

VILLAGE OF MINSTER, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Council Meeting: Council convened at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers with six council members present: Tom Herkenhoff, Craig Oldiges, Steve Kitzmiller, Nicole Clune, Paul Enneking, and Rick Schwartz. Also present were Dennis Kitzmiller (Mayor), Don Harrod (Administrator), Jim Hearn (Village Solicitor), and John Stechschulte (Fiscal Officer). Mayor Dennis Kitzmiller called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Janice Barniak (Evening Leader) and Jared Mauch (Daily Standard). Also present were Wes Farno, David Dwyer and Suzanne Csejty (American Renewable Energy and Power), and David Friend (Police Chief).

Approval of Minutes: P. Enneking and T. Herkenhoff motioned to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2014 regular meetings. Motion passed on six aye votes.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Solar Project: David Dwyer attended the meeting to discuss some issues with the solar project at the Luedeke Farm. Senate Bill 310 was passed and has reduced the benefits and price of renewable energy credits. The renewable energy credits are an important factor for investment in solar power projects. The credits were valued at \$150 and are now approximately \$30. With Renewable Energy Credits being so low, investors are looking at other ways to recoup monies from renewable energy. One way to do that is to invest in frequency regulation. Frequency regulation is the placement of electrical voltage into the electrical system to maintain proper frequency of the electrical curve. This is done through the installation of large battery units that put voltage onto the electrical system when needed. Pennsylvania Jersey Maryland (PJM) is responsible for the managing the power grid in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois and would pay for this frequency regulation making the investment in renewable energy more favorable. AREP has an investor who would like to add frequency regulation as part of the proposed solar array in Minster. This project would consist of large trailers of lithium-ion batteries placed at the north substation. Council is concerned about possible environmental and noise concerns. They will discuss the issue and decide at the next Council meeting.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Mutual Aid Agreement: Annually Council authorizes a fire protection mutual aid agreement between the Loramie Fire District and the Minster-Jackson Township Fire Department. The agreement is to provide service to properties located within McLean Township North of the North shore of Lake Loramie (Hegemann's Landing area) for a fee of \$13,477.50 as compared to the same amount for 2014, \$13,477.50. N. Clune and C. Oldiges motioned for the 3rd reading to pass and adopt **Ordinance 14-11-01** entering into a mutual aid agreement with the Loramie Fire District. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Mayor's Court Magistrate: Mr. Robert Kehoe has again agreed to serve as the Mayor's Court Magistrate for 2014. He has held this position for several years. As has been the case in the past, the fee for his services will be \$500 retainer for the first five hours of service and then a charge of \$175 per hour for all services over five hours. S. Kitzmiller and T. Herkenhoff motioned for the 1st

reading of **Resolution 14-12-01** entering into a contract with Mr. Robert Kehoe to act as Mayor's Court Magistrate. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Income Tax Collection Contract with City of St. Marys: The current 3-year contract with the City of St. Marys to collect and maintain the Village Income Tax expires at the end of the year. They have sent a new 3-year contract for our review and approval. The fee will be 1.75% of all taxes collected which is a significant increase from the previous contract. The Finance Committee have reviewed other options but believe this is the best option at this time. R. Schwartz and N. Clune motioned to suspend the rule of three readings. Motion passed on six aye votes. R. Schwartz and S. Kitzmiller motioned to pass and adopt **Ordinance 14-12-02** authorizing a new 3-year contract with the City of St. Marys Tax Department to administer the income tax collection for the Village. Motion passed on six yes votes. The new contract will expire December 31, 2017.

Transfer of Funds: Three funds require transfers of money to for expenditures from the funds. The transfers are as follows:

\$1,827,000.00 from 101 General Fund to 204 WWTP Renovation

No transfer of \$77,695.57 from the Brownfield Grant to the Capital Improvement

\$212,925.19 from Fourth St Project to Capital Improvement

C. Oldiges and T. Herkenhoff motioned to suspend the rule of three readings. Motion passed on six aye votes. R. Schwartz and S. Kitzmiller motioned to pass and adopt the **Resolution 14-12-02** authorizing the transfer of funds. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Interim Appropriations: Annually Council approves interim appropriations to cover expenditures for the first few months of the new year until the final budget is approved. The interim appropriations total is \$6,071,600.63 and represent approximately one fourth of the total for the year. Those interim appropriations allow the Village to continue to operate during the time the final 2015 budget is being prepared. Permanent appropriations will be considered after the year-end accounting is complete and the 2014 budget is finalized. N. Clune and S. Kitzmiller motioned for the 1st reading of **Ordinance 14-12-02** approving the interim appropriations. Motion passed on six aye votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None reported.

OLD BUSINESS: None reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

Purchases over \$3,000 Dollars: Council reviewed a list of invoices which were over \$3,000. Council has authorized the Administrator to purchase items under \$25,000, however, per the State Auditor; the purchases over \$3,000 and under \$25,000 require Council approval. R. Schwartz and C. Oldiges motioned to approve the invoices over \$3,000. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependent Fund: T. Herkenhoff and S. Kitzmiller motioned to appoint Nicole Clune as the 2015 Council representative to the (VFFDF) Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependent Fund. Motion passed on six aye votes.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- The Minster Parks Department and the Stallo Library welcome Santa Claus to the Minster Machine Centennial Park on Saturday, December 13 at 12:15 pm. Santa will arrive with the assistance of the Minster-Jackson Township Fire Department at 12:30 pm.
- Internal notices for the Public Works Department job opening were posted without any successful candidates, therefore, we will be advertising for the position in local newspapers and on our website over the next couple of weeks. It is our goal to have a recommendation to council sometime in January of 2015.
- Leaf pick-up will end on Friday, December 5th. After that date if residents still have leaves they can take them to the compost area behind the Utilities Building.
- The water department is down to less than 90 meters to change out in order to accommodate the new meter reading system. Residents who have not had their meter changed out can contact the village offices to schedule a time to change the meter.
- The Public Works Department has been working on the west lot of the new business park off of Fourth Street. The department is installing a buffer mound between the homes to the south and the industrial park lot. This mounding was required as part of the land sale agreement with Nidec Minster.
- For the second straight year, the village utilities have no accounts which need to be written off as uncollectable.

Invoices: T. Herkenhoff and N. Clune motioned to approve the invoices totaling \$860,045.58. Motion passed on six aye votes.

COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE: There will be a special meeting Monday, December 22, 2018 to interview perspective councilman to fill Steve Kitzmiller term in office.

S. Kitzmiller and R. Schwartz motioned to enter into executive session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss employee compensation for certain employees with no action anticipated. Motion passed on six aye votes. S. Kitzmiller and P. Enneking motioned to return to regular session at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed on six aye votes.

R. Schwartz and S. Kitzmiller motioned to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Dennis Kitzmiller, Mayor

John Stechschulte, Clerk

Recorded & typed by John Stechschulte