

**INDIAN LAKE OHIO  
VILLAGE OF RUSSELLS POINT  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2023**

Mayor Reames called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Ms. Joan Hinterschied, absent; Mr. John Huffman, present; Mr. Greg Iiams, present; Ms. Joan Maxwell, present; Ms. Shannon Stinemetz, present; Mr. Dave Wallace, present.  
*Mr. John Huffman made a motion to excuse Ms. Joan Hinterschied from the meeting. Ms. Shannon Stinemetz seconded the motion.*

*The Vote: Mr. John Huffman, yea; Mr. Greg Iiams, yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, yea; Ms. Shannon Stinemetz, yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, yea.*

*The motion passed: 5 yeas – 0 nays*

Recorder: Fiscal Officer Jeff Weidner

Guests: Ms. Sharon DeVault, 209 Elliott Rd., Russells Point  
Ms. Crystal Welsh, Candidate for Municipal Court Judge  
Mr. Mark Archer, Russells Point

Minutes: **February 6, 2023 Council Meeting**

*Ms. Shannon Stinemetz moved to approve the February 6, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. John Huffman seconded the motion.*

*The Vote: Mr. John Huffman, yea; Mr. Greg Iiams, yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, yea; Ms. Shannon Stinemetz, yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, yea.*

*The motion passed: 5 yeas – 0 nays*

Reports: **Fiscal Officers Report -**

Council was provided the January 2023 bank reconciliation, cash summary report and payment register. The Village books reconciled with the bank statement and has a pooled cash balance of \$5,228,615.66.

*Mr. Greg Iiams moved to approve the Fiscal Officers Report as submitted. Mr. John Huffman seconded the motion.*

*The Vote: Mr. John Huffman, yea; Mr. Greg Iiams, yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, yea; Ms. Shannon Stinemetz, yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, yea.*

*The motion passed: 5 yeas – 0 nays*

Reimbursement of grant funds was received from the Army Corps for the storm water project and all but one of the advances from the general fund have been repaid. The property and liability insurance is estimated to increase around \$1,100 this year.

**Zoning Report –**

Ms. Gauder provided council with a written report of the permits that has been issued or in process since the last report.

**Maintenance Report –**

Mr. Reese provided a written report for the department.

**Water Department Report –**

Mr. Tynan provided a written report of the activities of the water department.

**Indian Lake EMS Report –**

Mayor Reames was unable to attend the last meeting. Council will be provided a copy of the minutes when they are available.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

A. Ms. Crystal Welsh

Ms. Welsh announced that she will be running for Bellefontaine Municipal Court Judge on the May 7, 2023 ballot. She provided a brief background of her qualifications.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)

After some time to review, council discussed some of the pros and cons of a DORA.

Pros: can be one side of the street, can be done with only two establishments, promotes visibility of other businesses, can be limited to certain days/times.

Cons: no sidewalk in one area with narrow berm and residential property, pedestrians would be required to cross the street twice to avoid State property, busy road in summer months, not family friendly.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. NRG Grant Projects

LC Commissioners awarded the Oakcrest reconstruction and the sidewalk replacement projects to Smith Paving & Excavating. A pre-construction meeting was held earlier today with the contractor and they intend on starting with the sidewalk replacement early March then moving directly into the road construction project. Weather permitting, they expect to have both projects complete in March.

B. Railroad Trestle Removal

The village did receive the Army Corps permit that is needed to remove the trestle. The approval letter states that ODNR has In-Water Work Exclusion Dates between March 15 – June 30<sup>th</sup>. If the removal does not take place before March 15<sup>th</sup>, the village will need to get approval from ODNR to proceed. Reichert Excavating was contacted to let them know about the ODNR exclusion dates.

C. Hotel CRA Abatement Request

It was restated that the Cobblestone Hotel has requested a tax abatement of 100% for 15 years in accordance with the village's CRA resolution. Since the requested amount is more than 75%, the effected school boards need to approve of the request.

According to the village solicitor, council should discuss the abatement request and make a recommendation to the effected school districts as to whether to accept the abatement as requested or any modification to the request the village feels is appropriate. Council was also informed that this is merely a recommendation and Council will have the opportunity to modify if needed during the approval of the final agreement.

The school districts were already apprised of the abatement request by a representative of the hotel, and an agreement with the schools has already been drafted to provide for direct payment from the hotel to the school for the remaining 25%. This would ensure that the schools receive direct annual payments from the hotel equaling 25% of the amount of taxes, as estimated, that would have been charged and payable that year upon the real property, had that property not been exempted from taxation.

Council discussed at length the requested abatement, the effect on the school's income, as well as the effect on levy income for the safety services.

*Ms. Shannon Stinemetz made a motion to make the recommendation to the schools to approve the tax abatement request of 100% for 15 years. No second was made, and the motion died.*

Council discussed further.

*Mr. John Huffman made a motion to make the recommendation to the schools to approve a tax abatement of 100% for 10-years and 50% for 5-years. Ms. Shannon Stinemetz seconded the motion.*

*The Vote: Mr. John Huffman, yea; Mr. Greg Iiams, nay; Ms. Joan Maxwell, yea; Ms. Shannon Stinemetz, yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, nay.*

*The motion passed: 3 yeas – 2 nays*

*Ms. Joan Maxwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mr. John Huffman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.*

Next Ordinance: 23-1204 Next Resolution: 23-1007

Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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Fiscal Officer Jeff Weidner

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Mayor Robin Reames

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Date Passed