

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

Mayor Joanne Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

A roll call was taken with the following officials present: Barbara Hunter, Alan Robbins, Lowell (Bud) Hardesty, Keith Riedel, Tamitha Sorgi, Ken Demeter, Allan Michelson - Solicitor, Jim Brandenburg – Zoning Inspector, Matt Sorgi – Assistant Zoning Inspector, Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer; visitors Kelly Schmetzer, Howard Wolff, Pamela & Dennis Mohn, Andy Weimer, Mark Reuter, Lisa Krosse, Bill Glasenapp, Christopher Livingston, Jeff Burlingane, Kyla Cole, Deputy Harhay and Lafayette Township Fire Chief Cavanaugh

Mayor Dodaro reminded everyone that just like last month and going forward she requests that visitors in attending Council Meetings hold their comments until the end of the Regular Meeting when we go to the Audience for comment and if comments need to be made during the reading of Legislation, to raise their hand and be recognized

Mayor Dodaro thanked the voters for supporting and passing the Road Levy which hopefully reflects satisfaction with how we spend your road work monies and emphasized the high costs associated with road maintenance and repairs

Mayor Dodaro thanked Barb, Bud and the Poll workers who all helped at the November election

Mayor Dodaro thanked the Sheriff and Fire Department personnel for their support and attendance during Halloween

Mayor Dodaro expressed her sympathy for the Bob Moates who passed away yesterday and for his family who was so well known in our community – his pictures were at all fund raisers in the Village and helped raise monies for all of these activities

Mayor Dodaro congratulated Ken for his re-election back into Council and congratulated Leslie Burns for winning her election and both will be sworn in at the January meeting – Leslie who will fill the seat being vacated by Keith who thinks he is retiring and will split his time between Florida and Chippewa Lake and we look forward to seeing him and hearing from him as a resident at next year's Council meetings

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read and agreed with the October Regular Meeting Minutes and asked if there were any corrections, questions or comments – none were offered

**Bud made the motion to accept the October Minutes, and it was seconded by Keith. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.**

Mayor Dodaro asked if everyone read the November Bill's for Approval and asked if there were any other changes, questions or comments – Gary stated that there was one late addition bringing the revised amount to \$30,178.99 – Mayor Dodaro asked what this late addition was for and Gary stated it was for the partial clean-up at 9 Parkway Path in the amount of \$1,360.00 paid to Jim Brandenburg

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**Barb made a motion to approve the revised November Bill's for payment in the amount of \$30,178.99 seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

Council Reports:

Safety

Alan reporting:

1. thanked all Veterans for their service to our country including Deputy Harhay, Chief Cavanaugh, Bud Hardesty and Mr. Moat
2. Fire Chief Cavanaugh reported that of the 59 calls in September, 7 were for Chippewa Lake with 68% of all year-to-date calls being EMS calls, also reported that the average turn-out time was 1 minute and 45 seconds, reported that the Fire House had 200 guests for Halloween on October 28<sup>th</sup>, they have a Medina High School student shadowing his department over the next two months as part of Medina's Career Exploration program, Will Gross is attending a Fire Safety Inspection course bringing the department up to two inspectors once the course is completed, they have won a Grant from the Ambulance Retention program and have applied for a MARC's radio Grant and sadly announced the resignation of Robert Stewart after 10 years of service due to his commitments to his full time job and his family
3. Alan asked the Chief to talk about the new Advisory Committee that the Chief is setting up and Chief Cavanaugh announced that he is looking for members from the community to join this Committee offering local input – Mayor Dodaro supported Alan joining this Committee
4. read the Sheriff reports where they worked 101 hours out of the 100 hours requested, Alan stated how pleased he is that we appear to be back on track for the Sheriff's Department working the number of hours requested by the Village after the meeting held with Captain Ross and others – Deputy Harhay reconfirmed that Deputy Cornelius remains on extended sick leave and that the Department will proceed to hire another Deputy and when Deputy Cornelius returns there will be an opening for him – Mayor Dodaro offered assistance to Deputy Cornelius through the Lions Club if needed – Alan reported that Deputy Harhay's Daughter was his side-kick that night and has signed up for the Explorer Program offered by the Sheriff's Department and Alan said it is good to see that some of the offspring have community interest just as Deputy Harhay has
5. Alan reported that the Siren Presentation scheduled for Gloria Glens did not come off as hoped and Chris reported that he is waiting to hear back from the various Grant agencies as to opportunities that might be out there for Grant monies – Alan reported difficulty in reaching all subdivisions and he is thinking about calling for a Zoom Meeting to see if this might help gain more interest from other subdivisions and that we are still looking at a system in the \$40,000 range
6. Mayor Dodaro announced that FEMA is forming an Advisory Group, the first meeting is November 15<sup>th</sup> and Alan has been appointed to this Group which will be comprised of 3 Mayors, 1 Trustee and representatives from the Communities and Mayor Dodaro hopes that Alan will bring our siren issue to their attention in the hope of obtaining some assistance

