Village of Custar, Ohio

Minutes from **January 10, 2024**

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Rob Cavin called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Council members Renee Hartman, Dawn Berry, Dee Bates, Brian Bush, & Brian Cron were present. Mrs. Vanscoder was absent.

Mayor Rob Cavin was sworn in to his new term (thru 12/31/27) by Mr. Clink.

Mr. Cavin then swore in Ms. Berry and Mrs. Hartman to council, as well as Ms. Nagel and Mr. Wensink to the Board of Public Affairs.

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations for this year’s Council President Pro-Temp. Ms. Bates nominated Ms. Hartman, which Ms. Berry seconded. No other nominations were made. All were in favor of Ms. Hartman maintaining this position.

The minutes from the 12/13/23 meeting were presented for council’s review. Ms. Hartman moved to approve them as read, and Ms. Bates seconded; all were in favor.

Employee(s):

**Shawn Allport** was in attendance until 7:36pm. Handling of the building rentals was briefly discussed. Ms. Allport does not wish to work on the weekends, but will help out when she is able, if needed. The Mayor is currently the one to contact to make a reservation. Ms. Allport noted that the Legion did not charge her a deposit when she rented the building personally, so this may need to be reconsidered.

BPA Business

All members were in attendance until 7:44pm.

* It was noted that Mr. Clink will remain BPA President for 2024, and Ms. Nagel will act as VP.
* Mr. Clink reported that he is in the process of obtaining estimates for the demolition of the old electric building (he will get at least 3). The board is also looking to replace 4 of the large Christmas decorations and get 6 new patriotic banners. Additionally, he and the crew will be working to replace the ceiling in the maintenance garage, as it is starting to fall in. This will cost roughly $4K for materials and labor, but the labor will be provided by himself and the electric crew.
* Ms. Hartman informed them of a light out on the north end of Custar Road. The crew will fix this tomorrow, as well as one other.

Fiscal Items:

* Council reviewed the payment register for 12/14/23-1/10/24, which included:

Regular check #’s 14607, 14608, &14623-14629, totaling $11,491.88

Payroll check #’s 14609-14622, totaling $4,454.41

9 EFT payments, totaling $33,487.94

Ms. Hartman moved to approve the payment register, seconded by Mr. Cron; all were in favor.

* The December 2023 financial reports were not yet completed, but will be ready for the next meeting.
* Resolution 2024-1R was read, to approve the assumption agreement with the OWDA (Ohio Water Development Authority). Sarah explained that we were recently contacted by their office, and this something they forgot to have us do several years back when we changed over to the Northwestern Water & Sewer District. It will ensure that all outstanding loans that were assumed by the NWWSD at the time of the transfer will now be properly listed in their name. Ms. Berry moved to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Ms. Hartman. All were in favor; passed.

Committee Business:

* **Parks & Recreation:**
* The new gazebo has been ordered and paid for, and will be installed with the help of Mr. Clink once it is decided where exactly we want to put it. A map of the park was looked at by members of council, and a location was discussed. They would like to have Mr. Clink cut out a stone path up to the gazebo made of crushed limestone, and there will need to be a stone pad underneath with about a foot of gravel around the whole thing. There is some spare gravel in front of the maintenance building, which we might be able to use if it is not needed elsewhere.
* Ms. Bates will look into pricing for the front-end attachment for the mower.
* **Streets/Sidewalks:**
* Mr. Bush brought up the issue of trucks parking on the sidewalks and in the alleys. Something will be added to the next newsletter about this. In the meantime, we could put up some flag

marker sticks to prevent parking in certain areas. The sidewalk on the northeast side of 281 is a priority.

* Council briefly discussed the upcoming CDBG grant. Sarah will contact Dave Kuhn to find out how abandoned houses are handled for the income survey process.
* Jim has enough salt for the roads for winter, and the plow is ready if we get snow.
* **Safety:**
  + Ms. Bates reported that a coyote has been spotted in town (seen near the railroad tracks) and that it is eating cats and dogs. Everyone was told to be on the lookout.
  + Sarah was asked to contact the property management company again in relation to the junk outside the house on the northwest corner of 281.
* **Recycling:** Mr. Bush was asked to look into which kinds of plastics are acceptable to put in the bins.

Other Business:

* Maintenance pay rates were reviewed, and it was agreed to keep these the same for 2024. Both park and street employees will remain at $16.00/hour.
* The building closing took place on 12/27/23, so the Legion Hall now officially belongs to the village. The property was added to our insurance policy, and the water/sewer has been switched into our name. The Legion itself will still need to carry some liability and property coverage for when they use the building, and to cover the items of theirs inside.

The Fiscal Officer presented a draft Hall Rental Agreement form for council to review. It was made with the help of our insurance rep, using a sample policy and adapting it to our specifications. This will be reviewed further and discussed at the next meeting. The Mayor is meeting with Mr. Feehan tomorrow to review everything related to the rentals. Between himself, Ms. Berry, Ms. Bates, and Mrs. Allport (when needed), they should be able to handle the reservations and cleanup.

No further business was brought before council.

At 8:45pm, Ms. Bates made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Cron seconded; all were in favor.

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Fiscal Officer Mayor