Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 06/18/2024

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Members present were President Pro-Temp Brandon Myers, Donna Mullins, Chris Steiner, Heather Craft, Hope Hoard and Steve Booker.

Visitors: Police Chief Mark Wysong, Fire Chief Justin Saunders, Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips were all present, Excused from the meeting Street and Water Commissioner Wendell Harleman.

Mayor Shawna Newsom asked for approval of minutes from May 21, 2024 meeting, Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Shawna Newsom asked for approval of minutes from Special Meeting June 10, 2024 meeting, Donna Mullins motioned, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Resolution #2006 A Resolution Authorizing The Fiscal Officer Of The Village of Phillipsburg To Advance Funds From The General Fund To The Fire Fund, declaring An emergency. Donna Mullins motioned, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Brandon Myers asked Justin when our next check is coming in from Clay Township. Justin stated that we should be receiving a small one in July for about $12,000, the big check will come in September. Brandon asked how much money is needed to get us through the year, Justin stated that we barely get enough funds from Clay Township to cover the payroll. Michelle Phillips stated that we receive money from our ambulance runs but we have not received a payment from Change Healthcare since February. Michelle explained that the company got hacked and they have not billed any runs since March. Justin stated that he has 60 runs sitting out on their site waiting to be billed, he explained that we receive an average of $400.00 per run and that we collect what the insurance bills. Michelle asked Justin if he could reach out to the Emergency Network Services and ask if they could bill us monthly or quarterly.

Fire Chief, Justin Saunders – Justin stated that effective June 1, 2024 Matt Rhoades resigned his position as Assistant Fire Chief but will remain on the department as a part time firefighter, EMT. Justin also stated that on May27 the brush truck was taken out of service for mechanical issues. Justin stated that Firefighter Nate Davis purchased and donated a flat bed for the brush truck. Justin stated that the Firefighters did all the work and it's back in service today. Justin stated that he was submitting his letter of resignation. Justin stated that effective July 30, 2024 he will no longer be under the Fire Chief agreement but he will stay on as a part time hourly Fire Chief unless something changes and we could discuss and hourly rate at a later date.

Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips – Michelle asked for a motion to approve appropriation reallocations for April and June 2024. Michelle asked for a motion to approve and pay the village's annual insurance policy in the amount of $38,849.00, the renewal is about $1,200 cheaper than last year by increasing the

deductibles from $500.00 to $1000.00. Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Michelle stated that the Fire fund is very low, Chris Steiner asked if we could get any grants, Justin stated that you cannot receive grants for payroll and the fire fighter wages are already on the low end. Mayor Shawna Newsom stated that the fire contract with Clay Township is up at the end of this year and she was planning on taking the village solicitor to Clay Township to negotiate a new contract and is hoping to get a contract with yearly increases. Shawna also stated that she wanted to talk to Clay Township about putting a fire levy on the November ballot and see if the voters would pass it.

Chief of Police, Mark Wysong – Chief Wysong stated that he took a trip to Verona to check out the speed pole signs they have mounted, he looked at them and found that Elancity makes them. Mark stated that he reached out to the company for a quote for 4 units at $12,000.00/$3,000.00 per unit. The units would be mounted on the east and west ends of Main Street and on the north and south ends of State Route 49. The speed signs are solar powered and have data collection. Hope Hoard asked if there would be any monthly fees and if they could write tickets from the data collected. Mark stated that no monthly fees are required and they cannot write tickets from the data, the only way to write a ticket is to have a physical officer present. Mark stated that the Police would pay for 2 signs and Mayor Newsome stated that Street would pay for the other 2 signs. Steve Booker stated that he sat in Potsdam near their speed sign and observed people still speeding through the town he stated that it doesn't seem to be doing the job of slowing people down. Mayor Newsom asked if we voted today, would it pass. Steve Booker stated that he would be in favor of 2 speed signs but not sure where we would put them. Mark stated that he would need to contact the company to see how much it would cost for 2 signs since the quote is discounted for purchasing 4 signs. Hope Hoard asked if they could do more research about the pole mounted speed signs before they vote. Mayor Newsome agreed. Steve Booker made the motion to table the vote on purchasing the pole mounted speed signs until next meeting, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Mark stated that he has been in contact and coordinating with Don Perkins about a firearms training session at the range to be compliant with their annual requalification's.

Zoning, Mark Wysong – Chief Wysong stated that he had his 3rd meeting with Joe Johnston Architect for Vic about building the new convenience store, gas station located behind the current store. Chief Wysong stated he looked for zoning codes and gave him a report of 6 or 7 items that need to be up to code. The drive thru will be on the Main St. side, the south state street entrance will be no more since its been slowing down the traffic on State Route 49, there will be additional parking, truck parking and trailer parking. One issue that we have is the drive thru lane has to be on the property that it services and they will be on separate parcels, I made the recommendations to combine the parcels to make one parcel or reconfigure the drive thru and with the small space it will not work. Vic is going through the process with Montgomery County to combine the two parcels into one parcel. Chief Wysong stated that he has been doing some follow up on some properties and is getting ready to send out 2nd notices, he's been busy with the zoning with the new station. Heather Craft asked what the process is in sending out the notices. Chief Wysong explained the process of sending out zoning letters. Chief Wysong was asked who purchased the school he stated it was sold at sheriff's sale May 17 he spoke with the gentleman about zoning information and stated that Mayor Newsom and Nicki spoke to him. Mayor Newsom stated that she told him they were in violation with zoning with the grass and the village is going to mow it and charge them and assess the taxes.

Wendell Harleman, Street /Water Commissioner – Not present, excused absence.

Donna Mullins, Finance – Donna Mullins made a motion to approve and pay bills, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by Unanimous vote.

Chris Steiner, Streets – Nothing new to discuss.

Steve Booker – Steve asked Chief Wysong if he found out about the zoning for bees. Chief Wysong stated that he could not find anything in our local codes about bees. The Village prohibits agriculture animals but nothing about bees.

Heather Craft, Fire – Nothing new to discuss.

Hope Hoard, Park – Hope stated that Mayor Newsom sent her a list of things to work on for the park, for grants to see if we qualify. Hope stated that Wendell put a new AC in the Hunters Club. Hope stated that she is in the process of finding someone to paint and strip and wax the floors in the Hunters Club to make the place look nice. Hope stated that she rented it for her son's graduation party and the blinds would not open and they need replaced. She will be getting some prices. Hope stated that Cassie is requesting the maximum occupancy for the rental building. Chief Saunders stated that he would take some measurements and let her know. Hope asked if you need to be licensed or bonded to paint and strip and wax the floors. Mayor Newsom stated that anyone can do the work. Hope asked about getting rid of the back ball diamonds, Mayor Newsom stated that we are keeping the babe ruth diamond but we can get rid of the other two diamonds and sell or donate the fence and bleachers. The goal is to bring the playground equipment closer to the building.

Brandon Myers, Police/Zoning – Brandon stated that he would like to hire Ben to do some training on running a meeting properly, Sunshine Laws and Robert's Rules. He would like to include the water board in on these trainings. All councils members agreed and would like the training. Brandon handed out an informational explanation of how the levy is calculated, 4 mil is $4.00 on every $1,000.00 value on your home and a paper on how the taxes are broken down. Brandon stated that we currently have 15 mil total of all our levies right now.

Mayor Shawna Newsom – Mayor Newsom stated the importance of the General Operating Levy and that the General Fund is the only fund that can loan any other fund money and we need a cushion if something major breaks or happens. Mayor Newsom stated for Kay to note in the paper that she wanted Chief Wysong to go over the golf cart regulations in town so she can put them in the newspaper. Mayor Newsom asked Kay to note in the newspaper a Thank you to Nate Davis for donating the flat bed for the brush truck. Mayor Newsom stated that we cannot go into executive session to discuss employee job descriptions and that we can have a working session to discuss employee job descriptions. All council members agreed.

Hearing from public: Sara Shaw stated that 20 E. Popular Street had been vacant for year and the weeds are taller than her house, at least 6 feet tall. She stated that she looked up the property because she was

interested in purchasing it but too much in back taxes is owed. Chief Wysong stated that he would send out a letter to the property owner.

Keith Koontz, Water Board stated that he wanted to know what happened to the speed trailer the town used to have, Chief Wysong stated that it needed a new battery and he would send Wendell to get one. Keith also wanted to make council aware of the water problems that's going to be very expensive, Mayor Newsom told the council to come to the water board meetings to understand. Keith stated the cost of the design phase is $888,000.00, we already paid $49,000.00 for the engineer that we hope to get back, construction phase $8,000,000.00 and we can maybe get a grant for 70% of that, who will loan us $3,000,000.00 with no way of paying it back. Hope asked what's the alternative, Keith stated that he didn't know and trying to figure it out. Mayor Newsom told Keith that is not a topic for today's meeting. Keith said they are the law makers and he wanted to make them aware. Mayor Newsom said they have been told about the water meetings, the dates are listed on the board in the council room and on the door of the offices.

Continuing Business: None

New Business: None

Donna made a motion to adjourn at 8:38pm, Brandon Myers 2nd, All unanimous vote.

Mayor: Shauna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Michelle Phillips