

**VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 26, 2025
INFRASTRUCTURE WORK AND GRANTS**

Mayor Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

The following officials were present: Barb Hunter, Alan Robbins, Leslie Burns, Tamitha Sorgi, Ken Demeter and Gary Harris – Fiscal Officer, visitors Darren Fronk representing Lakeside Fogging, Debbie, Al and Matt Horning

Gary opened with a brief description of the Infrastructure Grants that are available through State Funding, the Ohio Public Works Commission Grant (OPWC) that has two sub-groups those being the State Capital Improvement Plan (SCIP) and the Local Transportation Improvement Plan (LTIP) and if we fail to win consideration with these, we then move into the Small Government Grant as the last resort for winning an Infrastructure Grant – Gary distributed handouts to all Village Officials, those being the point score sheets for the SCIP and LTIP Grants + the Small Government score sheets + the Phase 9 Disbursement Form listing total payments for this Phase + the Forecasted 2025 Revenues

Allan distributed reports to the Village Officials on the 2023-2024 Revenues and Payments as well as the payments made on Phase 9 that listed payments made by the Village, by OPWC and by the Medina County Sanitary Engineering Department

A discussion took place about how to fund infrastructure projects going forward including how costs continue to increase year after year – Mayor Dodaro distributed a Summary Sheet of all OPWC Completed Projects going back to 2004 that reflected the increase in costs from the early projects up to the most current project - Mayor Dodaro also reviewed how road repairs that once cost \$20,000 rose to \$50,000 the last few years and now we have a bid at \$70,000+ - Mayor Dodaro asked Gary to review for Council how the OPWC Grant system works – Gary stated that the District's philosophy has changed, in the prior Grant Applications up until Phase 9, the Village only had a matching amount equivalent to 10-11% of the total costs whereas for Phase 9 the contribution rate rose to 40%+ to be assured of getting the Grant – Gary referred to the sheets he distributed to Village Officials where he "hi-lited" the 5 sections of the Grant Application scoring system that the Village can impact out of the total of 14 sections in the Application and all 5 sections basically ask "how much is Chippewa Lake going to pay and/or take as a loan on the project that you are applying for", the more the Village contributes the higher the points awarded, likewise, the lower the amount contributed results in lower points awarded thus lowering the probability of winning the Grant – Gary said, it's all about the total points that now determine if an applicant is successful in winning the Grant – Gary also disagreed with those who suggested not investing in the engineering now but rather wait and he stated that once you complete the engineering that part of it is done and, you also get points by having the engineering completed because the project can start sooner once an award is won – he was asked what if changes are made to the standards, isn't all of that money a lost investment, Gary said "no" because they don't trash all the design standards at one time rather, there can be a design standard upgrade that you only have to pay for that section of the engineering previously done that apply to the upgrade and he has not seen this happen in all the years that he has written Grants for Burbank - Alan stated that he does not like the idea of taxation without representation that he feels a RITA Tax would embody, he also stated that the tax impacts working people and the Village has no large employers to assist in paying any Village Income Tax – Alan also reported that he spoke with Commissioner Burke about property taxes and was told that the next property assessment may increase taxes by as much as 30% on top of the 27% increase based on the most recent property assessment done by Medina County – Alan recommended that we

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accomplish what we can with the resources we have and be more patient as we build up cash reserves for the next project Phase – Alan also asked about savings to be realized if we do a larger scope of work, Gary reported that doing the next section of Brookshore would cost \$568,000 and doing the remaining sections of Brookshore all at once would cost \$843,500 based on today's pricing

A discussion about the other streets in Chippewa Lake took place with Barb reviewing all taxes being paid already by residents and Leslie voicing the need to have a 5-year strategic plan in place identifying the other streets and associated costs – Tamitha spoke about the resurfacing work that took place some time back 10-15 years ago at minimal cost and Leslie mentioned that some home owners had installed their own catch basins, etc. - Bud arrived and reviewed his participation in overseeing these infrastructure projects along with the on-site observers and other engineering support and how important being on site is and in building the relationship with the observers and workers and he feels that the Village needs additional revenues to keep up with rising costs – Barb feels that another meeting should be called and to have RITA there to make a presentation to those in attendance - Leslie felt that we need to communicate with the community and have more information on the Village website

Bud reviewed RITA and what is on their website, the fact that RITA covers 81 of the 88 Counties in Ohio with tax rates ranging from .66% up to 2.5% - the discussion continued and covered the complexity of winning OPWC Grant awards, the complexity of financing these projects and the need for adequate levels of revenues to support these efforts as Council works to meet our obligations for the community – also discussed in detail was the impact of a RITA Village Income Tax on this community that already is paying property taxes, with a potential of a 30% increase in property valuation and the impact that will have on all residents coupled with school taxes – discussed the need to have more Committee Meetings on goals and objectives and sharing this with the community and consider increasing the Road & Bridge Levy as opposed to a Village Income Tax – Al Horning said that Council needs to evaluate and report to the community the overall picture of how much money is needed, how much monies are received and possible options to meet all obligations – Leslie is going to contact the Auditor's Office and put information together regarding properties within the Village, tax rates and valuations and Bud is going to contact RITA for more details and put all of this together for presentation to the community and for the community's consideration

Barb made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:58 PM, seconded by Tamitha. 6 ayes, 0 nays

Mayor Joanne Dodaro

Fiscal Officer, Gary Harris