

## **Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 11, 2025**

**Present:** John Skiptunas, Mayor; Brian Smith, Deputy Mayor; Trustees Melinda Fleming, Carolyn Fleming, and Ben Dodzweit.

**Others Present:** Matthew Lenahan, Attorney; Elissa Sackett, Clerk; Ben Luft, DPW Supervisor; Dick Garey, Fire Chief; Jennifer Myers, Lima Ambulance; Bonnie Wadach.

**Absent:** Meg Rose, Ambulance Chief; Charlie Floeser, Code Enforcement Officer.

The meeting of the Village of Lima was called to order Mayor Skiptunas at 7:00pm Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Lima Town Hall, 7329 E. Main St. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ***Motion***

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve the meeting minutes from January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Fire Department – Dick Garey, Fire Chief**

Chief Garey discussed the January report.

#### **Ambulance – Jennifer Myers, Lima Ambulance**

Ms. Myers discussed the January report. Chief Rose met with local representatives to discuss the needs of the ambulance. In order to apply for any grants, the ambulance needs to obtain their 501c3 status and the Village needs to have a Pro-Housing Community designation. Attorney Lenahan will reach out to Chief Rose again about the 501c3.

Trustee M. Fleming met with Chief Rose, Mayor Skiptunas and John Wadach to discuss a public outreach campaign to bring awareness of the needs of the volunteer ambulance. Bonnie Wadach asked if the Village anticipated budgeting for paid staff this year since the budget process has begun. Mayor Skiptunas discussed the logistics and that in order to afford to have paid staff at the base, the Town of Lima would need to be on board as well. Since the Town is on a different fiscal year as the Village, it may not be possible to budget for the upcoming Village tax year. The board plans to have discussions with the Town on the matter. Trustee M. Fleming suggested that residents also attend a Town board meeting to express their concerns.

#### **WWTP –**

Mr. Luft discussed the WWTP. The grinder has been picked up from the Village of Dansville and dropped off at the plant. The piece of equipment will need to be fixed a little, but a brand-new grinder is approximately \$80k; the Village paid a little over \$1700 for the one from Dansville.

#### **Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) – Charlie Floeser**

See report provided by CEO Floeser.

#### **DPW – Ben Luft**

Mr. Luft discussed the fire on January 24<sup>th</sup> on East Main St. and a water main break down by Duncans shortly afterwards. The main was fixed but the leak was right next to 3 other leaks that

## Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2025

had been previously fixed. To help prevent this from happening again, Mr. Luft and the crew cut out and replaced the bad section of water main. During the process of repairs, the homeowner of 7625 E. main reported low pressure and flow that never rectified itself. Upon investigation it was noted that the service line for him was copper and galvanized, so the water break must have caused some damage to his service line. In good faith, Mr. Luft and crew replaced the entire service line. The homeowner was very cooperative and agreed that he would help pay for some of the new line costs. Mr. Luft will work on an appropriate amount once all the bills for the project are received.

The Village salt pile is about 75% full. Two loads were just delivered today, and the Village will be able to get at least one more load of salt according to what was signed up for with the County. Mr. Luft and the crew have been trying to be smart with the salt and making sure it will last by prioritizing intersections, hills, and curves instead of the entire road unless deemed necessary.

Mr. Luft lastly discussed his intent to purchase a new backhoe this coming year. He anticipates the cost to be approximately \$150k and will be split 60/40 between the Highway reserve and the Water reserve.

### *Motion*

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$160k to be split 60/40 between the Highway reserve and Water reserve. Motion carried.

### **Clerk Report – Elissa Sackett**

Attended the first budget meeting with Mr. Luft and representatives from Bernard Donegan's office. As of now it looks like the Village will be using fund balance in all three accounts (approx. \$15k in sewer, \$30k in water and \$30-\$30k general). This is better than what has been proposed in the budget, but we are still in a deficit. Although the rates are close to what is projected, the lack of other revenue may result in increases in the water/sewer rates to cover all expenses. Clerk Sackett gave them proposals showing the costs of a new fire truck as well as three quotes on paid EMS to see what the fiscal impact would be to residents and how it will affect the tax cap.

Mayor Skiptunas, Deputy Mayor Smith, and Trustee Dodzweit will be absent the date of the board meeting in March. Since three members will be absent, the meeting will need to be canceled as there is no quorum. The board voted to reschedule the first meeting in March from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Lima Town Hall. This is the same day as the Town board meeting, so the Village will utilize the space the Town is not using. There will also be a budget workshop on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The budget meeting as well as the rescheduled meeting will be advertised in the Sentinel and added to the Village website.

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

- Ambulance Fund: \$7158.35
- General Fund: \$29327.80
- Sewer Fund: \$73889.63
- Water Fund: \$11749.02
- Capital Fiber: \$23088.22

## Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2025

- Grand Total: \$145213.02

### *Motion*

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee M. Fleming to approve payment to invoices as listed above. Motion passed unanimously.

### Guests

No Guests were present.

### Old Business

**Fiber Optic Update** – Clerk Sackett discussed with the board the potential issues with the project going over budget. She met with members from Empire last week and was notified that the initial quote from National Grid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> pole application was much higher than anticipated. In order to rectify and reduce costs, Empire has decided to keep only one pole application on the National Grid application and move the other attachments to neighboring telecom posts. Estimates for this are just under \$80k, but since the final design/make ready has not been approved or sent by National Grid, the costs could be higher or lower. She hopes to have a better budget forecast with these costs by the end of the week. Per Empire, it may be a couple of weeks before the final make ready are sent by National Grid, but they will do their best to keep pushing them for final approval.

Clerk Sackett discussed in more detail the financials on the project. The bond anticipation note will be due at the end of May. The initial thought was to pay the BAN in full using fund balance, but after discussions with Empire and Richard Sutherland, there are unknown factors such as unanticipated costs of the project, and if reimbursements will be on hold. After discussion, consensus of the board was to authorize Mayor Skiptunas to move forward with the BAN renewal before the end of the month after more information is received from Empire.

**Pro-Housing Community** – Attorney Lenahan has submitted the final documents for the Pro-Housing Community Program through the state. Once reviewed, the state will either issue the designation to the Village or deny and let us know if there is anything else missing. After the Village has been approved as a Pro-Housing Community, the Village will be eligible to apply for different grants offered by the state.

### New Business

No new business to report.

### Round Table

Deputy Mayor Smith

- Provided an update on the EV Charging station. In the last 30 days, there have been only 2 charging sessions equating to a little over \$5 in revenue. The costs of operating the charger are approximately \$1500 per year. The Lima Green Team will be contacted with ideas on how the charging station could be revenue neutral, but if it keeps costing money it may need to be turned off when the current EV Connect contract is up in June.
- Discussed moving internet services for Village buildings from Spectrum to Empire.

**Village of Lima Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 11, 2025**

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Smith and seconded by Trustee C. Fleming to enter executive session at 8:19pm to discuss personnel issues in relation to civil service and salary. Executive session ended 8:59pm. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elissa Sackett".

Elissa Sackett  
Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Lima

**\*All documents listed in the minutes are available to review at the Village office during regular business hours.**