Village of Custar, Ohio

Minutes from **May 10, 2023**

Regular Council Meeting

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

Council reviewed the minutes from the 4/12/23 regular council meeting and the 4/21/23 special meeting. Ms. Hartman made a motion to approve both as read, and Ms. Berry seconded; all were in favor.

BPA Business: All members were present.

Jerry reported that Brush Pick-up is complete and went well; they had to put a new service door on the maintenance building; and he and Roger will be working on the recycling fence sometime soon.

Visitors:

* Sensible Movement representatives **Chad Thompson** and **Samantha Farrell** were in attendance to present a copy of their citizen’s initiative petition to decriminalize marijuana possession within the Village of Custar. They explained that since Ohio is a home rule state, councils can pass ordinances to change the laws OR citizens are able to have something put on the ballot as long as they obtain the required number of signatures (they need 10% of the number of people who voted in the last governor’s election; for Custar, this is 9 signatures). Their group has been to several communities in Wood County already, and 39 municipalities in Ohio currently have had this enacted. If passed, marijuana use would still be illegal in the Village, but there would be a $0 fine associated with a misdemeanor possession charge. They were not asking for council’s permission to proceed, as it is not required; they were simply turning in a copy of the petition, as is one of the mandatory steps in the process. If they get the signatures needed, it would then be turned in to the BOE.
* Wood County Park District Board member **Sandy Wiechman** came to present council with our 2023 grant check, as well as the required sign to be posted with the WCPD logo.
* Resident **Brett Stover** was in attendance to observe the meeting.

Fiscal Items:

* Council reviewed the payment register for 4/13/23-5/10/23, which included:

Regular check #’s 14428-14436, totaling $5,005.96

Payroll check #’s 14413-14427, totaling $3,731.10

4 EFT payments, totaling $19,233.78

It was noted that there were no unpaid EMS runs for 2022, so we will not have a bill for those this year. Mrs. Vanscoder made a motion for approval, and Ms. Berry seconded; all were in favor.

* The financial reports for April 2023 were presented to council for review. Ms. Hartman made a motion for approval, Mrs. Vanscoder seconded; all were in favor.
* The Fiscal Officer reminded council that we still have the full $1,000 available in PEP+ reimbursable grant funds, and asked for suggestions on how to use it this year. Signage is an allowable expense, and it was noted that we need a new 35mph speed limit sign for 281 (to replace one that was recently damaged by a passing truck). It was also suggested that we purchase our own orange barrels (2) to have on hand instead of borrowing these when needed. We can use what’s left for excess berm stone for potholes or mulch for the parks.

Committee Business

* **Parks & Recreation:** 
  + The Fiscal Officer recently attended the WCPD meeting to obtain our copy of the 2024 grant application. As part of the process each year, we are required to pass a resolution. Therefore, Resolution 2023-10R was read, to allow our participation in the program. Ms. Berry made a motion for passage, Mrs. Vanscoder seconded the motion, and all were in favor; passed. The submission deadline is October 20th, and the results should be available in early December.
  + The new tetherball pole still needs to be installed. It is currently stored in the recycling building.
* **Streets/Sidewalks:** 
  + A quote for the repair of the damaged spot on the north end of Custar Road ($7,738.25) was presented to council, as well as a quote for the addition of a section of pavement on the south end of Custar Road, up to the railroad tracks ($1,357.50). Council agreed it was necessary to

proceed with both. In order to cover the cost, Resolution 2023-9R was read, to increase the appropriations in the Street Fund (2011) and Permissive Fund (2101). Ms. Hartman made a motion for passage, Ms. Berry seconded, and all were in favor; passed.

* + Though it was suggested that we have Legacy re-route their trucks down Park Road, Mark Sunderman told the Mayor that their trucks would not be able to make this sharp turn. We’ll have to consider other solutions to minimize the Custar Road heavy truck traffic.
  + The Mayor reported that 281 is on the ODOT schedule to be completed within the next 3 years.
  + There are at least 3 large potholes in the alley off of 281 between Custar Rd and France Street. There’s some leftover stone from when the rail box was put in that we can use to fill these. Some stone is also needed in the alleys off of 281 by Louy Park, and on Albert Lane.
  + The Mayor would like to look into replacing our street sweeper, which would likely cost around $7K. Sarah noted that we could possibly pay for this out of the street fund next year if we don’t do any paving.
* **Zoning:** The Zoning Inspector had recently asked if there was anything that would prevent a resident from putting a driveway right up to their property line. Nothing was found in our zoning ordinance to specifically address this. Council did not see an issue with it, but thought it may be prudent to have them check with their neighbors to see if they have any problem with it.
* **Water/Sewer:** The NWWSD should be coming over to jet the plugged storm drain that was brought up at the previous meeting.

No further business was brought before council.

At 8:35pm, Mrs. Vanscoder made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Cron seconded; all were in favor.

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Fiscal Officer Mayor