

**Village of Russells Point
March 17, 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 Hinterschied, 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

Ann Elleman, resident

Cynthia Defibaugh, Indian Lake Yacht Club

Geoff Rigney, Indian Lake Yacht Club

John Henschen, resident

Sharon DeVault, resident

Wendy Humble, resident

Ronald Martin, resident

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the council meeting minutes dated February March 3, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Fiscal

- The presentation of the February 28, 2025 bank reconciliation and financials was reviewed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the bank reconciliation and financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.

Zoning

- Report was submitted to council and with no questions from council.

Maintenance

- Report was submitted to council and with no questions from council.

EMS

- Councilor Reid presented the Indian Lake EMS Joint Ambulance District meeting minutes dated February 12, 2025.

Parks & Recreation

- Councilor Hinterschied stated that \$1,100 in tickets for sold for the gun raffle with the drawing taking place on Friday, March 21st. The quarter (25 cent) auction was held and 60 baskets were donated and auctioned off raising \$4,278. The total raised for the splash pad is \$138,377 and has come from community donations and fundraisers, no tax dollars will be used to install the splash pad.
- Councilor Reid will oversee the construction of the splash pad. Councilor Reid and Councilor Hinterscheid met with Choice One Engineering to determine a site for the splash pad as well as an additional asphalt walking path and an upgrade the lighting at the park. Construction could possibly start in August of 2025. Council discussed the need for privacy fence/trees/shrub by the splash pad and well as the cost of maintenance fees associated with operating a splash pad. It was noted that local businesses want to donate towards the splash pad,
- The outdoor restrooms by the playground will open in mid-May.

LUC

- Councilor Iiams presented the LUC Executive Committee report outlining the review of preliminary and final plats and zoning text amendments for various townships and municipalities.

Police

- Chief Freyhof attended 2 community events on March 14, 2025 for the 1-year anniversary of the tornados that occurred in and around Russells Point.
- Chief Freyhof will have an academy presentation at Clark State on March 20, 2025.
- Sergeant Styles attended a career fair on March 13, 2025. The FaceBook advertising for help wanted in Police Department has gotten no responses or applications. Chief Freyhof posted employment opportunities on Indeed and has received 1 – 2 applications per day.
- Sergeant Styles is in process of attending a professional leadership development course.
- Officer Nick Jarman is attending subject control instruction for self-defense.
- Part time Officer Branden Puckett resigned.

Land & Buildings

- The purchase of a village digital sign was recommended to council by the Land & Buildings Committee at a price of \$29,735.09, which excludes the sales tax quoted on the estimate. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow the Mayor to enter into a contract the Sign Shop in regards of estimate # 1023 for the purchase of a village digital sign. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in to a 3-3 tie with Councilor Iiams, Councilor Maxwell and Councilor Wallace voting against. Mayor Huffman voted in favor of the motion to break the tie. Motion passed.
- Councilor Reid discussed complaints from residents regarding trees that may be causing damage to resident properties. It is not known if the trees are on village property with possibly no survey of record to determine the property lines. Choice One Engineering may help with determining where survey pins are located. The issue of having the Tree Commission look into the problem was raised, but it was determined that the issue needed to be addressed quickly and that the Land & Building Committee would continue with addressing the trees.
- The contract with Honda needs to be reviewed to determine how and who pays for repairs to the dock rails at the municipal building. Honda rents that portion from the village for warehousing.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

- **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to untangle Ordinance 25-1048, Approving Choice One Engineering to Pursue Grant Funding for Crosswalks within the Village. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1 with Councilor Wallace voting against. Motion passed. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to waive the 3 reading rule on Ordinance 25-1048 and declare it an emergency. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1 with Councilor Wallace voting against. Motion passed. Council discussed the different crosswalks proposals as presented by Choice One Engineering. Council agreed that if grant funding is available, then allow Choice One Engineering to pursue the funding opportunities. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve Ordinance 25-1048 by title. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 4-2 with Councilor Maxwell and Councilor Wallace voting against. Motion passed.

Food Pantry:

- Council discussed Dale Frymyer requests to install awning on the municipal building to cover the food pantry door at a cost to the food pantry. It was noted that with the municipal building being classified as a commercial building, the project would need an engineer and the cost would be extensive. With the high cost, the food pantry is not interested in moving forward with the project.

Citizen Comments:

- Ron Martin, owner of property on Westview Street, asked that the yard be graded back to the way it was prior to the sewer line project. It was previously agreed that the contractor would grade the area and reseed grass. Mayor Huffman will contact the contractor about Mr. Martin's concern.
- Wendy Humble request that the speed limit be changed from 35 MPH to 25 MPH and that there be restricted parking or no parking along W. Main Street.

Old Business:

- The purchase of a village vehicle at a cost not exceeding \$25,000 was recommended to council by the Finance Committee. Council approved of the recommendation.

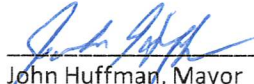
New Business:

- Spring clean up is scheduled for April 23, 2025. Residents must register to have debris picked up.
- Mayor Huffman recommends to council the appointment of John Henschen to the Planning Commission. **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to approve the appointment of John Henschen to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 6-0. Motion passed.
- Mayor Huffman discussed the CRA Committee appointments. The committee needs at least 2 members of council or the mayor plus 2 village residents to serve on the committee. Mayor Huffman stated he would be willing to serve, but Councilor Reid stated that the Mayor is too busy to be appointed to another committee. Mayor Huffman nominates for the appointment to the CRA Committee himself (Mayor Huffman), Councilor Iiams, village resident Sharon DeVault and village resident John Henschen. **Motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Smith to approve the appointments made by Mayor Huffman to the CRA Committee. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-1 with Councilor Reid voting against. Motion passed.

Indian Lake Yacht Club

- Cynthia Defibaugh, of the Indian Lake Yacht Club, presented a revised proposal for the CRA tax exemption. The amended proposal is for a 75% property tax reduction for a duration of 15 years. Ms. Defibaugh met with the Superintendent of Indian Lake Schools and the school was not in favor of the original proposal of a 100% property tax reduction. It was noted that if the property tax reduction was 75% or less, than the school could not decide on the property tax reduction due to the changes made in Senate Bill 33. After discussion, council asked Ms. Defibaugh to meet with the Logan County Auditor and what impact a 75% property tax reduction would be to the village. It was agreed by council that they would put the Indian Lake Yacht Club on the agenda for the next council meeting and decide as to whether to allow a property tax reduction and the duration of the reduction.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Smith to adjourn at 8:57 PM. Motion passed.


John Huffman, Mayor


Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer


Date Passed