

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst
REGULAR COUNCIL
January 13, 2025

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 P.M.

LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Michele Jeffers	P	Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke	P
Councilmember Robb Koscho	P	Records Clerk Laurie Beran	P
Councilmember Michael Sangiacomo	P	Law Director Matthew Mishak	P
Councilmember Becky Siesky	P	Utility Admin. David Valentine	P
Councilmember David Troike	P	(EA – excused absences)	
President Pro Tempore Jeanne Maschari	P		

APPROVAL OF AGENDA January 13, 2025 Amendment(s) to the agenda:
Resolution No. 754-25 SAFD Fire Agreement with Henrietta Twp., plus amend Executive Session to include SAFD Association Charter.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the agenda with amendments. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES December 9, 2024

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2024 as presented. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Councilmember Jeffers moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2024 with the correction to the start time of the meeting to 6:00 p.m. and that Councilmember Troike had an excused absence. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike Abstain Motion carried.

VISITORS

Chris Gallagher 370 Annis Rd.
Cemetery Clerk - Natalie Iafolla

MAYOR

President Pro Tempore

Councilmember Maschari moved to open the floor for nomination of the President Pro Tempore. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Nominations: Councilmember Sangiacomo nominated Councilmember Maschari

Councilmember Troike moved to close the floor for nomination of the President Pro Tempore. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

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Councilmember Jeffers moved to elect Councilmember Maschari as President Pro Tempore.
Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Business Card

Councilmember Jeffers moved to have the council purchase their own business cards.

Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Maschari will contact SQP Print Center for a quote.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Avochatto Communication Software

Discussions have been previously held regarding various avenues of communicating with the public for non-emergency notices. A video presentation on the Avochatto Communication application was presented as an alternative. Between now and March it has been recommended by council to push residents to sign up for notifications on the village website which will be publicized on the website and the water bill. Follow-up discussion will be held at the end of March.

FISCAL OFFICER

Financial Reports

The following Financial Reports for December 2024 and January 2025 were presented to council: Revenue Summary, Fund Summary and Appropriation Summary.

November Bank Reconciliation

Has been completed and ready for signatures.

Appropriations Ord. No. 321

Transferring \$50,000.00 from the General Fund to 4901 Capital Improvement Project Fund to pay the Ohio Public Works Commission loan payments for the year.

RECORDS CLERK

December Construction Report

B/Z	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
B	340 Annis Rd	Pole Barn
B	321 Fern St	Re-roof
B	895 S Lake St	Re-roof
B	118 Annis Rd	Re-roof
B	311 Elm St	Re-roof
Z	667 S Lake	Concrete

BZA/Plan Training

A training session will be held with the BZA and the Planning Commission on January 21@ 6:30 p.m. to review the new Code.

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AI CEU – Digital Collaboration Tools

The records clerk attended a class on Digital Collaboration Tools and Workplace Communication which focused on seven types of program management tools that are available.

Centennial Flag

Councilmember Maschari moved to donate the Centennial Flag to the South Amherst Historical Society. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

UTILITY ADMINISTRATOR

Water Breaks

There were only three water breaks for 2024, however two of those were in December. The breaks were at Maroy Dr., Russia Rd., and the southeast corner of Main and Lake Streets. Councilmember Troike stated that the Main and Lake Street intersection seems to be an ongoing problem, is there a chance of replacing that area? The administrator stated that there are other areas within the village that have a higher priority. When we opened the street, the issue was that the line had shifted which caused the leak, unlike Russia Rd. which actually had a whole in the line.

Consumption Report

The report was electronically sent today due to software updates and confirmation of the final numbers.

Streets

Snow removal – thank you to Rocco Iafolla for stepping up and doing an outstanding job. Patching - N. Lake is scheduled for 1/14/25.

CEMETERY

January Meeting

Rescheduled from January 8th to the 22nd due to illness.

DEPARTMENTS

Fire

December Calls

Fire	EMS	MVA	Mutual	Other
	13	2	5	3

Y/E Calls

2024 total Calls for Service was 300.

Henrietta Township Fire Contract

Resolution No. 754-25 is a three year renewal with the 1st quarter at the same rate as last year, than an 8% increase.

2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant

The department applied for the purchase of a new rescue truck for the amount of \$791,000.00 through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

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Promotion

Kyle Kudela was promoted to Captain.

COMMITTEES

Bldg.& Grounds (Councilmember Troike presented.)