Zoning

Bud reporting:

1. Jim read the Zoning Report for November along with input from Allan for - **227 Rustic Rook**, Allan reported that Huntington National Bank purchased the property for \$122,000 and Kelly looked up the appraised value and it was \$115,950 - Allan will provide Jim the contact

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information for their Maintenance Department so he can advise them about the Zoning Violations needing to be corrected – Jim reported that this year he issued more permits than ever before and the current count is at 51

2. Allan called the Variance Hearing to Order for 416 Northvale Drive and swore in the property owner Kyla Cole and then asked Jim to report on the purpose of the Variance – Jim reported that the homeowner wants to erect a car port attached to the house that once built will be 6” off the property line – Kyla reported that she plans to carry the roof line over the proposed car port and that there will be a gutter running the entire length, keeping it open until she sees how much the weather impacts her vehicle and she may then close it in within one year and she also wants to pave the driveway that is currently stone that is right up against the property line and does not meet the 2’ minimum distance per Jim – Jim confirmed that letters went out to the neighbors about tonight’s Variance meeting and he confirmed speaking with one of the neighbors who was OK with it and Kyla stated that she has also spoken with neighbors none of whom had an issue with this – Allan asked if any neighbors are here tonight and there were none – Allan read the 7 requirements that a Variance had to satisfy – no exceptions were taken – Allan asked for 3 separate roll call votes on the requested changes listed in the Variance – Item 1, adding the car port – Bud – aye, Barb – aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye, Item 2, closing in the car port – Bud - nay, Barb – nay, Alan – aye, Tamitha – nay, Keith – nay, Ken – nay, Item 3, making the stone driveway into a concrete driveway – Bud – aye, Barb – aye, Alan – aye, Tamitha – aye, Keith – aye, Ken – aye – Allan reported that adding the car port and making the driveway concrete have passed but closing in the car port did not pass – Jim to issue a letter to the property owner on tonight’s vote – Council OK’d a tarp type of covering provided it is removed each Spring

Community Relations

Tamitha reporting:

1. thanked Bud and Mark Krosse for fixing the “owl” system for this month’s meeting
2. thanked all who helped with the Fall Festival and she also sent out individual Thank You cards – Mayor Dodaro thanked Tamitha and all those who assisted for this great event, Matt’s prepared food was delicious as was Ken’s mac and cheese
3. reported that she had wanted to get something set up to hand out Halloween candy along Beachside Drive but the weather was too bad – Mayor Dodaro OK’d setting up something like this at Point Park going forward
4. reported that she is working on Breakfast with Santa on December 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> and she will pin it down as we get closer and she also needs to see if Santa is available for the Breakfast - reported that Ken is going to assist in helping to get food donations and will help in serving breakfast

Buildings and Utilities

Barbara reporting:

1. confirmed that the electrical power at Point Park was activated but we are now in seasonal shut-off and the system will be turned back on in the Spring – confirmed that if/when power is needed during winter months she can call to get it reactivated at a cost of \$15 per activation – Mayor Dodaro thanked Barb for doing a good job with this issue
2. reported that the Board of Elections contacted Bud to deliver the election equipment and going forward they need to contact her, Bud confirmed that there are two numbers for her to call to coordinate these deliveries
3. reported that the Community Center was cleaned today

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4. reported that Ohio Edison removed the light at Point Park when they were asked not to do so – Tamitha stated she hadn't noticed less light for now – Barb will call in the two burned out lights at the Bocce Ball court
5. **made a motion to appropriate \$300 for Christmas lights for the Community Center, other supplies and to service the fire extinguishers, seconded by Bud (who offered to pay for this out of his budget. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
6. will re-email the combination for the breaker box down at the beach which is now the same combination for all Village locks
7. reported repairing the section of siding on the Community Center reported by Bill
8. Allan raised concerns about electrical issues down at the Beach for the past Polar Bear Jumps and Barb stated that Al Horning stated to her there should not be any issues going forward

Parks

Ken Reporting:

1. reported that the Kayak Dock has been removed and stowed away, he thanked Al Serco, John Sandora, Eric Bromell and his friend Ben
2. reported that per the Playground Safety Inspection we need to replace the rotted railroad ties and they recommend that we use a 12" high plastic border that has a 10 year warranty, we need to have a 5" deep pea gravel base in our playground areas for fall protection and we will need 24 tons which is just under \$1,000 and we will use the PEP Grant monies for this purchase – Gary said we need to spend it this year if we file the grant this year and Ken said OK let's do it – Barb asked about the playground here at the Community Center and Ken said he had not planned to do that – Gary stated that he has about \$13,000 available, including the monies not spent for the Park Pavilion, but this will clear him out of monies for the rest of the year – Ken reported that Tod Harris gave him a quote to do all of the targeted work this year, including the dumpster at a cost of \$3,500, Gary stated that he will need a quote for this work and asked if it will be a lump sum payment and Ken stated yes – Ken asked if he doesn't spend all of the monies this year does he lose the monies and Gary confirmed that they will roll-over into 2024 if not spent this year
3. **Ken made a motion to encumber \$13,000 for the playground upgrades and repairs, seconded by Barb. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

Streets

Keith reporting:

1. reported that Most Paving were able to complete the street repairs on Briarwood and Garmin, the rest of the repairs will now have to wait until next Spring when the asphalt plants re-open, Keith expressed his disappointment about carry over into 2024 but the work completed was well done
2. reported that the OPWC Grant Application for Phase 9 has been submitted
3. Allan stated that he has the Ordinance to purchase road materials from Medina County, he did the first reading of Ordinance 888-23, "an Ordinance approving the agreement for purchase of materials from the Medina County Commissioners for the Village in 2024 pursuant to ORC Section 307.15 and declaring the same an emergency"
4. **Keith made a motion to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of Ordinance 888-23, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
5. **Keith made a motion to approve Ordinance 888-23 as an emergency, seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**

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Legal

Allan reporting:

1. confirmed that he has one case of disorderly conduct and the next hearing is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> for a change in plea
2. distributed the map of Village properties to Village officials
3. congratulated the Village for passing the Road and Bridge Levy – Keith thanked all of the voters for passing this levy
4. announced that next year we only need to obtain bids for projects that cost \$75,000 or more, up from the current amount of \$50,000 and they did a smart thing by including a 3.5% increase in the upper limit each year to account for inflation
5. confirmed that he needs to read the Finance polices submitted to him by Committee members Alan and Bud for next month's meeting
6. reported that he received a letter from the Mohn's who are interested in purchasing the lots at 297 and 298 Garmin Road and if the Village wants to consider selling these it will need to be opened up for public bidding and we would need to run an Ad that would state the properties are unbuildable – Mayor Dodaro asked about obtaining the appraised value of these properties and Bud stated that Bud Clarkson, a Village resident, is an Appraiser and he will approach him on this and report back at the December meeting for lots 04802009 and 04802010 – Kelly reported that they are listed in the Village name and on the Auditor's website the value is listed at \$830 each – Jim stated that each lot is 45'x130' and both properties are marsh
7. Alan stated that the Sheriff contract expires at the end of this year and we currently pay the Deputies \$31 per hour and when you add in the benefits that we also pay, it equates to \$37 per hour
8. Allan asked if Council wants to consider a joint contract for Sheriff services with Gloria Glens – Alan stated that he will investigate this and he will plan on speaking with Captain Ross and Chief Grice – Mark reported that this was nixed in the past

Finance

Gary reporting:

