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Village of Strasburg
September 19, 2022
Village Board of Trustees Meeting

The Strasburg Village Board of Trustees met on Monday, September 19, 2022, at the Strasburg Community Center. Village President Cinda Held called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all reciting the "Pledge of Allegiance".

In attendance were Village President Cinda Held, Trustees Robert Anderson, Jack Clark, Ian Kinkley, MaRanda McClain Kristina Moore, Village Clerk Linda Oakley, Fiscal Clerk Lisa Rincker, Attorney Dustin Probst, Ellen Dollarhide McCoy, Kelsey Swing, Blake Pree, Joe Oakley and Gary Kull.

Kelsey Swing, of Gilbert, Metzger & Madigan, presented the Village's Audit of the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. The Village received a clean audit. Fund balances showed an increase from the previous Fiscal Year.

Gary Kull noted that a tree on the west side of the soccer field was dead and needs to be removed. Comment that several trees were dying with Trustee Anderson asking if there was anyway to have a "bulk tree removal" with trees on private property with residents receiving a discounted price. President Held will check to see if that is a possibility.

Joe Oakley noted that he talked with David Elson regarding tiling the west side of York Drive. The proposal would be to tile from Brandt's house to the north past Smith's house, tying in any sump pumps that are draining into the ditch. Elson Enterprises presented a proposal for 440 foot of 12" dual wall tile plus three (3) risers installed for \$8,460. **Motion** by Trustee Anderson to accept Elson's proposal to be done in the spring and purchase the pipe this fall to alleviate a price increase in the tile was seconded by Trustee Kinkley. Motion voted on and carried. Anderson – yea; Clark – yea; Kinkley – yea; McClain – yea; Moore – yea. 5 yea – 0 nay

Mr. Oakley noted that the ditch to the north of Smith's needs to be seeded. A seeder can be rented from John Deere for \$350 per day.

President Held reported on the repair of the sidewalk on West Commercial. Acceptance of the proposal will be added to the October agenda.

Blake Pree noted that he would like the willow trees that are in the ditch to the south and west of the lagoon. He would be willing to take out all of trees. Consensus of the board that he be allowed to remove the trees. Cost to be negotiated with President Held as he asked \$4,000 to remove the trees.

Motion by Trustee Clark to approve the Routine Business (approval of 8-15-22 minutes, financial reports, expenditures) was seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion voted on and carried by voice vote.

Attorney Probst presented the proposed tax levy. Consensus of the board to raise the levy 5% as allowed by PTELL. The approval of the tax levy will be placed on the October agenda.

As the Auditor had moved the ARPA funds to the sewer fund from the general fund, and that the legal fees for the sewer project for the school is more than was budgeted, the Village will need to amend the 2022-2023 Appropriations. A Public Hearing will be held at 6:30 pm prior to the October 25th Village Board meeting with approval of amended budget to be voted on during that meeting.

President Held noted that the EPA made an inspection of the sewer lagoon and lift stations on September 15th. Along with the three staff from the EPA, President Held accompanied Lawrence Quick and Cody Broux with EJ for the inspection. First impression was that the sewer lagoon was very nice looking and a clean lagoon. It was noted that we need to shut off the output discharge valves to store the water and let it get low, then open back up periodically. Some of the valves are stuck and will need to be exercised more often. Both the EPA and EJ recommended three-phase electricity to lagoon rather than single phase. The day of the inspection the ponds were very green and solids were bad. Once we have electricity to the lagoon, it was suggested that we put a new meter at the lagoon to read the output and automatically send it to us and to EJ. It was noted that our effluent levels were bad, but our DO levels are good. It was suggested that we smoke our sewer lines, as there is too much water coming into the lagoon that is not sewage.

President Held reported that the bug machine seems to be acting up. Mr. Helm went to use it and it quit after 2 blocks, but Todd had it running for over 30 minutes with no problem. President Held going to have Todd take it to Decatur to see if it can be fixed.

Trustee Moore is getting a quote from Detection Security for the park.

Trick or Treat night for 2022 was set for Monday, October 31st from 6-8 PM.

President Held requested that the regular meeting for October be moved as she and the Clerk cannot be in attendance. Meeting was changed to October 25th at 6:30 PM. She noted that Dawn Schlechte has agreed to complete Jim Connell's term as Trustee.

The Light Up Strasburg Christmas light contest will again be held. Lights should be up by Tuesday December 13th with the judging held later that week.

It was announced that the village wiener roast would be held the upcoming Friday. Board members are encouraged to attend.

President Held reported that the Park Committee had met. The LEOs are wanting to put in for a grant to add holes for the disk golf and had asked the park committee for permission. Members talked about what is needed in the pavilion. They visited John Cress's new storage shed for ideas on the pavilion. President Held noted that board members will be asked to help.

It was noted that there was recycling at Becher City. President Held is going to check to see if something like that could be available to our community.

Motion by Trustee McClain to exit regular session to go into executive session for purpose of discussing employee salary was seconded by Trustee Kinkley.

Motion by Trustee Clark to enter regular session from executive session was seconded by Trustee Kinkley.

Motion by Trustee Clark to give Blake Pree an additional \$900 for the work on the 1st/Spruce Lift Station replacement was seconded by Trustee Moore. Motion voted on and carried. Anderson – yea; Clark – yea; Kinkley – yea; McClain – yea; Moore – yea. 5 yea – 0 nay

Motion by Trustee Moore for the Village to employ an individual to fill the Village's Maintenance position for \$15 an hour. After designated probation period employee to receive a raise based on positive performance outcomes and evaluation. Motion seconded by Trustee McClain. Motion voted on and carried. Anderson – yea; Clark – yea; Kinkley – yea; McClain – yea; Moore – yea. 5 yea – 0 nay

It was reported that the electric wire from the concession stand to the ball shed had exposed wire.

President Held noted that the 150th Committee would meet on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Linda D. Oakley, Village Clerk