

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst Meeting
REGULAR COUNCIL
July 24, 2023

Call to order:

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 Becky Siesky	P
Councilmember Jeri Leigh Siss	P
Councilmember David Troike	EA
President Pro Tempore Jeanne Maschari	P

Ex officio members:

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

(EA – excused absences)

Approve absence of Councilmember Troike

Councilmember Maschari moved to excuse Councilmember Troike due to his employment obligations. Councilmember Siss seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike **Absent** Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

July 24, 2023

Additions: include Fire Department

Personnel in Executive Session.

Councilmember Jeffers moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike **EA** Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 10, 2023

Councilmember Jones moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike **EA** Motion passed.

VISITORS

Andrew Lawrie 802 S Lake St.

MAYOR

Metro Parks

The mayor attended a meeting where there was discussion on the strategic plan for expansion of the metro parks where he had a superficial discussion with the director. At the present time our park does not meet the criteria for a metro park. Councilmember Siss inquired if this was a discussion based on action taken by the Park Board. No, it was not. Councilmember Jeffers asked if the Metro Parks would ever take over the park, would the Village lose control of decisions? Unknown.

Community Development

Director Rob Duncan has shared that with the proposed sewer trunk line on Baumhart Rd, companies are looking for expansion around the area of Baumhart Rd & the Turnpike entrance.

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FISCAL OFFICER

Payment Listing 7/7 – 7/20/23

Presented to council. Councilmember Siesky asked for clarification on payments made to B & C Communications (for SAFD pagers) and Pfann (maintenance on the fire engines).

Financial Reports as of 7/18/2023

Fund Summary, Revenue Summary, Appropriation Summary were presented to council.

Fund Summary has been revised to show a positive balance for the Water Department after the backlog of July receipts were entered after the changeover of clerks.

Tax Levy

The fiscal officer recognized the need to explain the difference between a renewal and replacement levy prior to council making an informed decision on the type of levy to present to the residents. Further discussion was held by council and the following concerns were answered:

- yes, there could be a potential increase to residents if the tax valuation increases (replacement levy)
- if the valuation increases it could generate more toward paying off the engine, but if the levy wouldn't pass the conversation needs to stay open on how to fulfill the agreement.
- if the levy is kept as a renewal and passes the outlook is fine, although you would need to renew again in five years because the lease is for fifteen years. Worst case scenario is if the levy did not renew, you would deplete the funds that were raised and decide if you are going to keep truck or not. If the truck would be kept, then the money would come from the general fund.

Councilmember Maschari moved to keep the levy as a renewal. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Maschari's reasoning for keeping the levy as a renewal is so the tax stays the same for the next five years and with the current water rate increase, trying to make the least amount of impact on residents as possible.

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

Motion passed.

DEPARTMENTS

Service (Councilmember Jones presented.)

Mowing and trimming of the village hall, park, service garage, and former water plant.

Mulching, installing benches and memorial plaques, plus code enforcement.

BOARDS

Cemetery (Mayor Leshinski presented.)

Pedestrian Access

Deadline for the pedestrian access may not be met, due to the church's reorganization.

Veteran Marker

A donation is being made to replace a Civil War Veteran's Marker at Evergreen.

Pioneer

Fencing contractor has been lined up.

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Clerk

Jessica McCain will start on July 25th. Ms. Knodel the former clerk will be training the new clerk and will be compensated for her time.

Dumping

There has been an issue of unauthorized dumping of dirt at Evergreen. Video has not shown the perpetrator. There is no dumping allowed at Evergreen.

SABPA (Councilmember Siss presented.)

Testing

Lead and copper test were to be completed by the week ending July 28, 2023.

June Water Bills

At this time there will be no forgiveness of any penalties incurred, it will be done on a case by case situation.

Water Operator

Work hours will be split by 20 hours for storm and 20 hours for water.

Clerk

Jennifer Yost has accepted the position of SABPA clerk at \$15.00/hr. for 25 hours a week.

COMMITTEES

Bldg.& Grounds

Network wiring

Mayor Leshinski stated that the underground wiring had been completed but thought that overhead radio wires were to be included in the bid. Councilmember Maschari reasoned that there was evidently a misunderstanding when the person who was asked to obtain the bids, only received quotes for the placement of underground wiring not to include the overhead wires. Councilmember Siss requested that Mayor Leshinski reach out to Councilmember Troike on July 25, 2023 for his expertise on who would be the most logical company to contact for moving the overhead wires.

Street-Sidewalk-Service

Striping (Mayor Leshinski presented.)

Has been done through out the village, double yellow lines are clearly visible. The County used less paint than estimated so the invoice has been reduced by approximately three thousand dollars.

Audit/ Finance

There is a need for a finance meeting at 7 p.m. on August 8th, followed by the Audit committee.

Safety

Fire Department (Councilmember Jeffers presented.)

At the last committee meeting two items had been requested to add to the SAFD - S.O.P.'s. The first being, that when females are being measured for uniforms, another female needs to be present. The second item is that new firefighters be sworn-in in front of council.

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Fire Chief (Mayor Leshinski presented.)

After a conversation with Fire Chief Jim Wilhelm of Amherst regarding the hiring of a new chief for the Village, he has offered to organize a small committee of other chiefs to interview the prospective applicants and then they would report to the mayor. Further discussion was held by council with

Councilmember Jeffers moved to utilize the Amherst Fire Chief and his committee, plus the safety committee, and human resource to interview the prospective applicants. Councilmember Siesky seconded

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike EA Motion passed.

Police (Mayor Leshinski presented.)

There was an intense traffic enforcement over the weekend with 13-17 citations written, plus a number of warnings. A few underage parties were disbursed over the past couple of weekends.

Councilmember Siss asked for an update on the new cruiser – no word had been received.

Community & Economic Development

Welcome Packet

Councilmember Jones would like to move forward with the “Welcome Packets.” Suggestions were made with information on what the town has to offer, information on how to find answers to frequently asked questions, water department information, and church info. Councilmember Siss has an example from Amherst.

Halloween Parade

Records Clerk will verify who the Fire Association President is and forward the information to Councilmember Siss.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 706-23

An emergency resolution requesting the Lorain County Auditor to certify the dollar amount that will be generated by a renewal of a 1.5-mill levy for a five-year period of time for the SAFD to provide and maintain fire equipment, apparatus and vehicles.

Councilmember Maschari moved to suspend the rules for Resolution No. 706-23.

Councilmember Siss seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike EA Motion passed.

Councilmember Maschari moved to pass Resolution No. 706-23. Councilmember Siss seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Maschari inquired when the meeting would be for the second levy resolution. The Records Clerk responded that it would be discussed after the vote has been taken.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike EA Motion passed.

The voting meeting for the Fire Tax Levy, Resolution to Proceed will be held on Wednesday, August 11th at 7 a.m. in council chambers.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Councilmember Troike has suggested a tentative Saturday in September for a NIMS training session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SABPA Personnel & Fire

Councilmember Jones moved at 8:01 p.m. to enter into executive session to discuss SABPA and Fire Personnel. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Jones x Maschari x Siesky x Siss x Troike EA Motion passed.

Return to regular meeting at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT Time 8:55 p.m. Councilmember Siss moved to adjourn. Councilmember Siesky.

Respectfully submitted,



Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke



Mayor David Leshinski