

**Village of Russells Point**  
**March 3, 2025**  
**Council Meeting**

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Council members Joan Hinterscheid, Rebekah Smith, Greg Iiams, Joan Maxwell, Steve Reid and Dave Wallace were present.

**Recorder:** Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire

**Guests:** Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator

AshLee Hullinger, Clerk of Courts/Admin Assistant

Daniel Bey, Village Solicitor

Ann Elleman, resident

Cynthia Defibaugh, Indian Lake Yacht Club

Jeff Patten, Indian Lake Yacht Club

Geoff Rigney, Indian Lake Yacht Club

Robin Michaels, resident

Michael Goettemoeller, Choice One Engineering

Liz Gibson, resident

Scott Stover, resident

Connie Stover, resident

Sharon DeVault, resident

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterscheid to approve the council meeting minutes dated February 18, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

**Reports:**

**BPA**

- Without the appointment of a Water Superintendent, there is currently no official water report.
- Issues involving water account discrepancies are being addressed with effort focused on having all accounts accurate and up-to-date.
- The water account issues with Bayside Condominiums have been addressed. The account will continue to be monitored to ensure no further discrepancies occur.
- The Knights of Columbus is requesting reimbursement of \$200 for water line issues. The Knights of Columbus have been advised to contact their insurance provider to move forward with the reimbursement process.
- Councilor Iiams inquired to how many water meters have been installed with Mayor Huffman responding that there is less than 200 water meters to be installed until the project is complete.

**Mayor's Court**

- The February 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing a revenue of \$2,660 was presented to council. Motion was made by Councilor Wallace and seconded by Councilor Hinterscheid to approve the February 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

**Indian Joint Fire District**

- Councilor Maxwell provided a written report of the February 19, 2025 meeting.

**Park & Recreation**

- Councilor Hinterscheid discussed the damage to the concrete on the basketball court due to vandalism and has spoken with the County Prosecutor about seeking restitution for the damages. J & J Schlaegel will provide a cost estimate to repair the damages.

- Green Threads has designed and donated T-shirts to be sold as a fundraiser for the splash pad. The shirts are \$15 each and approximately 15 shirts have already been sold. The total raised for the splash pad is \$131,834.14 and has come from community donations and fundraisers, no tax dollars will be used to install a splash pad.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM and Pheasants Unlimited will attend.

#### Choice One Engineering:

- Michael Goettemoeller, Choice One Engineering, presented the concept of a new pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Sunnyside Avenue and US Route 33 and would include flashing lights when initiated by the crossing pedestrian. To be eligible for funding, the concept needs to be approved along with a preliminary engineer cost estimate. Council expressed concern about the safety of a pedestrian crosswalk crossing at an intersection with no traffic light. The flashing lights on the new crossing would not stop traffic, only alert drivers that a pedestrian may be crossing. Currently, golf carts are not allowed to cross traffic in the village. The preliminary construction estimate is \$292,025. Council asked Mr. Goetemoeller to do some case studies of similar situations and report the findings back to council.
- Mr. Goetemoeller also presented a proposal for a new crosswalk on Lincoln Boulevard by the hotel as well as a sidewalk along US Route 33 to the State Route 708 intersection. Council liked the idea of the sidewalk but expressed concern about it being so close to US Route 33 without a safety barrier. Mr. Goetemoeller acknowledge council's concern but stated that the sidewalk would be a wide sidewalk with plenty of walking space. Council and Mr. Goetemoeller discussed different criteria for funding options that could be sought to help in the cost of the project. The preliminary construction estimate for this project is \$478,252. Mr. Goetemoeller noted that ODOT does support both projects discussed.

#### Ordinances and Resolutions:

- **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterscheid to untable Resolution 25-1048, approving Choice One Engineering Corporation to pursue grant funding for crosswalks within the village. A roll call vote was taken and council voted 2-4 with Councilor Smith, Councilor Maxwell, Councilor Reid and Councilor Wallace voting against the motion to untable Resolution 25-1048.
- **Resolution 25-1049**, authorizing signatories on financial accounts of the Village of Russells Point. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3 reading rule on Resolution 25-1049 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve Resolution 25-1049 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- **Ordinance 25-1257**, imposing a 6-month moratorium (to be revised on or before September 8, 2025) on the establishment, development and construction of any buildings, structure, use or change of use that would enable the cultivation, processing, or retail sale of medical marijuana and/or adult use marijuana within the village. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterscheid to waive the 3 reading rule on Ordinance 25-1257 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve Ordinance 25-1257 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

