abstained. Councilwoman Danner is the Council President for 2024. Mayor Lyons stated that the Village Committees will remain the same for 2024 with Councilman Bohland replacing former Councilman Wannemacher.
6. Mayor Lyons introduced Resolution 2024-A, a resolution to authorize the Village of Payne, Paulding County, State of Ohio, to enter into an contract with Benton Township to provide fire protection and emergency ambulance service for Benton Township and to declare an emergency. Councilwoman Zartman made a motion to suspend the rules. Councilwoman Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. President of Council, Danner, read Resolution 2024-A. Councilwoman Speice made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-A. Councilman Hower seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
7. Mayor Lyons introduced Resolution 2024-B, a resolution to authorize the Village of Payne, Paulding County, State of Ohio, to enter into a contract with Harrison Township to provide fire protection and emergency ambulance service for Harrison township and to declare an emergency.. Councilwoman Zartman made a motion to suspend the rules. Councilwoman Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. President of Council, Danner, read Resolution 2024-B. Councilwoman Speice made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-B. Councilman Hower seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
8. Mayor Lyons informed Council that Payne resident Jeff Tempel would like to purchase some of the old water meters. Mayor Lyons suggested a selling price of $6.60 per meter. Councilwoman Zartman made a motion to sell old water meters to Jeff Tempel for the selling price of $6.60 each. Councilwoman Danner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
9. Mayor Lyons asked Council to allow the Village to use the West Bend News as the primary newspaper for printing necessary items. Councilwoman Danner made a motion to use the West Bend New as the primary newspaper for the Village. Councilwoman Speice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**BPA: Mayor Lyons** reported the following to Council:

1. Water and Sewer Superintent Brant Heck is working with the the EPA on compliance issues. Kleinfelder has been contacted to see if any previous plans exist for the corrections.
2. There will be a catch up meeting with Jones and Henry regarding the Water Treatment Plans on Friday January 12, 2024.

**Good and Welfare:**

1. Mayor Lyons and Council would like to recognize and thank all Village employees, Police Officers and the Fire/EMS Department for their hardwork and dedication to make 2023 a successful year.

Councilman Hower made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented by the Fiscal Officer. Councilman Bohland seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Speice moved to approve the payment of bills presented, Councilwoman Zartman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further matters to discuss, Councilwoman Danner made a motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Speice seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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Mayor Lora Lyons Fiscal Officer Rhonda Stabler