Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 07/16/2024

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, Street and Water Commissioner Wendell Harleman and Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips were all present,

Mayor Shawna Newsom asked for approval of minutes from June 18, 2024, meeting, Hope Hoard motioned, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Resolution #2007 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. Hope Hoard motioned, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Resolution #2008 A Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Approve Amendment No. 1, An Agreement Between The Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio And Wessler Engineering, Inc. For Water Treatment System Improvements, and declaring an emergency. Hope Hoard motioned, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Resolution #2005 A Resolution Of Necessity To Levy A New 3 Mill Tax Levy In Excess Of The Ten-Mill Limitations For The General Fund For the Purpose Of Meeting Current Expenses In The General Fund In The Village Of Phillipsburg, Ohio Pursuant To Ohio Revised Code (R.C. 5705.03, 5705.191, 5705.192. And 5705.25), declaring an emergency. Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Steve Booker – yes, Chris Steiner – yes, Heather Craft – yes, Hope Hoard – no, Donna Mullins – yes, Brandon Myers – yes, resolution passed.

Mayor Shawna Newsom – Mayor Newsom stated that council needs to vote on having two council meetings each month. Hope Hoard motioned, Heather Craft 2nd, Steve Booker – no, Chris Steiner – no, Heather Craft – yes, Hope Hoard – yes, Donna Mullins – yes, Brandon Myers – no, vote is tied, Mayor Shawna Newsom Tiebreaker – yes, passed to have two meetings a month. Mayor Shawna Newsom stated that we will be taking down the fence along Brookville Phillipsburg Rd. For Kay – The dumpsters at the Community Center and Hunters Club are not for resident use, the fire pit located at the Hunters Club is for burning wood only not furniture. Mayor Shawna Newsom stated that Browns Nursery came out and mulched the gazebo and she is working on getting a new sign put up.

Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips – Michelle asked for a motion to approve appropriation reallocations for June and July 2024. Donna Mullins motioned, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by unaninmous vote. Michelle stated that the Village started receiving payments for the ambulance runs, we have received over

$8,000.00 in payments so far, Michelle also stated that she received a letter from The Ohio Department of Public Safety approving us for the Eclipse Grant we will receive 75% of the total cost of $998.00 for the extra labor needed on Eclipse Day.

Wendell Harleman, Street /Water Commissioner – Wendell stated that he purchased some cold patch to fix Milan Road, he has done some work on the Tennis Courts, they're in bad shape, ball diamonds are in bad shape too, we want to keep the Babe Ruth diamond.

Chief of Police, Mark Wysong – Chief Wysong stated that the proposal to purchase the speed signs was tabled at the last meeting. Mark stated that he asked for an extension on the quote he received and Elan City extended the quote to July 31, 2024, the discount was based on purchasing four signs, the price for purchasing two signs is $7,200.00. He received some feed back on what difference the signs make, the average is about a 40% reduction in speeders within 30-60 days, the data collection will show what times of the day that people are speeding the most and we can focus on traffic enforcement around those times. Chris Steiner asked about utilizing the current speed trailer we own, Mayor Shawna Newsom stated that the speed trailer must be moved with the Village's vehicles which none have a hitch, in the past Mark had been moving the speed trailer with his personal vehicle. Mayor Shawna Newsom stated that if the speed trailer is moved with personal vehicles they will not be covered by insurance. Heather Craft suggested we purchase speed bumps, Chris Steiner stated that the plastic speed bumps break down over time and do not work. Brandon Myers motioned to purchase four pole mounted speed signs, Donna Mullins 2nd, Steve Booker – no, Chris Steiner – yes, Heather Craft – yes, Hope Hoard – no, Donna Mullins – yes, Brandon Myers – Yes, passed to purchase four speed pole mounted signs.

Zoning, Mark Wysong – Chief Wysong stated that he has mailed out 6-8 letters in regards to zoning issues with a combination of 1st and 2nd notices, so far only one letter has been picked up, Mark stated that he will hand deliver two of the letters because they refuse to pick up. Heather Craft asked Mark to explain the process of sending out letters, Mark stated that the first letter is the statement to correct, he gives them 7-10 days to respond, 2nd letter is the statement to correct, he gives them 7-10 days to respond, then the final is to file the violation in Municipal Court. Mark stated that the current zoning code book needs updated, we need a Zoning Appeals Committee and a Planning Commission.

Fire Chief, Justin Saunders – Justin stated that Matt Rhoades has resigned and thanked him for his 11 ½ years of service and that he has received six resignation letters in the past month, McCall Milby effective 6/19/24, Jack Saunders 7/5/24, Ben Norrod 7/22/24, Mark Wysong Jr. 7/26/24, Megan Vaughn 7/30/24 and Joel Seitz 7/31/24. Fire Chief Justin Saunders gave his letter of resignation to be effective 7/30/24. Fire Chief Justin Saunders recommends Chris Rohwer for the interim Fire Chief position. Steve Booker motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, all approved by unanimous vote.

Brandon Myers, Police/Zoning – Brandon stated that he has asked Ben at Coolidge Wall to send us the policy on emails between council members. Brandon is still working on getting council members their own village emails and a new village website. The cost for the mail .gov is approximately $10-$20 per user per month, which is expensive, he is still looking for cheaper options. Brandon asked council when they would like to have a training session with Ben on how to conduct meetings, sunshine laws and Robert's Rules. Council all agreed to have a training session on August 7th @ 6:00pm.

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

Hope Hoard, Park – Hope stated that she is currently working on getting some new playground equipment, looking into getting grants for it. She has reached out to Playworld to get a price for an inclusion playground, Hope stated that she has been talking with Jack from Brookville and he has had lots of recommendations and pointers. Hope is having several companies come out an give us some pricing. She stated that she will start applying for grants when they open in January and in spring, hoping to get 100% grant but most grants will require us to pay a percentage of the total. Hope complained about the weeds at the park and at the ball diamonds, Mayor Newsom stated that she has donated an hour of her time each week to work on cutting the weeds down. Hope stated that she's working on getting pricing for some new blinds at the Hunters Club and pricing for stripping and waxing the floors, if it exceeds $750.00 she will need to get council approval. Hope asked if the old playground equipment can be sold on marketplace, Mayor Newsom stated that it can be but we need to have an invoice for the sale of the old equipment. Hope stated that Wendell was able to install the new AC at the Hunters Club and asked about his job description, Mayor Newsom stated that Wendell's job description comes from the Ohio Revised Code and he is spread thin and is part time. Mayor Newsom suggested getting seasonal help for Wendell in the summer she explained that if we would hire someone part time at minimum wage of $10.45 and they worked 20 hours per week would be $10,800 yearly. This is something to look into for next summer. Hope stated that the Chief of Police's job description states that he is to patrol 30 hour per week, Mayor Newsom explained that with Mark's current salary if he worked 30 hours each week his hourly rate would be $9.18 per hour and that is illegal to pay less than minimum wage, suggesting that we revise his job description. Mayor Newsom stated that Mark patrols 4-8 hours per week and Michelle stated that Mark also puts in administrative hours weekly. Mayor Newsom stated that Mark doesn't make what he most other Police Chiefs make and that he hasn't had a raise since 1992 which needs looked at.

Chris Steiner, Streets – Nothing new to discuss.

Steve Booker – Nothing new to discuss.

Heather Craft, Fire – Nothing new to discuss.

Hearing from public: William S. stated that he would like to see if the town can take down a bent stop sign near his property and he has a complaint about 15 Elm St, the back yard is overgrown, 2 cars have been sitting in the driveway for over 5 years, an old couch has been sitting outside for years he states that is a health hazard. Mayor Newsom stated that is one of the properties we have recently sent a letter out to. We are working on addressing these issues.

Continuing Business: None

New Business: None

Brandon made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm, Donna Mullins 2nd, All unanimous vote.

Mayor: Shawna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Michelle Phillips