

**The Village of Weston
Council Meeting Minutes**

July 18, 2022

Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor, Jeremy Schroeder at 6:00PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and presentation of the agenda. A roll call was taken: Mrs. Ashley Patel, Mr. Dean Babcock, Mr. Craig Warner, Mr. Dave Dewitt, Mr. Rob Myerholtz and Mr. Rick Easterwood. *A motion to approve July 5, 2022 council meeting minutes as written was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mrs. Patel; Approved unanimously.*

Old Business

No old business at this time.

Reports

Attendance: Stephanie Monts (Fiscal Officer), Harold Boggs (Administrator), Ken Taylor (Zoning Inspector)

Mayor: Received a call from the Otsego Youth Tackle football coach to practice in Weston, they will be signing a liability form and adding the Village to their insurance. Mr. Easterwood inquired about the status of the reservoir project. The dock is almost done, which is the last part of the project.

Fiscal Officer: We have gotten requests to publish the agenda. It is not required but a good practice for open and transparent government is to publish on the website. Will be updating the website minutes tab to also include the agendas. In order to publish agendas items to go on the agenda need to be submitted by Friday before a council meeting. Received a call today from Main Street Station that they will no longer be selling fuel. NWWSD provided a photo of the watershed sign, council had no objections. Received the second round of ARPA money in the amount of \$86,606.87.

Administrator: Got a catch basin for Silver Street from Mack, the current one has four holes. Will need help to get the old one tore out and new put in, will be asking Kendall Plumbing (Shad) for assistance. Durapatcher is all set to start patching. Mulch is all spread and just needs leveling.

Zoning Inspector: Sent letter to property owners of 2 lots north of Oak Street at Broad Oak concerning individuals living in a trailer on the property, Stephanie received a call today reporting that we were given misinformation and that nobody is living in the trailer and that there is no electricity. Letters went to property owners at 13316 Main St for an inoperable vehicle and weeds, 20532 and 20556 Russ St for grass. Called Wood County Health Department to look into residence at 20735 Sycamore. Received an email from a realtor on the possibility of turning the upstairs of a garage into a living unit at 13345 Main St. Forwarded Stephanie photo of debris pile at 20830 Sycamore St, debris at 13765 Main St has been piled neatly against the garage door. There is tall grass around power poles throughout the Village, it was suggested to put a reminder in the digital newsletter.

Committee Reports

Public Works: Drainage tile on Silver St was discussed and Harold is getting a price and availability on replacement pieces to fix. Sidewalk/road in front of the library was discussed and Harold and the Mayor are handling the repairs and had a talk with K&K on why they moved forward and that it is not to happen again. Plan to make Cherry, Milton and High St a three way stop. An ordinance will need to be drafted by Paul Skaff. Mayor added that the current stop sign ordinance is outdated and will be going around to make sure everything is accurate and up to date. Discussed the lease after it is up on the F550 and idea is to keep the 550 and possibly lease a new truck to replace the red dump truck. Need numbers from finance to discuss road repair for 2023. Need to discuss leftover ARPA money to be used on drainage projects.

Cemetery + Special Meeting: Discussed mausoleum that has a crack in the concrete roof and plans of next steps. Will readdress this on or around March 2023 and incorporate a possible grant for the project. Palmer's is increasing the amount to dig graves to \$250. Tom Patton is retiring and is willing to stay in the position until replacements are named, discussed position and next steps. A special meeting was held to discuss the cemetery sexton position and possibly splitting the position so the sexton handles administrative duties and hire a mower/grounds care. Tom is interested in the sexton position if he could be relieved of the physical labor of the job. Voted to split to position with a seasonal position to do the mowing. A pay ordinance will be presented to the council at \$16/hour capped at 800 hours/year. Begin advertising for the seasonal position. Mr. Myerholtz asked if the board had entertained landscaping bids. It was shared that Jodie had given feedback on what the township pays for mowing. There was also concern that now cemetery maintenance gets paid more than Village maintenance. Mayor explained that Village maintenance has regular hours, and cemetery maintenance is a seasonal position that is capped at 800/year. Mr. Myerholtz also brought up why we have waited so long to get records and now with digitizing we would have to wait even longer and that maybe we need to have the solicitor write a letter to the board to get the records. Mr. Easterwood noted that with Palmer's raising the price for grave digging we should be looking at the idea of doing this in house. Mr. Easterwood and Mr. Myerholtz shared we could add an additional maintenance worker that also works in the cemetery. Mr. Warner asked why we would add more to Harold's plate. Mr. Easterwood shared that he should be working on more administrative items instead of spending most of his time on a mower. Mr. Dewitt shared confusion on why the Village even has the cemetery. Mr. Myerholtz added that the Village taxpayers are the only ones paying for it and if the township had ownership they would be able to collect more levy money.