1. confirmed that he distributed the October Bank Reconciliation Report to Council reflecting that all accounts are in balance – he asked if there are any questions or comments – none were offered; he requested **a motion approving the October Bank Reconciliation Report as distributed and authorizing Council to sign the report – Alan made a motion to so move, and it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
2. confirmed that he distributed the October Appropriations Report to Council through the end of October, he asked if there were any questions – none were offered– he asked for **a motion approving Council to sign-off on the Appropriations Report through the end of October signifying Council's review and agreement with the expenditures, Barb made a motion to so move, and that it was seconded by Tamitha. Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays**
3. reported that the Finance Committee last met on November 1<sup>st</sup> and authorized the Fiscal Officer to proceed to activate the IntraFi Demand Deposit ICS (Insured Cash Sweep) Account with our Primary Checking Account at Westfield Bank which will now earn a 4% annual yield interest rate – confirmed that on November 8<sup>th</sup> he sent in the necessary documentation to Westfield Bank – reported that Alan Robbins had requested that he investigate a similar program offered by Citizens Bank, currently earning 5.26% Annual Yield insured through SIPC versus FDIC – Gary confirmed sending Citizens Bank 3 months' worth of Checking Account Statements for their analysis and he is awaiting their response listing the associated monthly transaction fees

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associated with their program for possible consideration in 2024 – Gary reported that he also advised Westfield Bank about Citizens Bank offering the higher interest rates and asked them to consider offering competitive rates at the start of the new year – reported that Allan Michelson, is reviewing the two Banking and Investment policies generated by Bud and Alan Robbins to determine which best meets our legal obligations after which he will generate an Ordinance adopting this new policy – Gary reported that Allan has also been asked to investigate the SIPC insurance to make certain that we can legally accept such insurance for Public monies and also Allan is to issue a letter confirming the legality of using the ICS program for Chippewa Lake Public monies — the next Finance Committee meeting will be taking place sometime after the first of the New Year – he asked if there are questions or comments from Council on any of these matters – none were offered

4. reported that Allan’s contract expires the end of this year and that we need a new contract and Ordinance for the December meeting
5. asked Ken if he has the information needed for filing the PEP Grant Application and Ken confirmed that it was in the documents he distributed before tonight’s meeting
6. reported that next month he will be asking Council for any changes to the 2024 Appropriations and confirmed that he distributed to Council the 2024 proposed Budget at the April Council Meeting and the final budget for submittal to the Auditor’s Office at the June Council Meeting that included 2024 Appropriations – if anyone needs copies just let him know and if anyone wants to meet as a group or individually he is available to do so – he asked if there are questions or comments from Council on any of these matters – none were offered – Mayor Dodaro asked Gary to send newly elected Councilwoman Leslie Burns the budget and appropriation data furnished to Council
7. asked Allan about any update on the requests to lower property taxes on Village owned properties and Allan stated that the paperwork is done but we cannot file until January, 2024
8. as of the end of October, the balance in the primary checking account was \$252,742.05 in the Money Market account \$253,577.32 and \$104,870.25 in the Star Ohio account for a total of \$611,189.62 - he asked if there were any questions – none were offered

Old Business

1. Alan reported that the Annual NOPEC Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday and he plans on attending

Public Participation

1. Kelly stated that we can still apply for ARPA funds – Gary responded that the Village did receive the full amount of its ARPA allotment in the amount of \$78,354.33 and no additional monies are available to the Village
2. Jeff reported that Gloria Glens hired a Deputy and perhaps, depending upon what Alan finds out, there may be a way to share her time with Chippewa Lake and reduce our total Deputies by one – asked about docking of boats and associated fees and permits, a discussion took place on this subject pointing out the differences between the Villages on boat docking i.e. Gloria Glens has an Association and Chippewa Lake pays the Park directly and Allan stated that some of this goes back as far as the 1920’s dealing with deed restrictions – Mayor Dodaro confirmed that for new homes or homes purchased where the Lake Right Fees had expired, no new Lake Rights are being issued – Allan stated that this is a very complex matter and suggested that impacted boat owners may want to hire legal representation to investigate and see if any options for acquiring docking rights is available

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3. Lisa reported that John Sandora was awarded Conservation Volunteer of the Year by the Medina County Soil and Water Conservation department – reported that the test program for algae control is not working as planned as it appears that the system works better in small bodies of water
4. Bill feels that we owe Pete and the people who did the paving a big thank you for the work they just completed

New Business:

Nothing to report.

**There being no further business Barb motioned to adjourn at 8:59 PM, seconded by Ken.**

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Mayor Joanne Dodaro

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Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris