Village of Custar, Ohio

Minutes from **October 12, 2022**

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.

The minutes from the previous meeting (9/14/22) were reviewed by council. Ms. Berry made a motion to approve them as read, which was seconded by Mrs. Vanscoder; all were in favor.

The BPA was not in attendance, as they had changed their meeting time and met last night.

It was noted that a few electric bills were much lower than normal this month; Ms. Bates was concerned that they might not be correct. The Mayor will contact the BPA Clerk for clarity on this.

Visitors:

* **Dave Kuhn** from Feller Finch & Associates was at the meeting to go over the results of the recent bid opening for our Custar Road Phase II CDBG project. The initial estimate was for $94,750, not including the additional curb work we’d discussed. Three bids were received, with the lowest (from Geddis Paving & Excavating) coming in at $109,125.85 for the base project, plus $23,115 for the alternate work. With the current inflation and rising costs of asphalt and other materials, this was not completely unexpected. Since the lowest bid exceeded the estimate by more than 10%, the state requires the project to be re-bid. Mr. Kuhn asked council if they would like to make any changes to the project to get the costs down, or re-bid it “as is” (after he adjusts the estimate).

Council figured we would need to put the additional curbs on the back burner for now.

Mr. Kuhn then stated that we could save about $25K if we just repaved the road without re-constructing, but council did not wish to do so. Stopping at a certain length before the railroad tracks was suggested, but this would only save a few thousand dollars, per Mr. Kuhn. The Fiscal Officer reminded council that we still have the majority of our ARPA money available, which could all be used to offset the cost increase, if necessary. Additionally, the Mayor was recently told by Legacy Farmers Co-op that they could put $10-15K towards the project also. After further discussion, council agreed to leave the project “as is” and have it put back out to bid.

* Zoning Inspector **Tim Schroeder** was in attendance from 7:30-8:05pm.

He recently issued 2 permits for 23113 Defiance Pike; one was for a shed and the other for a fence. When he gave the owners the permit for the shed, they were told how far back it needed to be. However, there has been some confusion and dispute about where the property line lies. There is an un-maintained alley adjacent to their yard, and the farmer behind has gradually infringed into it. They put the shed where they thought it was supposed to go, but it is actually about 10” into said alley. They were told to move it, but they are unwilling to do so, as they have already landscaped around it. Mr. Schroeder asked for guidance from council on the matter. It was suggested that they have the owners obtain a land survey. The Mayor will refer the matter to the Zoning Committee, and have them meet to discuss this.

Mr. Schroeder then asked about a different matter concerning the zoning of the property on the NE corner of 281 and Custar Road. It is currently used as a residence, but is still zoned as ‘Commercial’. In order to pay lower taxes, they would like to have this re-zoned as ‘Residential’. This is a request that would need to be put in writing and presented to the Zoning Board.

Fiscal Items:

* Council reviewed the payment register for 9/15/22-10/12/22, which included:

Regular check #’s 14295-14300, totaling $812.46

Payroll check #’s 14279-14294, totaling $2,163.80

9 EFT payments, totaling $14,670.77

Ms. Bates made a motion for approval, and Mrs. Vanscoder seconded; all were in favor.

* Council reviewed the September 2022 financial reports. Mrs. Vanscoder made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Ms. Berry; all were in favor.
* **Resolution 2022-11R** was read, to cast our vote for Chuck Latta to fill a vacancy on the NWWSD board. Ms. Bates moved for passage, Ms. Hartman seconded, and all were in favor; passed.
* The Fiscal Officer made mention of a couple promotional CD rates at the local bank (1.25% for 13 months and 2.25% for 26 months), and asked council’s opinion on moving some funds into those from the main checking account in order to bring in a bit of additional income. They were in favor of investing the $100K that was suggested.
* Ms. Hartman made note of an article she’d read in the Sentinel that talked about $28K in funding that Custar was supposed to be getting. The Fiscal Officer was unaware of what this could be, as we have received all of the monies expected for ARPA. The Mayor will call around and check into this. If we are to receive any additional funding, it could greatly help with the extra that is needed for the Custar Road project.

Committee Business

* **Parks & Recreation:** 
  + The WCPD application has been completed.
  + The new swing pads and mulch are looking good. The PEP+ reimbursement grant application for these items has been completed, and we should receive the funds soon ($1,000).
* **Fire Board:** Mayor Cavin reported that at their recent meeting, they discussed the sale of truck #730 to Hoytville. They are currently borrowing it while theirs is down.
* **Streets/Sidewalks:** The lattice that Roger installed over the gutters is working well.
* **Recycling:** The fencing materials were picked up today and are being stored in the recycling building until it can be installed.
* **Water/Sewer:** The $1K meter deposit refund check is in the mail to us. It was noted that it might not be necessary to use the water again next year.

Other Business:

The Mayor reported that former councilman Eric Eisel may be interested in filling the vacant seat. He had intended to come to tonight’s meeting but was unable to make it.

No further business was brought before council.

At 8:19pm, Mrs. Vanscoder made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Berry seconded; all were in favor.

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Fiscal Officer Mayor