

**INDIAN LAKE, OHIO  
VILLAGE OF RUSSELLS POINT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
November 18, 2024**

Mayor Huffman called the Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

*Ms. Joan Hinterschied, Present; Ms. Rebekah Smith, Present; Mr. Greg liams, Present; Ms. Joan Maxwell, Present; Mr. Dave Wallace, Present; Mr. Steve Reid, Present.*

**RECORDER:** AshLee Hullinger, Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:**

- Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/ Floodplain Admin.
- Ann Elleman, Russells Point
- Liz Gibson, Russells Point
- Sharon DeVault, Russells Point
- Clint Wasserman, Reminger Co. LPA, Village Solicitor
- John Henschen, Russells Point
- Kim Werner, Russells Point
- John Snyder, Russells Point
- Jason Smith, Open Road Renewables

**MINUTES:**

**November 4, 2024 - Council Meeting Minutes**

*Joan Hinterschied made a Motion to approve November 4, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes as submitted.*

*Seconded by Steve Reid.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Mr. Greg liams, Yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, Yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, Yea; Mr. Steve Reid, Yea; Ms. Joan Hinterschied, Yea; Ms. Rebekah Smith, Yea.*

*Motion Passed 6 Yeas - 0 Nays*

**Reports:**

**Water Report:**

Mayor Huffman reported that Dave Scott is working hard at the water plant to make sure that everything is running orderly. Mayor Huffman reported that there is a couple water leaks that need repaired quickly. Tim Reese is in contact with Reichert Excavating to help with the dig since it is a larger area that will have to be shut down, in order to get the water lines fixed quickly.

Steve Reid asked if there was paperwork to file with the Ohio EPA?

Mayor Huffman stated that Mr. Scott is working on that, he will get an extension if he hasn't filed it already, it will be in soon.

Dave Wallace asked how the water meter replacement is going.

Mayor Huffman stated that he had not heard of an update but will hope to have one by next Council meeting.

**EMS:**

Steve Reid spoke on the EMS report that was submitted stating that there are two townships that are currently not in the district that we currently provide EMS service to. Bloomfield Township and Goshen Township. We have had long-standing service contracts with them. We are currently negotiating the service contract rate with them. There have been preliminary discussions with Bloomfield Township about if they have a desire to join the Indian Lake EMS District, and if they did, what that would look like. But there has not been any official invitation made and no action on the matter, just a preliminary discussion to see what it would look like and if it interested them. Mr. Reid also stated that all the damage created by the March 14<sup>th</sup> tornado to the fire house has been repaired.

**LUC Planning Commission:**

Greg Iiams stated that there was nothing more to add to the report that was submitted.

**Parks and Recs Report:**

Joan Hinterschied stated that the Parks and Recs Committee decided to not apply for the Land and Water Conservation Grant because they would not be able to start construction until after October 2026.

There have been two more companies that had come to Ms. Hinterschied with fundraising ideas that she is very excited about.

Ms. Hinterschied stated that she should hear something by December 4<sup>th</sup> about the Grant from the Ohio Realtors Association and hopefully next week she will know more about the outcome of the Nature Works Grant. There were 154 Grant applications for the entire state of Ohio and only two were from Logan County, so we have high hopes for a good outcome.

Dave Wallace asked if there had been an update on maintenance for the Rudolph Nature Area as well as the area by the ballfield that the Village owns.

Ms. Hinterschied stated that she had been in contact with Patrick Beam this week and stated that he would like to see it decompose so that the nutrients go back into the soil, but if it needs to be mowed he would prefer it to not be mowed lower than 12”.

Dave Wallace stated that the area needs to be maintained soon before big trees and weeds start growing too far and it gets to be too hard to control.

Mayor Huffman asked Steve Reid if it was up for controlled burn?

Steve Reid stated that it has been tried several times but due to the weather, it may not be able to be done safely.

Mayor Huffman stated that he would do some research and see what the best practice for the land would be and will hope to have an update soon.

Joan Maxwell asked Ms. Hinterschied if she has investigated the laws pertaining to the running of a quarter auction. Ms. Hinterschied stated that yes, she has but she will do more research to make sure that everything is legal before hosting one.

#### **Police Department:**

Chief Freyhof was unable to attend due to a Police Department emergency and stated that he will give an update at the next council meeting on December 2, 2024.

#### **Citizens' Comments:**

**Kim Werner** stated that she wasn't going to speak but after scrolling on a page on Facebook, she found a comment that was from one of her neighbors. Ms. Werner stated that she is back in her house now and is trying to reconnect with her neighbors. Ms. Werner read a comment from a Facebook post. After reading the post Ms. Werner stated that she would like to see the Mayor as well as Council go out and see the area around her neighborhood and see what is going on there in the community. Ms. Werner stated there is no staging area for the vehicles, so they park in the empty lots where houses were torn down. She feels that it is due to lack of planning on someone's part to accommodate the workers' vehicles.

Steve Reid asked Ms. Werner if she is aware that the construction that is going on is a necessary, critical infrastructure improvement?

Ms. Werner stated that she wasn't going to be grilled by Council member Reid and that there was no need to get defensive.

Mr. Reid stated that he was simply asking a question and wasn't trying to be defensive at all. Mr. Reid stated that week after week Ms. Werner has come to the meetings to tell Council how terrible they are doing at their job and can't get anything right, and our community is falling apart

and wants to know when this is all going to stop. Mr. Reid stated he understands Ms. Werners' frustration but at some point, this must stop.

Mayor Huffman stated that any time there is construction, it is never a pleasant thing until its done. Mayor Huffman understands that there is a lot of issues in that area of the Village that have been looked into and is being addressed. He apologizes for the inconvenience it has caused.

Dave Wallace stated that he drives back in the area and agrees it is a mess, and hopes it ends soon as well.

Mayor Huffman stated that Chief Freyhof would like to speak on some of the code enforcement issues in the Village that pertain to the area Ms. Werner is speaking of, if she would like to stay for the rest of the meeting to hear what Chief Freyhof has to say.

Ms. Werner stated that she will read the minutes and see what is said.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions:**

Mayor Huffman stated that there are no new Ordinances or Resolutions at this time but there is a meeting on Monday November 25, 2024, at 7:00 P.M for the Rules and Ordinance Committee to continue the discussion of establishing the position of a Village Administrator. Joan Hinterschied stated that she will not be able to attend due to personal reasons.

### **Old Business:**

No old business needs to be added at this time.

### **New Business:**

#### **Reliant Mechanical:**

Mayor Huffman stated that the quote in Council packets from Reliant Mechanical is for the hanging furnace in the back bay area. The quote is under \$4,500 to have it replaced. There is also a bill from Reliant Mechanical for \$150.00 for the inspection of the heater. The inspection showed that there was a crack in the heat exchanger which makes the heater non-operatable. Mayor Huffman feels this is something that should be replaced sooner rather than later so that there is heat in the back area for the maintenance crews if they are back there working in that area.

Dave Wallace stated that this is the heater that has been down for a few years and we should just worry about keeping heat in the areas that we use.

Greg liams asked why Reliant Mechanical was the only place we got a quote from?

Mayor Huffman stated that they were called in to do a check on why the heater wasn't working and they found that the heat exchanger was cracked.

Greg liams Stated that there is a company that currently works on our heaters and he feels we need to look into getting a quote with Lochard Plumbing, Heating and Air since they currently service our heating and cooling.

Mayor Huffman stated that if Council decides to go with Reliant Mechanical they have agreed to waive the \$150.00 service charge for the initial inspection.

Steve Reid informed Mayor Huffman that since the cost is under \$4,500 he does not need the Council approval to replace the heater.

Mayor Huffman stated that he is aware of that but still wanted Council to know what was going on and he wanted to be upfront about it.

Joan Maxwell asked if the funds would come from Lands and Buildings Funds?

Mayor Huffman stated that he believes that is where the funds would come from, but he has not spoke with Interim Fiscal Officer Richard Ford yet to be sure.

Mayor Huffman stated that he will look into getting more quotes and report back at the next meeting.

### **Christmas Lights & Decorations:**

Mayor Huffman stated that he submitted a quote to Council for Christmas lights and decorations he would like to purchase for the Village to display on Fairview Ave. and in front of the Municipal Building. The decorations can be used for many years to come. Mayor Huffman would like to see some Christmas lights placed back out in the Village.

Joan Maxwell stated that the Village should already have some Christmas decorations that we can use.

Mayor Huffman stated that from what he has seen there is very minimal and some are very out dated or non-useable. But he would like to see a little more done and he will also use what the Village currently has as well.

*Joan Hinterschied made a motion to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase Christmas decorations for the Village.*

*There was no second for the Motion.*

*Motion failed.*

Dave Wallace stated that the health and Liability insurance renewal should be coming up.

Mayor Huffman stated that he will talk with Interim Fiscal Officer Richard Ford about it and see if we were locked in a multi-year premium.

Steve Reid stated that he would like it to bring to Council's attention that there are lights that go around the exterior of the building that are not working. Mr. Reid stated that not too long ago the Village paid someone to fix them so it something that needs to be looked into.

Mayor Huffman stated that is something he will research.

**Records Retention Committee:**

Mayor Huffman made a recommendation to appoint Elizebeth Stidam to the Records Retention Committee.

**Discussion:**

Steve Reid stated that she used to be on the Board of Public Affairs abruptly resigned, and left them high and dry on the BPA and now you want to appoint her to another committee?

Greg liams stated that Ms. Stidam didn't resign from the other committees, she was asked to leave the rest of the committees.

Mayor Huffman stated that when he spoke with Ms. Stidam earlier in the day, she did not think that she was resigning from the other committees when she stepped down from the BPA and would like to continue to be on the Records Retention Committee.

*Greg liams made a Motion to have Elizebeth Stidam put on the Records Retention Committee.*

*Seconded by Joan Maxwell.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Mr. Greg liams, Yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, Yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, Yea; Mr. Steve Reid, Nay; Ms. Joan Hinterschied, Yea; Ms. Rebekah Smith, Abstain.*

*Motion Passed 4 Yeas – 1 Nays – 1 Abstain*

**Executive Session:**

*Rebekah Smith made a Motion to go into executive session at 7:36 P.M. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.*

*Mayor Huffman invited Clint Wasserman with Reminger Co. L.P.A to attend the executive session well as Chief Freyhof if he becomes available.*

*Seconded by Joan Hinterschied.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Mr. Greg liams, Yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, Yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, Yea; Mr. Steve Reid, Yea; Ms. Joan Hinterschied, Yea; Ms. Rebekah Smith, Yea.*

*Motion Passed 6 Yeas - 0 Nays*

*Greg liams made a Motion to exit executive session.*

*Seconded by Rebekah Smith.*

**Roll Call Vote:**

*Mr. Greg liams, Yea; Ms. Joan Maxwell, Yea; Mr. Dave Wallace, Yea; Mr. Steve Reid, Yea; Ms. Joan Hinterschied, Yea; Ms. Rebekah Smith, Yea.*

*Motion Passed 6 Yeas - 0 Nays*

Executive session was exited at 8:26 P.M.

Joan Hinterschied informed Council that she will not be able to attend the meeting on December 16, 2024. She would like to use that day as her excused absence.

Mayor Huffman informed Council that the resignation of Officer Brandon Puckett has been turned in and his last date will be November 25, 2024. Mayor Huffman would like Council to give some thought on the payback for the grant received for a full-time Police Officer position.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Joan Maxwell made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.*

*Joan Hinterschied seconded the Motion.*

*All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.*

**Next Council meeting:** Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

**Rules and Ordinance meeting:** Monday, November 25, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

Next Ordinance: 24-1247

Next Resolution: 24-1046

Mayor John Huffman  Date Passed 12-2-24

Recorder: AshLee Hullinger, Administrative Assistant 