Evergreen Cemetery

- Memorial Garden Trees – they will be kept, monitor the growth. Evergreens will take a year -2 to see new growth.
- Columbarium Project – 6'x 4' x 2'
Councilmember Troike moved to allow the Cemetery Board to proceed with the Columbarium Project. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.
Discussion: Councilmember Troike confirmed that this was only for a preliminary proposal. Specifics regarding the number, size, etc. of columbarium's need to be clarified in the proposal from Franklin Monument. Councilmember Maschari stated that if the council is not in agreeance with the proposal, than the project would not move forward.
Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.
- Landscaping – recommendation was made to do some landscaping by the evergreens in the Memorial Garden, just not putting the mulch down.

SAFD

- Building Improvements – the headers in the middle bay need to be replaced, refacing the newest bay with sandstone, improvement to the meeting room (floor, lighting, wiring, HVAC), these are the three main projects for the year. The mayor will follow through with IRG and the Bricklayers Union for the amount of material required.
- Drains – information was not received from the fire department.

Service Garage

- Building Repair – there is some damage to the building such as rusting and normal wear. Research will be done on repairs and or replacement.

Street-Sidewalk-Service

Trees – E. Main

311 E Main funding can be from the Highway Fund

Ordinance (Councilmember Koscho presented.)

AI Ordinance

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve the AI Policy to become an ordinance.

Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Snow Removal

Numerous complaints from residents have been made to councilmembers regarding snow being pushed/blown into the street and snow-covered sidewalks. PLEASE do not push snow across the road, it creates a hazard when it freezes for vehicle traffic. Ordinance 521.06 regarding sidewalks states that: No owner or occupant of abutting lands shall fail to keep the sidewalks, curbs or

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gutters in repair and free from snow, ice or any nuisance. This is considered a minor misdemeanor.

The service department also requests that residents shoveling their driveways at night, especially near the road, to wear reflective vests. There have been a few people stepping out from behind mailboxes and garbage cans that are not visible to vehicle drivers.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 753-25 Support of Ohio Municipal League's Challenge of AT&T 's Tariff Application to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Councilmember Siesky moved to suspend the rules and approve Resolution No. 753-25 as an emergency. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Discussion: On Dec. 18, AT&T filed a proposed tariff request with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) that impacts governmental entities, including municipalities. The revision would require any governmental entity requesting the relocation and undergrounding of communications facilities existing in a public right of way to pay the cost incurred by AT&T for such a relocation. Under current Ohio law, a municipality can require public utilities to relocate their lines at their own expense in order to accommodate the municipality's governmental function. However, the Ohio Supreme Court has held that if a tariff contains a provision requiring a city to cover costs of relocating utilities, the tariff language supersedes any city ordinance requiring the utility to cover the charges. If AT&T's tariff change becomes effective, the tariff gives AT&T the ability to charge municipalities in advance when they relocate facilities, even if the relocation is required for safety or public welfare purposes. This change would shift costs from the company to the taxpayers. Additionally, if AT&T is successful in having Ohio law changed through a tariff revision, then other utilities such as Columbia Gas of Ohio and AEP-Ohio can make the same filing -- further hindering municipalities in their projects and causing their costs to increase.

Jeffers Koscho Maschari Sangiacomo Siesky Troike Motion carried.

Resolution No. 754-25 Agreement to Provide Emergency Medical/Rescue and Fire Services to Henrietta Township from 1/1/25 thru 12/31/27.

Councilmember Siesky moved to suspend the rules and approve Resolution No. 754-25 as an emergency. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Maschari Sangiacomo Siesky Troike Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation No. 321

Councilmember Troike moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance No. 321. Councilmember Jeffers seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Maschari Sangiacomo Siesky Troike Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Memorial Day – Sound System

Councilmember Mashari reminded council that in the fall it was voted on per special event/program to be budgeted \$500.00 Chirs Bodnar will provide the sound system for the

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Memorial Day program at Evergreen Cemetery. Suggestions have been made about acquiring a quiet generator. The Village Administrator will research generators prior to the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ORC 121.22 (G)(1) Compensation to a public official; (G)(3) Litigation

Councilmember Jeffers moved to enter executive session to discuss compensation to a public official and pending litigation in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G)(1) and (G) (3) at 7:55 p.m. Councilmember Sangiacomo seconded the motion.

Jeffers x Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Reentered regular session at 8:40 p.m.

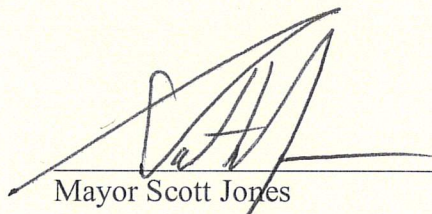
Councilmember Maschari requested that the Fire Department promotion be added to the January 27th agenda for confirmation.

ADJOURNMENT 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Henke

Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke



Mayor Scott Jones