

Village of Lima Board Meeting

August 8, 2023

Present: John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees Joshua Petraitis, John Wadach, Carolyn Fleming

Others Present: Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Jane Radomski, Deputy Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief; Steve McGrath, Fire Chief; Charlie Floeser, CEO

Absent: Larry Teta, WWTP Operator; Elissa Sackett, Clerk

Guests: Mabel Storke; Steve Warner

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order by Mayor Skiptunas at 7pm Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion

A motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Trustee Carolyn Fleming to approve meeting minutes from July 25, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Guests

Mabel Storke addressed the Board with concerns regarding her 2023 Village Tax Bill. Ms. Storke requested that the Board waive her late penalty as she never received an original bill, and the 2nd notice was not received in a timely manner.

Motion

A motion was made by Trustee Petraitis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith to approve the waiving of the penalty for Ms. Storke's 2023 Village Taxes. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Steve McGrath, Fire Chief

Chief McGrath presented the Board with 2 new applications. Daniel Proctor has his B CDL and is interested in becoming a fire police official. Carolyn Merced is an EMS coming from our ambulance crew.

Motion

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to approve Daniel Proctor and Carolyn Merced as new members of the Lima Volunteer Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief McGrath gave an update regarding the progress of purchasing a new fire truck. The design of exhaust systems on new trucks is changing. It will be at least 2 years before they even take new orders. There are some used fire trucks available, however, they do not meet the chief's needs.

Mayor Skiptunas requested that Chief McGrath, along with the Board members, invite all fellow fire departments, EMTs', and any others to An Evening of Hope on Wednesday, August 23rd from 6pm-9pm. This is an event of inspiration that was created to Break the Stigmas of Mental Illness and Addiction. Mayor Skiptunas will himself invite the Sheriff and Police Departments. This event goes hand in hand with Be Well Lima and Mental Health Month.

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Both Mayor Skiptunas and Deputy Mayor Smith thanked Chief McGrath for all his help and support during the Crossroads Festival.

Ambulance – Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief

Chief Rose reported that the summer schedule is being impacted by vacations, college prep and extra summer jobs. With that in mind, the ambulance crew still covered 62 calls during July. Chief Rose thanked the fire department for allowing the ambulance to use their diesel fuel tank while the HFLbus garage is being repaired. Chief Rose informed the Board that she is in communication with Dr. Farney regarding becoming the 1st ambulance station in Livingston County to receive a NARCAN box and NARCAN training. Dr. Farney is the Medical Director for Livingston EMS. Chief Rose brought up a safety issue for a residence with a ramp in the Village. The ramp does not meet our code. The Board discussed the options of dealing with this issue. CEO Floeser and Attorney Matt Lenahan will work together to draft a letter to the owner of the property instructing that the ramp either be brought into code or be taken down. Again, both Mayor Skiptunas and Deputy Mayor Smith thanked Chief Rose and her crew for all their help and support during the Crossroads Festival.

WWTP – Larry Teta (Absent)

See report provided by Mr. Teta.

Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser

CEO Floeser reported that 3 Village permits were issued, and 12 inspections were completed in July. CEO Floeser also reported that he has completed 14 Fire Marshall Inspections. Next month CEO Floeser will breakdown the number and type of Fire Inspections that need to be completed.

Mayor Skiptunas thanked him for his report and for his help and support during the Crossroads Festival.

DPW – Ben Luft

DPW Luft informed Mayor Skiptunas that a meeting needs to be set up for the Sewer System Asset Management Team. Mr. Luft stated that he was hoping to complete the next step in the Inflow & Infiltration Study next week, weather depending (Amendment 6). This includes televising the sewer pipes. DPW Luft reported that Premier, the company that does the electric stakeouts sent him a contract. Attorney Lenahan is currently reviewing the contract. Mr. Luft reported that this would be a 1-to-2-year contract with the cost of roughly \$40.00 per stakeout on each one of the streets involved. DPW Luft reported that his crew put in a makeshift catch basin on a Michigan Avenue residence, and it was working properly. Mr. Luft informed the Board that the new electric vehicle is working out perfectly.

Mayor Skiptunas and Deputy Mayor Smith thanked DPW Luft and his crew for all the help and support for the Crossroads Festival.

Motion

A motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to authorize the Mayor to accept and sign Amendment No. 6. which allows for additional services for the Inflow & Infiltration Study. Motion passed unanimously.

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Motion

A motion was made by Trustee Wadach and seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith to allow Mayor Skiptunas to sign the contract with Premier allowing Dig Safe to do electric stakeouts for the Village if the contract is in legal standing. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett

Several invoices were available to the board for review/approval. Payments were the following:

- Ambulance Fund: \$5,608.50
- General Fund: \$24,392.76
- Sewer Fund: \$3,616.34
- Water Fund: \$1,969.85
- Grand Total: \$35,587.45

Motion

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Fleming to authorize payment for said invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Short term rentals – no update currently

Fiber Optic Project

Trustee Wadach informed the Board that there are no updates on the Fiber Optic Project. He is notified Brendan Wagner of Empire that the Board would like to receive the final engineered drawings and bid specifications for the underground portion of the Fiber Optic Project ASAP. Trustee Wadach is disappointed with the delays that are preventing the Village from bidding out the construction of underground work. Trustee Wadach requested that Mayor Skiptunas call Empire President Jim Baase to emphasize the importance of completing the drawings and bid specifications ASAP.

New Business

Solar Eclipse Grant

Mayor Skiptunas discussed the possibility of applying for a grant to help promote the growth and support of our community during the Solar Eclipse of 2024. The cost of the grant would be \$1,000.00 and in return we would receive \$5,000.00 to purchase such promotional items as glasses, T-shirts, banners, buttons, etc. The grant needs to be submitted by September 1st. There was discussion about promoting our Village even further by providing other activities during this event.

Round Table

Mayor Skiptunas discussed the importance of the Evening of Hope event, which is to be held Wednesday, August 23rd, 2023, from 6pm – 9 pm at Elim Life Church. This is a community free event. However, Mayor Skiptunas informed the Board that donations need to be dropped off to the Clerk or Erika Erinhardt-Roggow before August 23rd, 2023. There will be many keynote speakers discussing recovery, addiction, and mental health.

Deputy Mayor Smith informed the Board of the huge success of the Civil War re-enactment. The issues he would like to focus on in the future are more local involvement and advertising,

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increasing volunteerism and a better solution to limit the amount of parking on the grass. Deputy Mayor Smith is in the process of putting this event on the Livingston County calendar. He also asked the Deputy Clerk to reserve the Mark Tubbs Park for the 3rd weekend in July of 2024. The construction of the new dog park pavilion went out for bid through the Town. The pavilion is being designed for as little as possible maintenance. There is a \$20,000 zero match grant available from Livingston County which will be used toward the pavilion. Deputy Mayor Smith **proposed** that the original dollars set aside for the pavilion be used toward the playground. Trustee Wadach asked that unsued funds from the Dog Park Pavilion be used to install concrete pads at the entrances of the dog park as was originally promised to Marty and Cathy Gardner when the Dog Park was first proposed. The Gardner's have expended approximately \$50,000 on constructing the Dog Park and are very disappointed that a concrete entrance has yet to be installed.

Trustee Wadach discussed the end of our subscription regarding our electric vehicle charging station with EV Connect. The grant from DEC covered a 4 – 5-year subscription period which is now over. We will now begin to receive an annual invoice of \$400.00. Trustee Wadach discussed the options open to the Board and it was decided the Village will now charge for the use of the Electric Charging Station. Trustee Wadach will pass along the information to Deputy Mayor Smith to review. Trustee Wadach asked about an update regarding supplemental coverage for 65+ employees. Clerk Sackett will discuss the topic at the 2nd Board meeting of the month.

Mr. Wadach inquired about the Meadowview sidewalk. Mayor Skiptunas informed the Board that he will be walking around the area with Patrick Nicoletta from the MRB Group on August 24th. Trustee Wadach asked for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of updating the Village's website. Trustee Wadach inquired as to the status of the 1st Impression Grant. Deputy Mayor Smith informed the Board that he is still working on it and the deadline is in October. Trustee Wadach inquired as to how much importance the Board put on cross-training in the office. Discussions were held on the pros and cons, and it was decided that the Board feels it is very good management practice to have Standard Written Operating Instructions for the office, DPW and Sewer offices. Trustee Wadach informed the Board that Joule Assets will be conducting an information session on renewal of our electric supply Community Choice Aggregation program at a Board meeting soon.

Trustee Fleming commented on how wonderful the Crossroads Festival turned out. It's becoming a wonderful family event for our community. Deputy Mayor Smith stated that he would like to see volunteerism increase in future years.

Steve Warner arrived later in the meeting and discussed some updates for the 1st Annual Lima Great Pumpkin Weigh-Off & Ag Day. The next meeting for the committee will be September 10th, 2023.

Motion

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee Petraitis to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm.