

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst Meeting
July 11, 2022
REGULAR MEETING

Council meeting

7:00 P.M. – The council meeting was called to order by Mayor David Leshinski and opened with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called:

Councilmember Michele Jeffers	P
Councilmember Scott Jones	P
Councilmember Jeanne Maschari	P
Councilmember Becky Siesky	P
Councilmember Jeri Leigh Siss	P
President Pro Tempore David Troike	P

Ex officio members:

Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke	P
Records Clerk Laurie Beran	P
Law Director Matthew Mishak	P

(EA – excused absences)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA July 11, 2022 change in agenda order; Police Department first agenda item. Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the agenda with the change in order. Councilmember Jones second.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike x

Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES June 27, 2022

Councilmember Troike moved to approve the minutes for June 27, 2022. Councilmember Maschari second.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike x

Motion passed.

VISITORS

Cemetery – Paula Knodel, Clerk SAPD – Lt. Harvan
SABPA Board members - Thomas Pellittieri, Mark Leshinski
Dominic Gentile 321 Fern Street

DEPARTMENT

Police (Lt. Harvan presented)

Councilmember Siss stated that she had a concern and has asked several times for more coverage on W. Main St. coming into town from Baumhart Rd. especially in the a.m. She had called last week with the make and model of a vehicle that has run her off the road three times.

2018 there were 388 traffic interactions

2019 there were 331 traffic interactions

2020 there were 355 traffic interactions

2021 there were 355 traffic interactions

2022 thru June there have been 284 traffic interactions. Of those interactions 73 have occurred on W. Main St. and 38 on E. Main St.; combined they make up 45% of the traffic interactions. The numbers show that we are doing more enforcement with fewer officers.

Councilmember Siss asked if there is a way for your records to show if there are times where there should be coverage, that currently is not and could it be covered? The answer was, yes and no. The simple answer is economics; how can we ask the officers to leave there \$65.00 p/hr. fulltime position to come and do traffic enforcement for half the pay. We could force the officers, but then we would lose them.

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Councilmember Siesky brought attention to the department regarding an adolescent roaming the Maroy/Oakdale neighborhood unattended. The child has been found in residents yards and inside one home. Lt. Harvan relayed the steps that should be taken.

Discussion was held regarding the landline voice mail for the department. Consensus was to discuss the issue with Chief Frazier to possibly just go with the county 911 dispatch.

FISCAL OFFICER

Payment Listing 6/23-7/7/2022 Councilmember Maschari asked about the item paid to Ohio Treasurer for \$24,294.86. The payment was for the OPWC Loan.

Appropriation Ordinance No. 288 was created without prior approval of the Finance Committee, due to the current water issues.

SABPA Status

Whatever carryover that the SABPA has for 2023 (which is Fund 5101) will only be from what they have cut out of their 2022 budget. There carryover is depleted, so now we are paying for any repairs from Fund 5102 User Fees. Normally, that fund is used for capital improvements and loan payments but if there is no money in Fund 5101, Fund 5102 is reverted to. The question was raised, what happens if 5102 is depleted? Then the money would come from the general fund. Councilmember Siss asked if we have done a worst case scenario if we have to dip into general funds. The fiscal officer replied that it depends on how many lines break and when. BPA board member Pellittieri replied that if seven lines break tonight, you're a week away. The fiscal officer went on to explain the situation as comparing this to the Mayfield, Kentucky tornado earlier this year. This is our disaster, it is serious enough where I have reached out to the State Auditor to ask what if we went into fiscal emergency? If the state would takeover, it means council has no budgetary/purchasing decision making.

Councilmember Maschari added that if the state would take control, as an example they would even pull police off of patrol, they would make all decisions until the village would be at a positive operational point. Insurance will possibly cover the repairs to the tower. Her understanding of the situation is that the pressure from the Quarry Rd. pit is causing the breaks. SABPA board member Pellittieri explained that there was no water issue; there was no pressure, so along with the water operator they checked the Quarry Rd. meter pit. Rattling in the restrictor valve was heard. LCRWA was notified and within five minutes, whatever was making the sound, blew through the line and the pressure went from 10 – 35, causing the break. Feedback from various water authorities in the area state that, water pressure builds up during the night; which normally the tower controls the pressure and when the residents start using their water in the morning, the system (lines) can not handle the built-up pressure in the older lines. Maschari stated that we have run without the tower in the past, has LCRWA made any response to the constant changes in pressure. What is the discussion, are we going to stay in the water business or have someone take it over? Fiscal officer stated it would be a collaboration. She stated that she, “feels that we should not be in the water business, it is not 15-20 years ago when we were pumping water from the Quarries and making it work. Now we are buying water and reselling it, the EPA is making it more difficult to do that at our level. More and more water systems like ours are being sold or merged to larger water systems because they can handle the demands and the responsibility of the EPA”.....It is a real soul searching moment and we need to decide is this where we want to spend our resources, do we want to be in the water business. Councilmember Maschari added that it will not get any easier with the EPA mandates, the newer systems are completely different. What are the next steps? Councilmember Siss had a discussion with Ohio

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Representative Joe Miller. Mr. Miller advised to call the county commissioners, everyone call the commissioners. The county has money and they would not want to see the village go into fiscal emergency.

Councilmember Maschari referenced the most recent discussion with LCRWA regarding a possible take over of the water system which was two years ago. At that time there was a quote of \$3000.00 per resident for new meters, a maintenance fee of \$5000.00 for hydrants, replace all water lines and they would not take over outstanding loans. Can the EPA force a larger system to take over ours? Further discussion will be held at SABPA meeting regarding next steps.

RECORDS CLERK

Building

Total of 6 permits were issued for the month of June: shed, concrete work, pole barn, pool, siding, fence.

Zoning

Total of 4 permits were issued: concrete work, pole barn, pool, fence.

104 & 106 Maroy Dr: pins were located, fence is on property line, grass has been removed from the fence. Councilmember Siss received a call from Ms. Thomas (104 Maroy) that a complaint was received from 106 stating that 104's fence was on 106's property. Ms. Thomas said the mayor came to her property and requested that property pins have to be found. Councilmember Siss asked, if the permits were pulled properly why was the stress put on 104 to find their pins. Councilmember Siss asked the mayor three times if the permit documents were pulled prior to going over and requesting the pins be found at 104 Maroy. In order to satisfy both parties, the mayor felt it was best to have 104 locate their property pins to settle the dispute. Zoning Inspector stated in response to Councilmember Siss's question that the permits were placed on her desk prior to her leaving for a long weekend. Councilmember Jones asked for the record, "If you (mayor) knew the answer that Laurie explained, why didn't you just answer it?" Mayor, "I don't go look at her desk."

Resident Requests for Action Form

Distributed to staff & council, along with instructions for records retention and follow-up procedures.

Website emails from 5/12-7/11/22: 12 total – speed, cemetery, 132 E Main, 3 water issue, update contact info, rummage permit, gas line project, 2 branches not picked-up, compliment for GoGreen

2023 Village Meeting Calendar – August 8th deadline for boards and committees to have days and times of meetings, include Planning Commission.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 1741-22 SAPD Compensation (Second Reading)

An ordinance fixing the rate of compensation for part-time members of the South Amherst Police Department effective January 1, 2023.

Ordinance No. 1742-22 An ordinance repealing existing South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 148 Board of Cemetery Trustees Administrative code; enacting new South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 148 Board of Cemetery Trustees Administrative code, and Declaring an emergency.

Motion

Second

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike x

Motion passed.

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Ordinance No. 1743-22 An ordinance repealing existing South Amherst Codified Ordinance Zoning Definitions Section 1133.02 (61) and Fees Section 1167.04; enacting new South Amherst codified Ordinance Zoning Definitions Section 1133.02 (61) and Fees Section 1167.04; and declaring an emergency.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike x

Motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 663-22 SAPD 2022 Special Event Compensation (Second Reading)

Be It Resolved, *by the Council of the Village of South Amherst*

WHEREAS, declaring the rate of compensation for special events for the South Amherst Police Department for the remainder of the 2022 calendar year.

WHEREAS, declaring the rate of compensation to be \$40.00 p/h.

WHEREAS, declaring a minimum of four (4) hours paid for the Halloween Parade and Trick-or Treat.

APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriation Ordinance No. 288

Councilmember Maschari moved to pass Appropriation Ordinance No. 288. Councilmember Jones second.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike x

Motion passed.

BOARDS

Cemetery (Councilmember Jones presented,)

Items to be addressed at the July 13th meeting are:

- Reviewing bids for drainage project in sections B & L.
- Formally requesting a separate entrance to be put in place between Section L and the church parking lot.
- Further discussion on a columbarium venture with Franklin Monument Company of Norwalk, Ohio.
- Assistance from the new village worker for dressing gravesites.

Councilmember Siss stated that on behalf of council, please let the board know they are going above and beyond their responsibilities. Hopefully, a service worker will be hired soon.

Park (Board member Laurie Beran presented.)

ARPA Funds Distribution board supports any additional funds be used to help alleviate the cost of the current waterline replacement costs.

Basketball Court proposed start date 7/16

Rain Garden Workshop county is looking to partner with the park to host a program with Lorain County Master Gardeners. The workshop would need to be sponsored by local businesses. Councilmember Siss will be in contact with the board for further discussion.

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SABPA (Councilmember Siss presented.)

Current status - Serve Pro gutted the doghouse, they were unable to do the renovation due to scheduling conflicts for 3 months. A private contractor is completing the renovation, not to exceed \$2000.00. They are fixing the doghouse, in order to get equipment back in and operational in order for the tower to be filled. The water tower has been inspected and cleared. Estimated timetable for the tower to be operational is the end of July.

Water Operator II – position is currently on hold, two prospective candidates would like to see the equipment once everything is in place.

Water/ Sanitary Sewer Levy – would need two separate levies. Information was received from the law director regarding steps, that the village would need to take to place a levy on the ballot. Consensus is that the residents should decide if they want to invest in new water lines and a sanitary sewer system. Bramhall Engineering is doing a cost analysis for a scope of work regarding new water lines. The county was in charge of the feasibility study for the sewer project.

The mayor thanked the board and all those involved with the waterline/tower issue, knowing that it has been frustrating and taxing.

COMMITTEES

Bldg.& Grounds (Councilmember Troike presented)

Village hall gutter guards quotes are not apples to apples.

SAFD the gutter needs to be fixed and the drain needs to be jet rodded. The fiscal officer did state that there is a current purchase requisition for the gutter.

MS4 SAFD Floor Drain Violation

Duly noted that the report given has not been discussed with the SAFD or SABPA as of 7/11/22 and Councilmember Troike asked to be placed on SABPA meeting agenda for 7/18/22. The committee would like to facilitate a collaborative effort between the SAFD, SABPA and the committee itself in order for the installation of a holding tank for the floor drains to correct the violation. See Exhibit A for the complete details.

Village Hall Parking Lot would like to complete, but at this time may need to reappropriate money to water breaks.

Audit/Finance

Audit meeting July 12th at 7 p.m.

Finance meeting July 21st at 7 p.m.

Ordinance

Committee meeting July 14 at 11 a.m.

Community & Economic Development

Bios & Newsletter deadline extended to July 15th.

MISCELLANEOUS

Service Worker (Councilmember Maschari presented.)

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The fiscal officer, along with two councilmembers interviewed six prospective candidates for the position. Councilmember Maschari asked and received positive affirmation from the law director that the village could offer employment contingent on the federal background check.

Councilmember Maschari moved to recommend the hiring of David Valentine as a Service Worker I to at the rate of \$17.50/hr. Second by Michele Jeffers.

Jeffers Jones Maschari Siesky Siss Troike

Motion passed.

Communications to Residents/State of the Village (Councilmember Jones presented.)

Live streaming of council meetings began tonight. Request was made to have directions on how to access the live stream and the link on the social media sites for residents,

Request was made to the mayor to write a "State of the Village" message for the newsletter and the social media sites.

Social media responses from council

Councilmember Maschari opinion is that sometimes comments should be responded to on FB, but the responses need to be collectively agreed upon by the whole council. Councilmember Troike would still like to have the police blotter posted. The blotter does not have to specifically put address of the occurrences. Mr. Troike has stated that the information is readily available, if there are questions on FB they are directed to the website or to call 440-986-2222. Councilmember Siss stated that social media has its place for disseminating information and I think we do a great job of doing our best in getting the information out. Comments are only turned off if they violate the Social Media Policy and our Records Retention Schedule. There tends to be a lot of "keyboard courage" out there. If we redirect the person to call your council, the mayor, the departments at the village hall to get the correct information. Phone numbers are listed on the website.

Wreaths Across America (Councilmember Maschari presented.)

Information that was received at the presentation on April 25th has been changed from the presenting group fundraising, to a cost for each wreath, Also, the volunteering to lay the wreaths was initially for our two cemeteries, not the other eleven in the county. Donations will not be accepted at the village hall. Purchases of the wreaths will have to be done online. The cemetery clerk stated that when the records are transferred to the UAN system, tracking of deceased veterans and family email addresses should help in simplifying the process.

ADJOURNMENT Time 8:59 p.m.
Siesky second.

Councilmember Siss moved to adjourn. Councilmember

Respectfully submitted,

Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke

Mayor David Leshinski