

VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 3, 2014

The Bolivar Village Council met in regular session on **Monday, March 3, 2014**. Mayor Hubble called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and a moment of silent prayer was held.

The Clerk read the bills received for payment. Lloyd moved, seconded by Lang to pay the bills for February, totaling **\$81,063.45**. In a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC SPEAKS: Jessica Gard, Branch Manager at the Bolivar Library, updated council with current events at the library. She also thanked council for the new roof that was installed last year and thanked Dave for efficiently repairing the water line break on Water Street recently. She said he did a great job working with the library regarding the break. Jessica also announced the library is celebrating its 15 year anniversary this June. Mary Vincent congratulated Jessica for receiving the Trojan Pride Award.

Michelle, the Library Director, thanked the Village for the partnership with the library. She discussed the handout given to council about Issue 9 on the upcoming levy for the library. State cuts have effected local governments to include the library. Their revenue sources include: state funding, local revenue interest and fines/fees which are minimal. The library has lost almost \$20,000 annually from interest income and an additional \$35,000 from tangible property tax that has been eliminated. The district library has made several cuts in staffing to help offset the loss of revenue. They are going for a new 1mil continuous levy. Currently there is a 5mil continuous levy on the books which will stay in place. The cost for the new levy based on a \$100,000.00 valuation is approximately \$35.00 per year. The Director opened the floor to questions and answers. Vincent asked if there would be any fact sheets available to the public.

Zack Salapack publicly thanked Street Superintendent, Dave Franks, for all his work in the village; it's been a rough season with all the snow.

Zack went on to ask if there is any official statement about the litigation. The Mayor said she will address it shortly; but first asked if anyone else wished to speak.

MAYOR HUBBLE – In regards to the litigation question, Mayor Hubble reported, “due to the pending lawsuit, I have been advised by the attorneys not to comment on the particulars of the case. The Village is working with its attorney to evaluate the claims and any potential risk associated with this lawsuit and will ensure the best interest of the resident's are protected as the case proceeds. Also, it is a matter of public record if you would like to actually look at the lawsuit it is a public record.” Attorney Daisher advised the suit could be found online through the federal court.

Mr. Huth asked if there is a case number to reference. The Clerk stepped out for a moment to see if the case number was on file in her office. (short break; no official business discussed in interim). When the Clerk returned, she announced the number was not included on the file. Attorney Daisher had her courtesy copy which also did not have case number.

The Mayor announced the fire contract needed approved tonight. Before doing so, she reminded council the village has already taken an extension of time to review it therefore it would need passed as an emergency. Vincent moved, seconded by Lloyd to suspend the rules to approve the contract. All of council voted yes to suspend the rules. Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent to pass the Bolivar Fire Department's contract as an emergency. In a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

Mayor Hubble discussed an email she received from a member of the Tusky Valley PTO regarding the upcoming school levy. They are hosting a spring carnival at the Bolivar Intermediate School on Saturday, April 26th from 10:30-2pm. They would like to raise awareness in the community by having a small parade as well. The parade would start at the school at 10:30 a.m. and go down Park Avenue then to Canal Street through downtown then back to the school. They are requesting permission from council to close streets during that time and have a police escort. Council interjected, "we would need to get an exact route". Lloyd motioned, seconded by Vincent to approve the parade. All members present voted yes.

The Mayor and Dave Franks met with a representative of Hammontree regarding the water line service in the village. This is our first of many but we are at the point of getting pricing just to see what it would cost to do what we need to do. The village would be looking at an excess of \$50,000.00 just for the engineering drawings, therefore we would need to bid the project out. This is the first step. Getting new water lines for our village will be an astronomical cost. We would need to have multiple phases and see where things go with pricing. Lloyd asked questions about engineering pricing. In order for the village to get grant funding or a small interest loan, engineering drawings would have to be in place.

The Mayor also addressed questions she has received in the community regarding the increasing sewer rates. She clarified the Village of Bolivar has no control over what the sewer district does and she wants to make that clear. The main reason the rates are going up is because the sewer district lost over 1 million in revenue last year; as the library and everyone is losing revenues. She went on to reiterate how the village is not metered; which has caused a problem for the district because they have no way of gauging actual water usage. For many, the rates would go down if metered based on household size of our residents; for others it would increase.

The only option is to become metered; consequently the sewer rates would decrease. Franks interjected the dynamics of water meters and actual usage.

The Mayor stated she talked to the sewer district and the rates will continue to go up if measures aren't put into place.

Zack Salapack asked additional meter related questions. The Mayor stated if the village turned to the county to supply our water, the village would lose a substantial source of revenue. One advantage of having the ability to sell water to the community is the revenue we receive. The Village could not afford to turn over their water to the county. She went on to say that we have a contingency plan in place in the event our wells ever became contaminated.

Discussions continued over the water topic and resolving what is best for the village. Most importantly, the village needs a plan of action.

Mr. Huth asked a couple questions regarding the water meters. Dave addressed his questions. The Mayor added, the residents are welcome to purchase a meter at any time to get metered.

In other business, the Mayor reported that a resident that wanted to remain anonymous wanted to thank the street, water & police departments for their hard work on the water line break on Park Avenue last month. They were very pleased to see the departments working so well together.

The Mayor turned to next segment of the meeting over to the Clerk to open bids for the police cruiser that was advertised for bid in February. The first envelope opened was not labeled and ended up being a bill not related to the bid opening.

