

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

C.E. BUILDING 6 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at the C.E. Building, 414 Walnut Street, and called to order by President Starcevich with the following members present: Loving, Olson, Sappington, Willems, Baker, Waugaman, Starcevich, Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Waugaman, second by Sappington to accept the October 2, 2023 regular meeting's minutes. Voice vote: All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Sappington, second by Baker to authorize the October 2023 bills. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starcevich opened the meeting to present Village information to all attending.

President Starcevich introduced Phil Wirt from Diverse Communications. Mr. Wirt stated that Diverse Communications had a franchise agreement for fiber optic in the Village starting November 27, 2023 to bring it into the Village and have it end in March, so that hooking up could complete in April, weather permitting. He said that once they start building, residents before May 1, 2024 could go on line to bring the drop box to them at no fee. He stated that after May 1, 2024 there will be a charge, and sign ups in by May 1, 2024 to Diverse Communications will have Diverse donate \$25 to the Depot Park. He said this is for internet only and no telephone, but there is Direct TV stream over the internet. He also stated that a copper line has some limitations on speed, but fiber optic has none and can increase. He said that people can keep their telephone line and do the Diverse internet.

Mr. Wirt reported that Diverse had just finished hooking up Andover, and now were finishing the dirt work to restore the area. He said they will do a walk through for any cleanup and a final grading, and splicing of fiber is the last thing. He said they do a site service so they know where to bring it into the home, and it would be a ¾" conduit knifed in with the main dig outside of the home. Mr. Wirt said the contract with the customer would have an applications fee of \$99.95, but that would be waived until May 1, 2024. He stated that their technicians were out of Woodhull.

President Starcevich stated that he would get a mailer together to send out, and residents can call him if they have any questions.

New Windsor Telephone Company present with their offer of 50 X 15 upload for \$82 with 50 down on copper and some fiber until January 2024. Erin of the Company said there would be a restructure on all pricing on home s and safety lines. He said the cable tariff is 5 instead of 4, but the company is trying, and to get rid of the phone would cost more, until they restructure their packages. He explained that the New Windsor Telephone Company four years ago had higher costs, not a full staff,

and no manager. He stated that the company went out of the Village, because of the sewer being put in on the easements and right of ways, so they went outside of the Village. Mark Johnson, President of the New Windsor Telephone Board stated also that is why they built outside the Village first, and the Village has to wait until they get fiber in the Village.

A resident stated that they have a laptop, two cell phones, Netflix, two tablets, and have never had an issue with their internet.

President Starcevich stated that residents look at speed. Mark Johnson stated that New Windsor Telephone company use the same fiber as Diverse does, and 50megs are the same for copper or fiber. He also said that their pricing will change in January 2024; they will turn off cable after July, and will replace with fiber. They are prepping for spring.

A resident stated that a sink hole has appeared where the sewer was dug through, and it is sinking down more. Also, she said they had no street light. Stephen Thorp, maintenance, said he would look at the area and where sidewalk was and rake in.

Judy Nelson reported a sink hole in her back lot. Mr. Thorp reported that manholes, sinkholes, and pipes with flow in the wrong direction should be corrected in a couple weeks. However, the contractor, Langman Construction, and engineer, IMEG, were told not to come back, and the streets had a plan to be milled and reshaped, but no milling was done, only tilling. President Starcevich stated that Langman stated that they are done, but the Village may still have a court situation.

Jackie Carlson present and stated that people from out of town during the Rodeo said the roads looked good. President Starcevich stated that he appreciated her comments.

President Starcavich stated that there is an interest in the purchase of the lot at 121 south Eleventh Avenue where Mercer Street crosses, but is unimproved. He said that the Village Attorney advised a title search of the area.

President Starcevich stated that there are structurally unsafe buildings that have no floors, no water, holes in the roofs, and are unsightly. He said that the Village's Attorney Halpin is checking on condemning these unsafe places.

The Board estimated about twenty sewers are left to be put in. The Board agreed that Attorney Halpin should send a letter in legal format to these residents with March 1, 2024 the deadline for the sewer to be put in or their water will be shut off, unless they can show that they have a contractor ready. The Board agreed there would be no waiver of the \$800 hook up fee by March 1, 2024.

Motion by Baker, second by Willems to have the sewer installation fee of \$800 paid by March 1, 2024, and sewer in by May 1, 2024 then the resident is good, but if the \$800 fee is not paid by March 1, 2024, their water will be shut off, and if no sewer in by May 1, 2024 water is shut off, and Village Attorney Halpin will notify the resident. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starcevich stated that Chief Frenell has a copy of the Dog Ordinance, and is following up on complaints. Jackie Carlson asked about a cat ordinance. President Starcevich said that there is no cat ordinance, but a resident could use a live trap to take the cat to a shelter or call Bethell's animal control service to trap it.

President Starcevich stated that Attorney Halpin has changed the new ordinance on vehicles from thirty days to ten days.

Trustee Waugaman reported on the Christmas Walk, and what some of the plans were for the walk on December 1, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Motion by Willems, second by Waugaman to donate \$250 to the Christmas Walk. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second by Sappington to donate \$250 to the Sherrard School District Operation Santa. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Sappington, second by Willems to purchase a body camera for Chief Frenell at a cost of \$10,098.70. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starcevich reported that he had gotten an I Phone and a chip for the tablet for Stephen Thorp with the same phone number and the chip for the water meters. He switched to Verizon from US Cellular for better service.

Trustee Willems reported that the cameras are up, but they are not high enough so SSC Global with their bucket truck will put them at twelve feet high at the Rodeo Park and Maintenance Building.

Kim Jones present concerning her neighbors to the south in the farm house on the corner. She said she had her property surveyed in 2004, but someone pulled the pins. The Board said this was a property problem between neighbors.

Motion by Baker, second by Willems to adjourn. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Claudine D. Johnson, village Clerk