Village of Custar, Ohio

Minutes from **February 14, 2024**

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Rob Cavin called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Council members Renee Hartman, Dawn Berry, Cheryl Vanscoder, Dee Bates, Brian Bush, & Brian Cron were present.

The 1/10/24 meeting minutes were reviewed by council. Ms. Bates moved to approve them as read, and Ms. Berry seconded; all were in favor.

BPA Business

The BPA met on 2/7/24 this month, and therefore were not in attendance this evening.

Council was informed that after Mr. Clink obtained estimates for the demolition of the old electric building, the board decided to go with Panning Excavating. Their quote was the lowest at $3,500; this does not include grass seeding. The next lowest quote was over double this amount.

Fiscal Items:

* Council reviewed the payment register for 1/11/24-2/14/24, which included:

Regular check #’s 14644-14651, totaling $2,343.48

Payroll check #’s 14630-14643, totaling $4,025.23

6 EFT payments, totaling $21,151.71

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

* The financial reports for December 2023 & January 2024 were reviewed by council. Mrs. Vanscoder made a motion for approval, and Ms. Bates seconded; all were in favor.
* The 3/8/24-3/8/25 insurance proposal was presented to council. This year’s quote was for $4,482.93, which is higher than what we paid last year ($3,339.36) due to several factors, including the addition of the Legion building and gazebo, as well as inflation as a whole. It was also noted that the cost includes our faithful performance coverage (in lieu of bonds); and we will be able to submit up to $1,000 for reimbursement under the PEP+ grant again this year. There are still a few changes that need to be made, including the removal of the old electric building, and possibly a change to our protection class (both which should decrease the premium slightly).

Council would like to challenge the ACV figure for the Legion Hall building ($209K), as they felt this amount seemed very high. They also had concerns about the hall rental agreement, which they would like to simplify, specifically the liability insurance requirements. Sarah will ask our insurance rep (Rob) to attend the March meeting to address these items. We will wait to pay the premium invoice until the next meeting.

The PEP “Member Designation Form”, specifying that the Mayor and Fiscal Officer are authorized to handle insurance items on behalf of the village, was approved by council (Ms. Hartman made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Bates; all were in favor).

Committee Business:

* **Parks & Recreation:**
  + Ms. Berry will get with Mr. Clink to see when he can get the stone put in so we can have the gazebo delivered.
  + Possible WCPD grant projects for this year were discussed, including play equipment for Louy Park. Ms. Hartman suggested we look into a Nature Works grant to put in more trees.
  + Ms. Bates spoke with a John Deere rep about a scoop for the mower. She was quoted $1,740, although they have smaller ones for $459 and up. They would have to weld it on for us, which would cost extra. Sarah had spoken with an AgPro rep, who didn’t think we could get a scoop for the kind of mower we have (zero turn). Rob will get in contact with them and bring info to the next meeting. Mr. Bush suggested getting a used front-end loader instead.
* **Fire Board:** Their next meeting is Thursday, February 22nd. Mrs. Vanscoder asked Rob to see if they would provide an AED for the Village Hall building.
* **Streets/Sidewalks:** In order to apply for CDBG funds, we need to complete the CDIS Community Needs Questionnaire (as in years past) and attend a meeting at the courthouse on March 13th. Sarah will complete the survey and plans to attend the meeting. Council then discussed projects that would be considered 1 to 5-year and 5 to15-year priorities on the questionnaire. The south end of High Street was on top of the list, followed by sidewalks, alleys, and other street paving (e.g. Perry Street).

Council thought we might be able to do a town-wide income survey on our own. Sarah was asked to contact Dave Kuhn to obtain the survey forms so we can possibly do our own mailing. If we were to mention something about it in the newsletter and include a postage paid return envelope, people may be more likely to respond.

* **Safety:**
  + We should plan to do tree trimming soon for the trees over the walks on 281. We could use the $1,000 PEP+ grant funds towards it again this year.
  + Two junk notices were sent out today, with a deadline of Feb 29th.
* **Recycling**-
  + The bins were recently out of their normal spots, so the Mayor contacted the WCSWD. He got a return email stating that there was a small hole in the pavement (a photo was included), and they had covered it with the bin to avoid injury. We can probably just fill this in with some stone.
  + Ms. Bates checked into the items we can and cannot recycle. She obtained fact sheets that will be forwarded to council.

Other Business:

* The Mayor informed council that Jim Beaupre officially put in his 2-week notice today, since he works more in Findlay now and will rarely be in Custar during the day if we would need him to plow. He will still help out with recycling, but this is paid through Milton Twp.
* A Spring Newsletter will go out after the next meeting. It was suggested that we run our garage sales the same weekend as Weston or Deshler to get more people in the area at the same time, and that we run our trash drop-off the weekend after this. A draft will be ready at the next meeting.

No further business was brought before council.

At 8:36pm, Ms. Bates made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Vanscoder seconded; all were in favor.

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Fiscal Officer Mayor