

Village of Kirkersville Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2022

Mayor Ashcraft called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council in attendance: Mark Davis, Dave Engel, Jessica Forsthoefel, Jim Kincaid, Carrie Slone and Nick Takach

Also Present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski and Solicitor Brian Zets

Agenda

It was moved by Takach, seconded by Kincaid to approve the agenda. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none.

Minutes

It was moved by Takach, seconded by Kincaid to approve the minutes of February 2, 2022 with the following amendments: on page one, correct the time, under public poll the speed limit is 55 not 50. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none.

Mayor

Mayor Ashcraft said the fines for the month were \$1,652.00.

He said the County changed the speed limit signs on Outville Road to 55 mph on the east side. They are going to do a traffic study and if they do not reduce the speed limit I will set a meeting up with the County Commissioners. The County Engineer is telling me that there really isn't anywhere in the County that is 35. Well, if you go to Outville it is 35 all the way through town and back

Council member Takach said the same with Hebron.

Mayor Ashcraft said if you go down to Somerset Road it is 35. It is a County road.

BPA

Mayor Ashcraft said the BPA met on Tuesday. Two bids were turned in for the sewer plant operator. One was from Eric Britenstine, who wants a month to month contract and one was from John Kincaid who lives in Marion but says he has plants over in this area that he manages. I will have Randy Stoll review these.

Police Chief

Chief DeLawder went over the stats for the village. He said 190 hours were put in this past month and 72 of those hours were from the auxiliary officers.

He said the police department wants to be more involved in community events.

Streets

Mayor Ashcraft said he needs to get three road closed signs and four posts. The cost is \$400.00. It was moved by Kincaid, seconded by Takach to spend \$400.00 for traffic signs and posts. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none.

Fire Board

Council member Kincaid said the EMS people came to the Board because they were removing some parts on the AED monitors because the parts are getting obsolete. We had budgeted for one and the Board asked EMS if they could use two and they said yes because if something goes down we would have to get more modern parts. The Board approved to spend \$67,000.00 to buy two heart monitors. They also wanted, for training purposes, the VR, virtual reality, and the Oculus headsets for more realistic patient assessments. The Board approved \$10,000.00 to take care of that.

The fire district has a little over a twelve million dollar budget so if you really want to see how things operate get yourself a packet every month.

He said at Station 4, the engineers went over budget on the building and they were trying to figure out how to cut space and one of the fire board members, who is on that committee, asked at what point do we just appropriate the money to get the building that we need instead of coming back five years from now saying we have to add on. They are in the process of working on what they need instead of cutting the space.

Engineer

Mayor Ashcraft said the EPA will be out here tomorrow to do their yearly inspection of the sewer plant.

Planning and Zoning

Randy Stoll has everything done for the school. We have a permit for a garage on Channel. There is another resident that wants to build a pole barn. I have been talking to another gentleman about the zoning inspector position. He said he needs a lot more money than what we are paying right now. I told him I understood that.

Solicitor

Brian said the two big things that have happened since the last meeting had to do with zoning in our back yard, which was last month's Harrison Township zoning meeting, with respect to the property that detached from us. I was there, Terry was there, Jessica was there. They are trying to get that moving and develop it in some form or fashion.

Today Terry and I had a meeting with a representative from Red Rock. This is a company that also builds spec warehouse type of buildings. They do this all over the U.S. At the end of last year Red Rock put together, and are starting, a similar property in Pataskala, Emswiler, and they are talking about the property that is currently owned by Emswiler that actually doesn't sit right off of 40 out here. There's a little stretch of property that touches 40 so you can access 40 and get behind those houses that sit right there. There are about 100 acres back there. They are also

interested in doing some sort of spec warehouse buildings which you see going up all over the place. They do not have any definite plans but they are looking at some large properties to put two buildings on it, half a million square foot each. They hope to build and develop it. That is how they make their money so they are hopeful that they can get this thing rolling so they can have tenants. You don't know what kind of tenants, but they will be someone who will need warehousing facilities of some sort of fashion. Their attorney reached out to me because he was also the attorney helping Red Rock with the Pataskala project. I am not friends with him but I had a lot of dealings with him and Red Rock in Pataskala. Todd Ward is from South Carolina and genuinely a nice, honest guy and they are interested in doing that. Terry asked them if they had a timeline and they didn't give us one but I got the impression the sooner the better. Especially now that winter has broken. There are multiple facets to it and the sooner they get a shovel in the ground the better. I thought it was a good meeting. I think they are curious to see if council is thinking no way, get out of town, or are you interested. If you are really interested Todd said he will come back to talk to you. He said he could be here in 24 hours. You tell me when you need me and I will be there. Red Rock is a company that develops properties. They have hundreds of millions of dollars to back them. This isn't a two-year process. This is let's get something together, let's get an agreement and this will be built because we want it to be built.

Brian said we didn't talk too much about the rezoning of the property but I did tell them it had to be rezoned and I did mention the PUD that you just put in motion.

Mayor Ashcraft said I just don't want to see the same thing happen to us as the 158 acres that detached. I want to work with these people to prevent that from happening.

Council member Engel said Harrison Township Zoning meets again on the 15th at seven for the second hearing on that property.

Council member Takach said I definitely would like to talk with Red Rock and be more proactive with them than the other property that detached so we can avoid that.

Mayor Ashcraft said I did get some calls this week that out on Palmer Road there are seventy acres that are close to the freeway and they are talking about selling that property. The realtor called me three or four times this week. I don't know what is going to happen with that. It is down towards Ithica Road.

Mayor Ashcraft said we had a meeting on Tuesday. Kirkersville has just about everything they need, all the permits. The sign they have in front of the school is going to be moved over by Stone Street. A digital sign. They will have more parking over there.

Brian asked does Council want myself or Terry to reach out to Red Rock or their attorney to bring that back.

Mayor Ashcraft said I think we should talk to them.

Council member Takach asked if they could get a binder, maybe one from the Pataskala project, so we can see what they do and what kind of company they are and definitely talk to them in the future.

Council member Engel said I think we need to talk to them.

Finance

Council member Takach gave the following balances: General Fund \$115,501.21, Sewer Operating \$299,472.97, American Rescue Plan \$28,911.29 and Streets \$50,126.78.

He said Shirley gave me some information about the general fund and the carryover. Basically, at our current expenses we are pulling from our carryover balance to cover above and beyond what our estimated revenues are. We do have to be mindful of that as we approve things throughout the year because going forward anything we are approving above and beyond is going to continue to dip into our carryover balance. According to Shirley's estimate that leaves us about 2.5 years of having those carryover funds continue until we are at a negative balance.

Council member Kincaid asked if there was maximum amount that you were allowed to carry over. He said he didn't know if you were carrying excessive amounts of carry over funds that they would reduce taxes and all that stuff.

Shirley said no.

Brian said I think, somewhere in the Code, there actually is but no one on the planet abides by it. Think of the Dublin's of the world.

Legislative Actions

First Reading – Ordinance 1-2022 – An Ordinance amending Section 1 of Ordinance 04-2019 and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Ashcraft said it has \$11.00 in there and I told the Chief that we have more Ordinances back there to hire four part time officers. It has been a good while since we used it. When Hargett was here we raised it to \$14.00 so do we really need this ordinance. Is it better than what we have back there is what I am asking. He said we have four ordinances for sixteen hours at \$14.00 per hour.

Chief DeLawder said this new one amends the \$11.00 dollar one and increases the other one from \$14.00 to \$16.00.

Council member Takach said what the Chief wanted to do is to create an incentive by having a pay range to be more attractive to the people he is trying to get out of the academy or bringing in someone from another department by being able to offer them something more than the base and possibly the lieutenant would be the only person he would be recommending for the \$16.00. My question was, if we, instead of doing the range, create one of the ordinances to allow the \$16.00 for one individual, say your lieutenant, and have a flat \$14.00 or \$15.00 for anybody below that. My fear is that if we have an ordinance that says \$14.00 to \$16.00, as much as I love the Chief,

he would then have the authority to hire everyone at the \$16.00 and we just don't have the funds for that currently so we would have to limit how many people can get \$16.00 per hour.

Mayor Ashcraft said I think it would be better to use the ordinances we have. I have four ordinances for 16 hours a week at \$14.00 per hour. That is up to Council what you want to do.

Shirley said this ordinance would get rid of all the other ones then, right Brian.

Brian said yes. There is language in there says this one will repeal any other ordinances in conflict with this ordinance.

Shirley said you could set something up where it is paid by position. For a regular patrol officer, you may have two or three positions, where you may have only one position for a lieutenant.

Council member Kincaid asked do we have the money for this.

Council member Takach said we already have the money for four at \$14.00.

Shirley said you do not have the money.

Mayor Ashcraft said we have the ordinances but we don't have the money to pay them.

Council member Takach said I think this ordinance needs to be scrapped. I don't think this will work. We need something different. I would say that we table it.

Brain said you don't have to do anything. Just let it go through the three readings.

First Reading – Ordinance 02-2022 – An Ordinance creating two part-time police officer positions in the Village of Kirkersville Police Department and declaring an emergency.

First Reading – Ordinance 03-2022 – An Ordinance to reappropriate funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Kirkersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 and Declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Kincaid, seconded by Takach to suspend with the rules. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none.

It was moved by Kincaid, seconded by Takach to adopt Ordinance 03-2022 as an emergency.

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none.

Bills

It was moved by Takach, seconded by Kincaid to pay the bills in the amount of \$12,838.01.

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none.

Old Business

Mayor Ashcraft said he checked with the insurance company in regards to the village purchasing guns for the police department. The insurance company said it is too much of a liability. If they were to take the gun home and a neighbor kid got a hold of it we could be in trouble. Maybe we can give the officers a clothing allowance.

New Business

Council member Takach asked if we could get some gravel on South Alley. It is muddy and rutted up really bad.

The owner of the Regal Inn was back again asking about getting Keller Road repaired. He said cars are being damaged by driving on this road.

Mayor Ashcraft said that half of the road belongs to the County so we are not able to apply for Issue 2 funds since we are responsible for half of the road. He suggested that he go to the County for help.

Council Poll

Council member Forsthoefel said the Easter Egg hunt will be April 16 on the school grounds.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Kincaid, seconded by Takach to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Davis, Engel, Forsthoefel, Kincaid, Slone and Takach. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor