

JUNE 3, 2024

REGULAR MEETING 6 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board at the Village Hall and called to order by President Starceвич with the following members present: Loving, Olson, Sappington, Willems, Baker, Waugaman, Starceвич, and Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Sappington, second by Olson to accept the May 2024 minutes. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second by Sappington to authorize the May 2024 bills. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried

President Starceвич reported that Police Chief Frenell has a new police officer interested in serving the Village. Trustee Olson stated that the officer should come to the Village Board meeting to meet the Board. The Board agreed.

Stephen Thorp present and stated that it takes time for the camera to go through all the information that it took.

Cory Humphreys present and complimented Stephen Thorp for the landscaping around the new sign in the Depot Park.

Mr. Humphreys stated that at Eighth Avenue and Sycamore Street, by the corner of his house, there are a lot of speeding vehicles, even though the sign says 25 mph. He asked for a stop sign, east and west, to slow traffic down. He also stated that there is a special needs child in that area.

The Board agreed to have a stop sign placed at Eighth and Sycamore.

Justin Fowler present to report that one night the three cameras of the Village took fifty pictures, but Mercer County did nothing to respond.

President Starceвич stated that Village Attorney Halpin is working on the necessary paperwork to condemn houses like the one that burned on the south side. Also, the house has an old cistern/well with a table over it the same time the house burned. President Starceвич stated that that property is not in the Village's possession, and the Village can't do anything now.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Werkheiser present and stated that they would buy that property, and asked if there was a time limit to fix or tear down that house. President Starceвич stated that he is not sure of the paperwork needed after a house is condemned, but it would take time to do. Mr. Werkheiser said that the owners mowed the property once, but there is too much stuff lying in the yard, and it is a health hazard. He said the property is at 301 South Eighth Avenue and is owned by Alan Celada. President Starceвич stated that Attorney Halpin has all the information.

President Starceвич reported that Attorney Halpin told him that the properties on Main Street's west end should be surveyed (the first three buildings), and the Village would have to pay for the survey. He also said that the two separate buildings are tied in to one sewer.

President Starceвич stated that May 1, 2024 was the deadline for hooking up to the sewer. Stephen Thorp said that there were twelve left to hook-up and others that are vacant. Mr. Werkheiser stated that he owns 217 North Second Avenue, and has Tom Whiting signed up to do the sewer, and the water is off. President Starceвич said that in such a case like this, no fee to hook-up was necessary, and when they were ready to work on the house for his daughter, he should contact Stephen Thorp.

Justin Fowler present to report that James Lacamera has bought the Peer house at 300 South Fourth Avenue, and is going to tear it down. He further said that his sewer is not hooked up, and there is a manhole in front of his house where the sewer pipe should have come to. He claimed that the sewer plans had wrong elevations, and it would cost him \$18,000 to put in. Mr. Fowler stated that he is a foot off and would have to route his sewer line around to the back of his house, where if it had been done correctly, he could have put it in for \$3,500. President Starceвич said the Village had no lawsuit, but did do mediation with Langman Construction. Mr. Fowler said that it is the Village's fault and should pay the \$18,000 to put his sewer in, or he will sue the Village. President Starceвич said that the Village does not have the money for an \$18,000 lawsuit. Mr. Fowler said that IMEG Engineers had a lift station in the septic tank of the Barton's residence next door to his, and Mrs. Barton is paying for that lift station. Mr. Fowler again claimed to file suit against the Village, and President Starceвич told him to do what he has to do. President Starceвич stated that the Village Had already paid \$2,000 to Mr. Fowler for his landscaping problem from Engineer Kusek. The Board noted that it is the owner's expense to hook into the sewer.

President Starceвич stated that the water bill increase notification went out in a letter with the water bills, and another letter will go out about the \$800 fee for hook-up, the times frame for hook-up, and then water will be shut off.

President Starceвич told Stephen Thorp, maintenance, to give him a list of residents to hook-up. Mr. Thorp named off some.

Mr. Thorp reported on the new water meters going in.

Mr. Thorp reported that the Bow Hunters business is building a deck, but have not done a building permit, and they also need to hook-up to the sewer. He said that the Crawford Company was being hired by the business, and there are two lines for two buildings.

Trustee Sappington stated that he would order the speed bumps and signs for Eleventh Avenue, and he would pay for them.

Village Clerk Johnson reminded the Board about the Budget/Appropriation Hearing before the July Board meeting. The hearing would be at 5:45 p.m., and then\

next the meeting at 6 p.m. on July 1, 2024.

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

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk