



Village of Milan
Regular Council Meeting
August 26, 2020

The August 26, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance by Mayor Ben Smith.

Roll call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes

Also, present: Administrator Brian Rospert, Julie Stelzer and Attorney Jim Barney.

Motion by Rospert, seconded by Crosby, to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 2020 Council Meeting. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – abstain. Vote – all in favor with DeLand abstaining from the vote, motion carried.

Motion by Crosby, seconded by Shafer, to approve Meeting Minutes of the August 5, 2020 Special Council Meeting. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Rospert, seconded by Taylor, to approve the Council bills for the period of July 23rd – August 26th. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Shafer, to approve the Utility bills for the period of July 23rd – August 26th. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The Edison Athletic Booster requested to use the Village Parking Lot behind the Milan Drive-Thru to sell their ice-cream on Labor Day Weekend, September 5th, 6th & 7th during the hours of 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM. The Boosters were reminded that a Utility account for electricity and the necessary insurance Ryder will need to be in place prior.

Motion by Crosby, seconded by Shafer, to allow the use of the Village Parking Lot behind the Milan Drive-Thru on September 5th, 6th & 7th. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith checked the Fiscal email for any new emails with questions that may have come in for citizen's participation, none was received. However, one email copy that was brought in to the office was received prior to the meeting from resident, Bobbie Weber. The following are her questions with the Mayor's answers. Question: Water Rates – Did the village compute the impact of the proposed Statehouse legislation which will reduce the allowable up charge for township residents? (Currently, they are charged double (100%), but the legislation will only allow 25%.) Answer: Yes, we are in the process now and working with RCAP. Question: Also, wasn't the 25 year water tower loan paid off in 2018? Answer: Yes. Question: Isn't that a savings of over \$100,000? Answer: Yes. Question: Electric Rates – Can residents opt out of the Village of Milan electric? Answer: No. Question: The Village of Milan's electric rates are currently the highest ever. In fact, the rates have almost doubled in the last 10 years. As a point of reference, a resident using a 782 consumption pays the Village of Milan almost 20 cents a kilowatt, where an Ohio Edison customer only pays 12 cent a kilowatt. We see that the Village has collected an extra \$1.6 million in the electric funds. Has the Village considered using other options (instead of self-funding the electric costs) such as issuing a bond and paying the principal and interest over time? Issuing bonds allow the village to spread the payment burden for public infrastructure and over time of expected useful life of the financed assets. It just does not seem fair for the current Village residents to fund these improvements that future Village residents are going to benefit from. Answer: In 2017, Council at that time elected to self-fund the upgrades and if she would like to talk one on one with Administrator Brian, he will give her a description on how everything runs and also the phone number to John Courtney, who is the Village Utility Consultant. Question: Audit – Wasn't the last audit done by an Independent Public Accounting firm (IPA) instead of the Ohio Auditor of State for 2016 and 2017? Answer: Yes, it was Charles Harris. Question: Has the Village of Milan considered requesting that the actual Ohio Auditor of State come in to audit the 2018 and 2019 books? Answer: The Village is in the middle of an audit right now but would welcome the Ohio Auditor of State if they choose to come in, absolutely. Question: Does Council still plan on forming an audit committee (as suggested in the last audit)? Answer: Yes, but at the moment the Village is without a Fiscal Officer so that is kind of hard.

Resident Victor Spurling commented about the Village using bonds for electrical upgrades. Mayor Smith said that is always something we can consider and thanked him for his input.

Resident Dan Frederick spoke to Council regarding the requested zoning amendment to 6' fences that is in the Planning Commission stage, ask that council follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and reject the request for the amendment.

Mayor Smith spoke of the current times we are in with COVID and ask the Village to unite and work together.

OLD BUSINESS

Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewers – A.J. Riley will be in to make the full-depth repairs on Main Street.

Through the Care Act funding, the Village received six (6) new picnic tables and two (2) trash can receptacles. Administrator Rospert and Mayor Smith asked Dan Frederick to thank Milan Trustees for use of Edison Park's picnic tables in the Village Square.

Safety – None

Finance – None

Regional Planning, Building Codes & Inspection – Case Trial involving 103 S. Main Street is scheduled for May 10, 2021 in Erie Common Pleas Court.

Council shall hold a public hearing on all proposed amendments to the map or text of the zoning regulations. Notice of time and place of hearing shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Village at least 30 days prior to the hearing.

Utilities – After the completion of Phase III of the WWTP project, there was an additional \$4,404.31 remaining with the OPWC funding and the amount allocated for the project, with permission from the OPWC to utilize the remaining portion of their funding and utilize the allocated funds, the additional following projects will be completed under the \$100,000 threshold: Extending a waterline and provide a hose bib for \$529.00. Removal of existing doors/frame, furnish & install a new 16Ga frame and 18 Ga galvanized steel doors with lockset for \$2,707.00 and Convert fluorescent lights to LED and furnish/install new bulbs for \$840.00. All work will be completed by James P. Finnegan Construction, Inc. It is anticipated \$328.00 carryover, for cost overruns.

