

**VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting –September 14, 2020**

**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic gathering restrictions, the meeting was held at the indoor shelter house at Tower Park.**

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council members: Eric West, Joe Bailey, Frank Oen, Rick Allen and Stacey Cook. Also present: Fiscal Officer Susan Bassitt, Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser, Solicitor Angela Elliott, Police Chief Paul Robbins and Fire Chief Rick Miller. Dorance Thompson was absent due to illness. West motioned to excuse Thompson, seconded by Cook. Motion passed 5-0.

It was moved by Bailey, seconded by Allen to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2020 regular Council meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Committee of the Whole:** Meeting was held August 26<sup>th</sup>. The storm sewer project on Shawnee Rd. was discussed. Councilman Bailey said they were searching for another estimate but have decided to postpone the project until a later date. Councilman Allen said that Jarid explained the TIF district again and that Council does understand how it works. Mayor Walls said the legislation has not been released by the lawyers yet. When it becomes available, the Mayor will contact the council members and most likely schedule a special meeting to address that legislation.

**Utilities & Surface Water:** Jarid stated that Village crews dug and fixed three water shut offs and fixed a water leak at 8 Hermitage as well as a water leak located in the 100 block of N. Gay St. He is waiting for an estimate on one of the raw sewage pumps that needs replaced.

**Planning:** Rick Allen reported the Village is continuing to work with the developers of the Crossroads Project east of I-75, a developer's agreement and TIF legislation will be forthcoming relating to that project.

**Finance:** Eric West reported the committee met August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk reviewed village finances and all the different funds, what they are for and what money can come in and go out of those funds. West said Bassitt explained some of the government guidelines regarding the accounts and how the budget works. The biggest question was about the police department and general fund. He noted that money from the water and sewer funds can't be put in into the general fund. West said they discussed options for increasing the revenue in the general fund to maintain our own police department. Such options include having the county sheriff to cover but the cost is high and coverage could be spotty due to the size of the county, for example if someone in Cridersville has, as Councilman West put it, an "Oh Crap Moment" and the deputy on duty was in St. Mary's, there could be a twenty-five minute or more wait for help. A half percent increase in the Village income tax was discussed which would generate about \$180,000.00. That would cover about half of the police department's annual budget. A police levy was also discussed. A 9ml levy would be needed to generate about \$200,000.00. These issues would of course be decided by the voters and would not bring any revenue in until 2022. So in the meantime, the police department needs more money cover wages this year than the \$209,000.00 that was budgeted. They have looked into grants that could pay up to 75% of one officer's salary from the Department of Justice but those funds are exhausted for this year. The Police Chief will try to apply for that grant next year. They would like to assemble a committee of community members to help educate residence as to why there is an increase in the need to help support the police department. The pay ordinance for 2021 was discussed, the only change is on page 3 stating part time police officer's can't work more than twenty-five hours per week rather than thirty. That will be read in three readings beginning in October.

**Park:** Stacey Cook reported that there was a Committee meeting held August 26<sup>th</sup>. The permit and the financing are in order for the Legacy Park Gateway Project. Tower Park was discussed. It was decided the Village should continue to maintain the ball diamonds even though there are no teams currently playing in the park, hopefully they will return in the future. They discussed a possible handicapped fishing dock at Town Pond, along with placing some benches around the pond as well as stocking it. Stacey said she drove through Delong Pioneer Park with her family and thought it is very nice with the walkways and paths that go through there. The dry creek drainage beds do need addressed, possibly installing small bridges. Stacey said Frank Oen brought up that the signs posted at the parks state specific times. The Park Committee recommends they be changed to read "sunrise to sunset" so the hours could be consistent with daylight year round.

**Streets:** Jarid stated that Buehler Asphalt repaired six areas of streets though out town at a cost of \$6,016.00. He also said he is in the process of submitting applications to the county for Ohio Public Works Commission grants for a 2021 repaving project which would include North Gay St. and parts of W. Sugar St.

**Properties:** Frank Oen stated the Village is in need of a backhoe. The tree in from of the library is coming down.

**Safety:** Fire Chief Rick Miller said his department had 66 EMS calls and 2 fire calls in August. There have been 472 total responses as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chief said Poeppelman's Concessions out of Wapak contacted him about using the grounds of the Fire Station to hold a "Festival Food Fix" with food trailers just like found at a fair. He agreed to let them use the field behind the department September 18th-20<sup>th</sup>, Friday 4-8, Saturday 11-8 and Sunday 11-6. It will be a park and walk through event. People are asked to please get their food and leave, no congregating can be permitted. Poeppelman's will make a donation from the proceeds to the Cridersville Fire Department and there will be "Donation Boots" for the Fire Department at each trailer as well.

Mayor Walls said he had the opportunity to talk to a possible part time officer to come to work for the Village. He will be here to meet Council in October. He will work those hours that are desperately needed. Chief Robbins said he is Jason Snipes, a recent graduate of Apollo Police Academy.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Rick Allen said a trash ordinance is still a work in progress. He said more research needs done on the trash collector's that serve town and that he needs to confer with Chief Robbins since the Police Department has to enforce any ordinance put in place. Council had the Village Solicitor write a new trash ordinance which she brought to council in March. Ordinance # 1694 was tabled in April to be discussed at a later date.