- **Ordinance 25-1259**, authorizing the Mayor of Russells Point to enter into a contract with Daniel Bey, Reminger Co., L.P.A., for services of village solicitor. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to waive the 3 reading rule on Ordinance 25-1259 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1, with Councilor Reid voting against. Motion passed. Councilor Smith inquired about the term/length of the contract. Daniel Bey noted that it is a 2-year contract that locks in rates for the 2 years. Councilor Wallace asked who would be authorized to contact Mr. Bey for legal matters with Mr. Bey stating that it is a council decision on who is allowed to contact him for any such matters. Councilor Wallace noted that he would like all council members be authorized to contact Mr. Bey. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve Ordinance 25-1259 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

#### **Indian Lake Yacht Club**

- Cynthia Defibaugh stated that the Yacht Club had 2 damaged parcels during the tornado in 2024. One parcel contains the clubhouse and the other parcel includes the shelter house and shower. Ms. Defibaugh gave council a brief history of the Yacht Club and noted that the cost for renovation of the parcels is estimated at \$350,000. The Yacht Club is requesting for a 100% tax exemption filing status for 15 years which would allow for the needed upgrades to the club. Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer for the village, noted that new development (under the CRA) prior to the start of construction can apply for up to 100% of tax exemption status on the improvements. Ms. Gauder noted that Indian Lake Schools have 45 days to decide on the tax abatement for the improvements. Ms. Defibaugh is scheduled to meet with the Indian Lake School Board on March 17, 2025 to request the tax exemption. Council agreed that they cannot decide on the tax relief until a decision is rendered by the Indian Lake School District.

#### **Citizen Comments:**

- Sharon DeVault noted that the Maple Syrup Festival is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Indian Lake State Park Campground. The festival has sap extraction and syrup production demonstrations as well as train rides, samples and candy, crafts, maple vendors, live entertainment and various kids' activities.

#### **Old Business:**

- Council asked the Finance Committee to meet to discuss funds available to purchase a village vehicle. The Finance Committee agreed to meet on March 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM to discuss such matter.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Liability Insurance**

- Fiscal Officer McGuire reviewed options to decrease the current annual premium of \$30,590 for liability insurance offered by Stolly Insurance. Council agreed to increase the property deductible from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for a savings of \$1,116 in premiums. Council also agreed to decrease the cyber deductible from \$25,000 to \$10,000 at a premium increase of \$159. It was noted that the water plant is in a floodplain and the village currently does not have flood insurance. Council agreed to the proposed flood insurance quote from Stolly Insurance of \$1 million in coverage with a \$25,000 deductible at a premium price of \$990.

### Text My Gov Proposal

- Mayor Huffman reviewed the textmygov.com proposal with council. The service would send text messages to residents (who have to opt in to the text message system) regarding alerts ranging from general information (such as water main breaks, water leaks, street closures, boil alerts, etc.) and emergency alerts. It would also allow residents to report issues to the village (water leaks, animal control). The first-year cost of the proposal is \$3,500, which includes a \$1,000 set up fee, with a recurring cost of \$2,500 thereafter. Councilor Iiams and Councilor Wallace stated that it was not a needed service for the village as the village website can be used to send out information. Councilor Hinterscheid noted that the public is more geared towards receiving text message alerts with Councilor Reid noting that the text message app would allow the village to get information out in real time. Mayor Huffman asked council that if they would like a demonstration to contact him and he would set it up with the company.

### Planning Commission Appointment

- Mayor Huffman was unable to contact a resident about the appointment. No action was taken.

### IAM GIS Proposal

- IAM GIS is a platform for GIS mapping, tracking assets and managing work and projects. Mayor Huffman noted that Tim Reese, street department, has asked to change software vendors for this platform. The IAM GIS program is more user friendly and is easier to map than the current platform and the Village of Lakeview is currently using the IAM GIS system.

### Village Administrator

- Councilor Reid asked for an update on the Village Administrator position. Mayor Huffman stated that as of March 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 applications have been received and the deadline to apply is March 7<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Iiams and Councilor Smith along with Mayor Huffman will conduct the interviews.

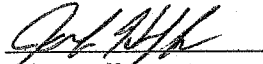
### Water Superintendent


- Mayor Huffman noted that no applications have been received for the open Water Superintendent position.

### Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Reid to enter into an executive session and to invite Village Solicitor Daniel Bey into the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed and Council entered into the executive session at 8:53 PM. At 9:41 PM council resumed the open meeting and a **motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Iiams to exit the executive session. Motion passed and council resumed the open meeting.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Iiams to adjourn at 9:42 PM. Motion passed.

  
John Huffman, Mayor

  
Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

  
Date Passed