Finance: The option to buy the copier at the end of the lease or leasing an upgrade was discussed. If upgraded, it was suggested to add the folding finisher instead of just the stapling. If purchased (currently under a fair market value lease), we discussed adding a maintenance plan. Stephanie will reach out to get more details on the maintenance plan which would cost around \$30/month. Recommend purchasing the trailer offered by the Township. Farmers & Merchants bank gave the best proposal and will be recommending to move forward with the switch. Discussed the need to hire a company to digitize/index the

permanent Village and cemetery records for next year's budget, we appropriate \$9,000 for audit but only get audited every other year. Replacing the Main St banners were discussed and recommending budgeting \$1,500 for new banners. Street funds for next year were discussed, and instructed the Fiscal Officer to get more details on State Hwy and Permissive Fund allowable expenditures. Stephanie added that she spoke with a state auditor and got more information on state hwy and permissive expenditures. State Hwy fund is strictly for state hwy. Typically ODOT will chip/seal and then ask for X amount of money to cover it, in reality state hwy fund is more of a "just in case ODOT decides to bill us". Permissive is the same, it is very road specific and can only be used for repairing roads, highways, streets and bridges. *A motion to set the Fiscal Officer, Mayor and President of Council as authorized signers on the Farmers & Merchants Bank Account was made by Mrs. Patel, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved - 5, Opposed - 0, Abstained - 1, Mr. Dewitt. A motion to approve the purchase of the trailer from the township up to \$1,800 was made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved unanimously.*

Rec Board: Kellee & Ben Downard were in attendance to discuss the disparities between boys and girls baseball and softball games. Girls and boys will play on both fields next year as they are getting rid of the mound. Working with Deshler to replace the switch for the lights at the ball diamonds. Trick or Treat date has been set for 10/29 and Christmas Party 12/3, dates are depending on collaborating with the fire department. Will have budget numbers and ideas for the August meeting. Approved to purchase plugs for bases. Will be scheduling a drop off for keys and equipment.

Upcoming Meetings: Economic & Community Development 7/20 at 5PM, Safety 7/28 at 5:30PM, Personnel & Policies 7/28 at 6PM

New Business

A fireworks ban ordinance was reviewed, and shall be marked as the first reading. Mr. Warner had asked if any complaints came in during 4th of July, which there was not. Mr. Easterwood, Mr. Warner, and Mrs. Patel shared their objections to the ban of fireworks. Ordinance amending municipal regulations section 174.30 and 174.36 in regards to smoking at parks was reviewed. The ordinance updates park definitions to include school bus stops. Mr. Brad Anderson was in attendance on behalf of the Otsego school board which had received complaints regarding smoking at a bus stop. The school cannot enforce this as they do not have jurisdiction in a Village. Council shared concern on how this would be enforceable if passed. Mr. Myerholtz shared that he has done some research and has seen other cities have sidewalks and public buildings where a smoking ban is in effect. Mr. Anderson added that if Weston sets the precedent he will be going to the other villages in the district to establish no smoking at/near bus stops. Mr. Anderson said he spoke with the transportation director in regards to enforcement and she will give direction to bus drivers to be reported to the school and the school can report to the sheriff. Mr. Dewitt said right now we have nothing, and if we don't pass an ordinance the only violation is common sense, if we do pass an ordinance there is actually a violation. Council requested this ordinance to be updated to not be specific to parks but public locations such as the buildings and sidewalks. Amending the pay schedule will be put on the next agenda to update the cemetery pay structure and adding the zoning inspector.

Resolution 2022-7, establishing policy governing the security and deposit of receipts (Farmers & Merchants depository agreement) received an emergency reading. *A motion to suspend the rules for the emergency reading of Resolution 2022-7 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Warner. A Roll Call Vote, Yes, was taken: Mrs. Patel, Mr. Babcock, Mr. Warner, Mr. Dewitt, Mr. Myerholtz, Mr. Easterwood. A motion for passage of Resolution 2022-7 was made by Mr. Easterwood, seconded by Mr. Babcock; Approved - 5, Opposed - 0, Abstained - 1, Mr. Dewitt.*

Ordinance 2022-14, making supplemental appropriations received an emergency reading. *A motion to suspend the rules for the emergency reading of Ordinance 2022-14 was made by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Babcock. A Roll Call Vote was taken: Mrs. Patel YES, Mr. Babcock YES, Mr. Warner YES, Mr. Dewitt ABSTAINED, Mr. Myerholtz YES, Mr. Easterwood YES. A motion for passage of Ordinance 2022-14 was made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Mr. Warner; Approved - 5, Opposed - 0, Abstained - 1, Mr. Dewitt.*

Approval of Expenditures

Council reviewed payment listing totalling \$26,666.65, with a motion to approve made by Mr. Myerholtz, seconded by Mrs. Patel; Approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business

The Farmers Market will be moved to the Village Hall to accommodate the car show and keep all the vendors together. *A motion to approve the closure of Main Street from the railroad to Cherry Street and Mill Street depending on location of future market dates was made by Mrs. Patel, seconded by Mr. Easterwood; Approved unanimously.* Mr. Easterwood added that he reached out to Brondes about the ambulance and all the parts are in and will be worked on mid-week. He will reach back out before the next council meeting to see what the status update is.

Citizens & Visitors

Brad Anderson

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16PM.