Newcomerstown was the first bid to be opened. They offered \$2,000.00 for the 2008 cruiser. Chicago Motors offered \$1,807.00 and lastly another company out of Illinois (could not make out pronunciation of company name or contact person) submitted a bid for \$2,366.00.

Chief Haugh asked if the Village has the right to reject a bid? He respectfully added that we have a desperate department in our county that is in serious need of a vehicle. "They are within our county...our local communities." Attorney Daisher pointed out that highest and best is not necessarily highest; especially when factoring in "good will", but its councils decision. Discussion continued before entering into a vote. Lloyd motioned, seconded by Slutz to accept the bid in the amount of \$2,000.00 from Newcomerstown. In a roll call vote, all members voted yes. Chief Haugh will notify the Newcomerstown Chief and arrange for delivery.

FINANCE: - Lloyd reported that our 2013 Annual Financial Report (AFR) is available for public view in the Clerk's office.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Slutz to approve \$129.60 to cover the remaining cost of the Mayors Court Conference for food, parking and city tax. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Lang to approve \$180.00 (45.00 per person times 2 trainings) for Randy and Dave to attend water class trainings on March 12th and 25th. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Marburger to approve \$215.00 plus shipping for new checks and deposit tickets. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Cochran to approve two (2) invoices from HD Water Supply in the amounts of \$403.82 and \$220.02. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Slutz to approve \$97.65 payable to the Times Reporter for the cruiser advertisement. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Lang to approve paying \$388.85 for our portion of the pro-rated law library usage. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent to pay Bolivar Performance 219.35 for service on the Charger. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent to pay \$50.00, plus mileage, for the Mayor and Street Superintendent to attend the annual Tree City USA banquet on April 22, 2014. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

Lloyd motioned, seconded by Slutz to suspend the rules to adjust the income tax split percentages, after expenses are paid out. In a roll call vote, all members voted to suspend the rules. Before voting, Marburger requested that the Clerk give a brief update as to why we need to change the split. The Clerk reported the income tax levy voted on by the resident's dictates which fund's the money needs to be allocated to but it doesn't determine the percentages. Council has the authority to switch the percentages as they deem fit to accommodate the current needs of the village and make adjustments as necessary. A few years ago, council changed the rate in order to accommodate the Burfield land payment. The land payment is no longer an issue however, last year some of our expenses exceeded our revenue budget in the general fund. Council needs to aggressively look at the budget for not only the remainder of 2014, but plan for 2015 as well. The Clerk compared the old rates of 50% general, 40% capital and 10% street to the proposed new rates. Although the change in percentages is not a cure all, it's a step in the right direction to help the budget. Lloyd moved, seconded by Vincent to follow the recommendations of the clerk by approving the reallocation of the income tax monies as follows: 60% general fund, 25% capital and 15% street department, declaring it as an emergency. In a roll call vote all members voted yes.

PLANNING: Mayor Hubble reported Dick Lebold is absent due to health reasons. The zoning book changes are currently under way.

SAFETY – Lang reported there were 73 calls (and cleared) in the month of February. The department is planning to continue CPT training. They need to complete four (4) hours annually. They will be achieving 3 of those hours in April by attending a 3 hour Advanced Pursuit Driving Course hosted by OSP, at no charge. The remaining one hour of training will be pursued during the year.

Lang reported the Chief will be obtaining his FBI training (as previously approved in 2013) at Niagra Falls at the end of April. A reference was made about a bill Randy received in excess of \$4,400.00; this is still being looked into.

Administrator/Chief – Chief Haugh reported he has been busy on both fronts; both Dave and the police.

Street & Alley – None

STREET SUPERINTENDANT – The tornado siren test will be on Wednesday, March 5th at 9:50 a.m. Hydrant flushing will take place on Friday, April 18th at 7:30 a.m..

Franks wanted to thank Mark and Randy in regards to the two nasty water line breaks; one on Water St and one on Park Avenue. Mark got broke in real quick and did a fabulous job. "Without those two guys, I'd probably still be working". Franks was very appreciative of their hard work.

Franks said he and Myers will be attending a free line locate training by OUPS on April 8 in Canton. Franks feels Myers could bring a lot of great information from training back to police department regarding evacuation, etc.

SHADE TREE – The trees are down at the ball fields. Urfer has started on the other three trees; stumps will also be ground.

RECREATION – Received an annual letter from John Levensgood. They are seeking permission to continue using the fields at the Waterworks Park. They will maintain the fields, clean up the trash in the area and provide a copy of

their liability insurance before their season begins. Vincent made the motion to approve the baseball association to use the fields, seconded by Cochran.

Vincent wanted to remind everyone the 10th anniversary of the Strawberry Festival will be on June 12-14, 2014 and is fast approaching. Mayor Hubble interjected there will be a Strawberry Festival meeting on Tuesday, March 11 at 6pm.

CLERK/TREASURER – NONE

LAW DIRECTOR – NONE

The Mayor announced council needs to go into an executive session. Lloyd moved, seconded by Lang to go into a short executive session pending legal and a personnel matter. In a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

Everyone will need to leave except for Council, the Clerk and law director. There will be no action taken. Council came out of executive session at 8:28 p.m.

There being no further business, Vincent moved, seconded by Lloyd to adjourn until April 7, 2014. In a roll call vote, all members voted yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Mayor Rebecca S. Hubble

ATTEST: _____
Maria A. App, Clerk Treasurer

Approved: _____