Village of Phillipsburg, Ohio

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 10/15/2024

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Visitors: Interim Fire Chief Chris Rohwer, Street and Water Commissioner Wendell Harleman, Police Chief Mark Wysong and Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips were all present.

Mayor Shawna Newsom spoke to the Village Solicitor and public recordings are allowed in the galley but speaking while video taping is a disruption and can be grounds for removal from the meeting.

Approval of minutes from September 17, 2024 meeting, Donna Mullins motioned, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of Resolution #2017 A Resolution Authorizing The Fiscal Officer Of The Village Of Phillipsburg To Advance Funds Back From The Fire Fund to the General Fund, declaring an emergency. Brandon Myers motioned, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Shawna Newsom stated that she would like the department heads to have their employees fill out the emergency contact forms that she passed out and it was optional to council if they wanted to fill them out, turn them into Michelle when they are completed. Mayor Newsom stated that leaf pickup will begin at the end the of this week or the first of next week and will continue until the first snow. Mayor Newsom said she would like council to review the Village Holiday schedule, the village is not observing several of the federal holidays. If the firefighters work they are not getting double time for holiday pay, she told council we currently observe New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, not approved are Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Juneteenth, Columbus Day and Veterans Day. Mayor Newsom is asking to approve all of them or some of them, she would like Veterans Day approved. Council agreed to approve Veterans Day, Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Brandon Myers asked if they should re vote for Veterans Day since some council members did not want to approve any other days. Donna Mullins said to keep Veterans Day, Chris Steiner said to keep Veterans Day, all council agreed to keep Veterans Day without a re vote. Mayor Newsom wanted to let the Department Heads know that their budgets are due in January.

Fiscal Officer Michelle Phillips – Michelle asked for approval for appropriation reallocations for September and October 2024. Donna Mullins motioned, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Wendell Harleman, Street /Water Commissioner – Wendell asked for approval for $280.00 for the yearly traffic light inspection, he also needs approval for $1,072.00 to get the new "No Turn On Red" signs installed. Heather Craft stated that she can read the signs, Wendell said two of the signs are really faded and need replaced and its cheaper to replace all four signs. The signs have already been made and Security would come out and hang the signs, they use a lift truck and have to block the traffic. Donna Mullins motioned for $280.00 to get the traffic light inspection, Hope Hoard 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Donna Mullins motioned for $1,072.00 to hang the new signs at the traffic light, Steve Booker 2nd, Steve Booker yes, Chris Steiner yes, Heather Craft no, Hope Hoard yes, Donna Mullins yes, Brandon Myers yes, Approved by majority vote.

Chief of Police, Mark Wysong – Nothing new to discuss

Zoning, Mark Wysong – Nothing new to discuss

Donna Mullins, Finance – Donna Mullins asked for a motion to approve and pay bills, Hope Hoard motioned, Brandon Myers 2nd, Approved by Unanimous vote. Donna Mullins stated that there is a big tree down at 33 E. Main St., she has talked to both parties and 33 E. Main St. wants us to take the tree down and assess her taxes, Mayor Newsom reached out to our Attorney Ben and he said we're responsible for taking the tree down because its in the right of way laying on the sidewalk and we should assess her taxes for the cost of taking the tree down. It's the homeowners responsibility to maintain it. The homeowner at 33 E. Main Street stated the tree was tagged by the village to be taken down years ago and that the Mayor never notified her that the tree was not going to be taken down by the town. Donna Mullins stated that she was the one who tagged the tree in 2021, they were told the Village was responsible for taking down the trees so she called General Tree and they told Donna that the tree was dead and hollow inside. Donna was told by zoning that the Village is not responsible for taking the tree down it was the homeowners responsibility. Donna received four estimates for the removal of the tree with the lowest at $4,000. The homeowner of 33 E. Main St. stated that she received an estimate for $14,000 and that she does not have the money, we would have to assess her taxes, she applied for a loan and she said had she known the tree was hollow she would have had it taken down years ago. She also said that the property owner of the house the tree fell on has filed a claim with her insurance company and she cannot touch the tree until she hears from the insurance company. Donna Sole, Grandmother of Santina owner of the house the tree fell on said that her Granddaughters house is for sale and the tree needs to be gone and the insurance says they're not responsible for the tree because its an act of god. Council agreed to follow the advice of the Village Attorney and to remove the tree and assess the property taxes. Donna Mullins said that Tate's Tree Service estimate is the cheapest at $4,000. Brandon Myers motioned to approve for Tate's Tree Service to take down the tree and assess the property taxes on the advice by the Village Attorney, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Re vote on a motion, Donna Mullins motioned We are going to pay for the tree to be removed and assess the property taxes unless Jill has the money upfront and can pay for it, Hope Hoard 2nd, approved by unanimous vote. Donna will be the contact and have the tree removed.