Mayor Walls introduced **Resolution #2394**. A motion to read the resolution by title only for the second of (3) three readings was made by Bailey and seconded by Oen. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Walls read **Resolution #2394, A resolution replacing Resolution #2283 passed on December 14, 2015 and authorizing the Village Administrator to set water and sewer rates and fees for the Village of Cridersville for the general operation, maintenance, and debt service of the Village water and sewer systems and creating a STORM WATER MAINTENANCE FUND**. The resolution keeps the current water and sewer rate increases as established in Resolution #2283, in addition, the resolution adds a \$2.00 per residence, and \$2.00 per unit of multi-family residences as well as \$2.00 for each commercial and each industrial property a monthly fee for storm water maintenance. The new fee will be added to the monthly water and sewer bill as a separate charge.. Motion to accept Resolution #2394 as read for the second reading was made by Bailey and seconded by Allen. Motion passed 5-0.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced **Resolution #2395, 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**. Bassitt said this resolution states the amount of money the Village will receive as collected by Auglaize County



for the current 2ml Village operating levy which is \$44,412.00 and the current 2ml Fire and Rescue levy which also collects \$44,412.00 annually. Motion to accept Resolution #2395 was made by Cook and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced **RESOLUTION #2396, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE 2021 ALTERNATE PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO AS PROPOSED BY THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION.** Bassitt stated the local government funds to be received in 2021 will be \$59,083.24. Motion to accept was made by Bailey and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Walls introduced **RESOLUTION #2397, AMENDING RESOLUTION #2384, MAKING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Motion to ready title only was made by West and seconded by Allen, motion passed 5-0. The resolution asks to move twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) from the DeLong Pioneer Park line item in the General Fund to the Police Department Wages/Wages line item in the General Fund. The budgeted amount for the Police Department wages of two hundred nine thousand dollars (\$209,000.00) was based on one officer on duty per shift, coverage for the full time officer's vacations and holidays, and a modest amount of overtime with in hopes the department could operate within that amount according to Clerk Bassitt. Chief Robbins said his payroll is averaging about nine thousand (\$9,000.00) per pay which totals two hundred thirty four thousand dollars (\$234,000.00) annually, so there is not going to be enough left in the budget to cover payroll for the rest of 2020. This issue was discussed at the August Finance Committee meeting. The committee agreed the money should come from DeLong Pioneer Park budget because there is about \$69,000.00 that is not planned on being spent in the immediate future. The money was budgeted to the park after AEP paid the Village to park their vehicles and store materials during their electric line improvements several years ago. Stacey Cook expressed serious concerns that the Village is living above its means. Stacey asked Chief Robbins if he has more than one officer on duty at a time. The Chief replied that he does not with the exception of training a new officer and possibly at shift change which would include being at the school in the mornings. Rick Allen and Joe Bailey both said they feel whatever is necessary to keep the Police Department functioning for the safety of the residents must be done. And that hopefully the money will be budgeted back to the park in the future. Stacey also said she doesn't want Council to get in the habit of taking away the quality of life things in the Village. She stated that the parks in the Village really are used by the residents. She pointed out that the per capita cost to the estimated 1800 residents of the Village for Police protection is about \$210.00 a year compared to Wapakoneta's over 9,000 residents paying about \$209.00 per capita annually. A motion was made to accept **Resolution #2397 as read and declaring and emergency**, was made by Bailey and seconded by Allen. Motion passed 4-1 with Stacey Cook voting against it.

Mayor Walls said that Trick or Treat will go on as scheduled on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.

Stacey Cook said the parade and festival will be changed but details are not finalized yet.

Frank Oen asked Chief Robbins what property he has in the basement of the Village Hall and if he could take a tour. The Chief said he could. Oen also asked why the Chief wasn't doing anything about some unlicensed parked cars in the Village that haven't been moved. Chief Robbins said they are not going after vehicles with expired plates due to the Governor's current regulations. Oen then asked the Chief why Matt Brushaber was fired and it had not been discussed. (Brushaber was terminated 05-20-20.) Chief Robbins said Brushaber was fired because of conduct unbecoming an officer. Oen asked for an incident report, Chief responded that there wasn't one because there was no victim or anything for which an incident report was needed.

Stacey Cook said the Historical Society's Annual Bean Supper will be held on September 24, 2020 as a drive thru event. The cost is \$8:00. She also thanked the community for their great urn out at the Annual Scarecrow and Mum Sale.

Jarid said the contract with the City of St. Mary's to administrate the Village income tax is up for renewal. They are not asking for any increase in cost. Mayor Walls made a motion to permit the Village Administrator to enter into contract with the City of St. Mary's to extend their services of administrating the Village of Cridersville's local income tax collection. Motion made to accept by Cook and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

Bob White of 327 W. Main St. stated there has been a lot of conversation about development on the other side of I-75. He asked how much money that will generate into the Village. Mayor Walls replied that it will be a TIF district which means there will be tax abatements for property taxes so the money coming into the Village will be in the form of income tax and will go into the general fund. The Mayor said a press release should be forthcoming within the next six to eight weeks.

Dylan Lauck of 316 E. Sugar St. said he is preparing to dam his two acre pond making it two separate ponds so part of it can be sold with his Grandmother's adjoining property. He said he has massive drainage into his pond from Elizabeth Street. He has a drain line that takes currently takes it from his pond to a neighboring field. He would like the Village to evaluate the drainage on his property and see who is responsible for taking care redirecting the water. Mayor Walls said the issue will be looked by the Village Administrator and Solicitor and report back in October.

Duane Steinecker from New Knoxville introduced himself. He is running for Auglaize County Commissioner in the 2020 election. He explained his background and experience and asked for support in the upcoming election.

Motion to adjourn was made by Allen and seconded by West. Motion passed 5-0.

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Susan Bassitt, Village Fiscal Officer

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Rick Walls, Mayor