Due to the uncertainty of House Bill 163, the rate charged to outside customers for water, it was suggested that the Village wait an additional month to have the second reading of the Ordinance that has been tabled since March of this year. This will be brought up for vote under Legislation.

Civic Contacts and Historical Preservation – None

Parks and Tree – None

Records Commission – None

NEW BUSINESS

Streets, Sidewalks and Storm Sewer – the department did the following: mowed parks and roadsides and sprayed weeds. Trimmed trees and shrubs, picked up brush and yard waste, cold patched several areas, assisted the Wastewater and Electric departments, participated in the startup procedures of the new grit wash system at the WWTP and removed a tree on Williams Street. Tom Weilnau of Weilnau Farms was in for annual mowing.

Safety – Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Shafer, to accept the resignation letter of Police Officer Samuel Putnam effective July 28, 2020. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Finance – Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Crosby, to accept the 2021 Tax Budget as submitted to Erie County Auditor’s Office. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Shafer, to accept the resignation letter of Fiscal Officer Michael Scott Palmer effective August 6, 2020. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Mayor Smith thanked Erie County Commissioners and Zach Rospert for helping the Village with Fiscal services during this time.

Motion by Crosby, seconded by Shafer, the appointment of Zach Rospert as Interim Fiscal Office until the position is filled, retroactive to August 12, 2020. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – abstain, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Vote – all in favor with Rospert abstaining from the vote, motion carried.

Regional Planning, Building Codes & Inspection – The Zoning Inspector issued a Zoning Permit to 13 Milan Manor for a storage building (variance was approved by the BZA). Reviewed a complaint on a fence at 26 & 32 S. Huron Street and 80 S. Main Street. It was determined that all occupants were replacing current fences.

Utilities – The Water/Wastewater department performed the following: daily and weekly required EPA testing, general maintenance on equipment and auto dialers, read meters and performed numerous OUPS tickets. Participated in the startup procedures of the grit wash system at the WWTP and changed the break in oil after two weeks of operation. Sent backflow prevention letters, sprayed for weeds, replaced a valve box for the Electric Department water shut-off, assisted the Electric Department and began working on new Metrics program the EPA has put together for Public Water Systems (PWS) in Ohio. H2O Towers was in and cleaned, inspected and spot painted the water tower. Franklin Sanitation camera the sewer line on Main Street at several locations and all areas appeared to be in good shape.

The Electric Department performed the following tasks: Performed weekly substation check list, sprayed weeds, installed new 50kva transformer behind American Legion and transferred several loads from the large 100kva transformer behind the Wonder Bar to the 50kva, which reduced the load on the 100kva transformer in preparation for its removal, which occurred the following week. Made necessary repairs to electrical connections at 1909 Sleepy Hollow Drive, relamped and repaired several interior lights at the Street Department and Administration Office, transferred power from an old pole to the new pole at 83 Elm Street and trimmed trees in select areas of the Village’s electrical distribution lines. Took the Dodge bucket truck in for repairs, replaced a failed video camera at the Administration Building, and removed a Cottonwood tree. Replaced a yard pole, street lights and failing residential meters throughout the month.

Civic Contacts – the Milan Garden Club dedicated a bench in front of the Blue Star Memorial in the Village Square on August 18th.

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND FOR THE VILLAGE OF MILAN.

Motion by Rospert, seconded by Crosby, to bring this Resolution to its third and final reading. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Shafer, to adopt by title only. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PORTION OF THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS (CRF) TO BE USED TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO LOCAL BUSINESSES, CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY COVID-19 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Crosby, to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Crosby, seconded by Shafer, to adopt by title only as an emergency. Roll Call: Crosby - yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Rospert, to suspend the rules. Roll Call: Crosby – yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

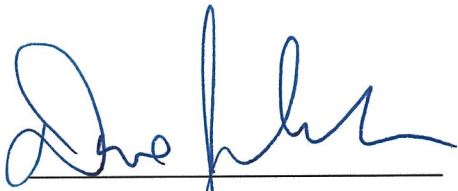
Motion by Rospert, seconded by Crosby, to adopt by title only. Roll Call: Crosby – yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING


Carla Rospert discussed having additional Council meetings back in the Village Council room.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Crosby, seconded by Rospert to adjourn tonight’s meeting. Roll Call: Crosby – yes, Jenkins – yes, Rospert – yes, Taylor – yes, Shafer – yes, DeLand – yes. Motion carried.



Dave Jenkins, Council President



Julie Stelzer