Fire Chief Chris Rohwer – Fire Chief Chris Rohwer needs approval to hire Firefighter/EMT Raymond Denniston, he has several years experience, employed by Arcanum and Union City. Hope Hoard asked how many he currently has on the roster, Chief Rohwer said he has 23 currently and a, good roster would be 30, he said the Fire Department has had staffing issues for years. He would like approval to hire

Raymond Denniston at $14.00/hour. Donna Mullins motioned, Brandon Myers 2nd , Approved by unanimous vote. Chief Rohwer gave an update on Emergency Networking, he said that the Village Attorney said there is no easy way out of the contract, however we are still having lots of issues Chief Rohwer is sending a list to Ben the Village Attorney so he can send them a breach of contract letter, they will have 30 days to fix the entire list of issues or we will file for termination of contract. He will contact ESO when the termination of contract letter is sent. Chief Rohwer needs approval for the MOU for the staff car, Pitsburg Council members approved it, MOU states shared cost of maintenance and fuel 50/50, Village of Pitsburg 50% and Village of Phillipsburg 50%, if an accident occurs causing damage while in use for Pitsburg they will have to pay the $1,000 deductible, Ben the village attorney drafted the MOU. Chief Rohwer stated that the terms of terminating the contract is 30 days. Chris Steiner motioned, Steve Booker 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Chief Rohwer stated they have been training with Martin Marietta, and they would like to donate two 12' x 40' trailers to be used for fire training. The issue is where to place the trailers, some suggestions were Jesse Haines Way and near Well #3, the location must be accessible for the fire apparatus. Chief Rohwer stated that we would use the trailers for weekly and monthly trainings. Donna Mullins motioned to table this until they can figure out the locations to place the trailers, Brandon Myers motioned, Approved by unanimous vote. Chief Rohwer wants to declare some items for surplus, 2100 gallon dump tank, old cot from old medic, 3 ventilation fans that have been sitting for several years, old cardiac monitor, stair chair and an attic ladder all declared surplus property to be sold. The money will go into the fire fund. Steve Booker motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Chief Rohwer stated that we have received a State Grant for $3,711.06, we have to purchase and pay for the items up front and the grant will reimburse us as long as we spend within $300.00 of the amount awarded, they will be using the grant to replace some items on the ambulance, the items have been ordered and he spent $151.88 over the grant. Chief Rohwer is asking for approval for the purchase. Brandon Myers motioned, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Chief Rohwer received some quotes for replacing the medic and some financing options, new medics cost $284,000 - $389,000, he looked at used and remounts medics those can be $175,000 - $200,000. Chief Rohwer stated that he is getting quotes for contracts for drug testing on new hires and background checks. Chief Rohwer asked for approval to purchase a front door handle lock at the fire station, he found out that someone still has a master key to the door. He would like to get digital locks this would be cheaper than to re key the lock. He wants to purchase one at Lowe's and install it, use digital codes to enter, there will only be 1 master key that the Chief will have, he also needs a new door lock for the captains office. Chief Rohwer asked for approval of $200 - $250 for a new lock, Mayor Newsom stated that as long as its under $750, he does not need approval. Chief Rohwer asked for approval for a shifted rotation schedule, staffing 5 individuals for shifted rotation, they would work 24 hours on, 48 hours off, shifted rotation personnel would receive an extra $1.00/hour, this would be an incentive to pick up the shifted rotation, he is asking for approval for 48 hours of PTO time per year if working shifted rotation, so if the work 2,900 hours a year they would receive the PTO of 48 hours. Chief Rohwer stated that we must staff the fire house with 2 people 24/7. He is asking for approval for the PTO for shifted personnel, they will not receive the quarterly stipends now since they received an increase in their hourly rate. They asked Fiscal Officer Michelle if fire could afford it, she stated that the fire cannot afford anything and that she will be borrowing from the General Fund again next month. Chief Rohwer stated that the increase in ALS Billing will help offset the increases. Chris Steiner motioned, Donna Mullins 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote. Chief Rohwer stated that if a person works 96 hours and picks up an additional shift instead of paying

them overtime he would like to give them the additional hours in PTO time. Donna Mullins motioned, Chris Steiner 2nd, Approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Shawna Newsome stated that we will have two meetings in November, November 5th and November 19th.

Fire House Chicken Dinner will be November 3rd, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm, they will be selling presale tickets and will only have a few extra tickets available on the day of the dinner.

Brandon Myers, Police/Zoning – Nothing new to discuss

Hope Hoard, Park – Nothing new to discuss

Chris Steiner, Streets – Chris stated that he can use 3" diameter poles to install the speed signs.

Heather Craft, Fire – Nothing new to discuss

Steve Booker – Nothing new to discuss

Hearing from the public –

Continuing Business: None

New Business: None

Hope Hoard made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 pm, Chris Steiner 2nd, All unanimous vote.

Mayor: Shawna Newsom

Fiscal Officer: Michelle Phillips