

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present
JoAnn Hite – present
Rita Leiendecker - present
Jimmy Barber, Jr. – absent
Garry Boring – present
Lowell Hite – present
Mary Boring – present
Aaron Reedy – present

There were no visitors. Aaron asked for a motion to amend the agenda to allow Village Engineer Michael Betts to speak. Rita made the motion, Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion Carried

Mike said the street paving bids have been received for the Street Improvements Project.

Shelly Company \$156,325.20

Spires Paving \$153,364.60

Mike suggests accepting the bid from Spires Paving.

Garry made a motion to accept the bid from Spires Paving for \$153,364.60. JoAnn seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Mike said the pre-construction meeting will be scheduled for the week after next (week of September 20th).

Mike said the Water Tower Recoating Project is almost complete and is looking good. Just a few items left to finish up. Mike is asking council for pre-approval for 85% of the payment for the contractor now so we don't have to hold up their payment for another month.

Garry made a motion to approve 85% payment to the contractor for the work on the Water Tower Recoating Project. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Mike said there is about \$7,200 left in the budget and there a couple of things he would like to see be done with it. Council discussed.

Robert made a motion to install an OSHA-approved safety climb cable and install a valve at the pump house with the remaining money. Rita seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Mike said next-round OPWC applications are due October 1. It's premature to apply for our Millersport-Thurston Water Transmission Line Project. He wonders if there is anything else Council would like to apply for. Aaron said we don't have matching local funds available for anything else until we make it through the next couple of years' projects. Mary said we'll pass on this one.

Rita made a motion to approve the August, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to approve the August 2010 financial statement. Rita seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-22 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinances 9-24-89, 12-20-90, 2003-25, 2005-11, and 2007-23 By Increasing Rates Charges for Water Services. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2010-28 – An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2010-10 By Repealing Section 181.14 (Credit for Tax Paid to Another Municipality).

Robert made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Resolution 2010-29 – A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor and the Declaration of an Emergency. Rita seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-29 – A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the county auditor and the Declaration of an Emergency. Rita seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2010-30 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2010 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration of an Emergency. Rita seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Rita made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-30 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2010 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration of an Emergency. Robert seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2010-31 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2010 Appropriations Ordinance, Authorizing the Transfer of Funds, and the Declaration of an Emergency. Robert seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Rita made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-31 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2010 Appropriations Ordinance, Authorizing the Transfer of Funds, and the Declaration of an Emergency. Garry seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Rita made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and declare an emergency for Ordinance 2010-32 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2010 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration of an Emergency. Robert seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2010-32 – An Ordinance to Amend the 2010 Appropriations Ordinance and the Declaration of an Emergency. Rita seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES. Motion carried.

Business from Fire Chief – Jim Hite was present; see attached report. Jim asked about the charge for publicizing the fire hydrant flushing. It was charged completely to the fire department and thinks it should be paid out of another fund. Rita made a motion that the charge for the publication of the fire hydrant flushing should be split between the fire fund and the water fund. Garry seconded. Roll Call vote: All YES, except JoAnn voted NO. Motion carried. Aaron said he will make the change.

Business from the Safety Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Service Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Finance Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Rules Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Regional Planning Representative – Robert said they had a presentation from the Lancaster Public Transit system. They are considering going county-wide. Mary said someone already approached her about this and was wanting the Village to make a annual payment to be a part of it.

Old Business – Jim Hite gave Mary a letter of condemnation regarding the nuisance on the property next door to the Municipal Building. Mary said she's been taking photographs to document the nuisance, too.

New Business – Mary said we got a contract from Walnut Township Trustees for snow removal and salt for the coming winter. It's the same price as last year. Robert made a motion to accept the contract for \$2,000. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

The fire hydrant on Oak St. needs repaired. Jim Hite suggested having the same folks fix it that did the one on Cherry St. It was agreed that we would have David Price dig it up first to see if it's easily fixed.

Bob Pangborn (water operator) was wondering if the village had a stockpile of gravel anywhere. He could do small repairs if we had it. Council is not sure that we would need it. Council would like to have more information before we get any.

Aaron said that a couple of vendors will be visiting the service committee meetings over the next couple of months to give information to the committees.

Aaron asked if Council wanted the new water operator to knock on the residents' door to warn them that he is shutting off their water for non-payment. We've never knocked on the door before. Council discussed. Council decided to continue not giving a courtesy knock. Residents are given plenty of warning that their service is going to be shut off when they don't pay their bill.

JoAnn complained that she had a resident come to her door who wanted Lowell to come back and shut off his water. She told him Lowell doesn't do that anymore, he'd have to contact Mary or Pleasantville. JoAnn said it took an hour for Bob Pangborn to come back to town to shut off the water. Aaron said that is nothing abnormal, and it's been the same way for years, even when Lowell was doing it. JoAnn said, "He knowed about it." Aaron said, "So you're saying he was just playing around?" JoAnn said "I don't know what he was doing. It took him an hour after he was called." There are times when water cannot be shut off due to breaks/leaks, etc. It's nothing new. Aaron said that Bob Pangborn came out on Labor Day and fixed a break at the Brown's residence. He was there within an hour because he had some back-flushing to do in Pleasantville. Bob had the Brown's meter replaced within an hour of that, and they were happy to have their water back on. The meter pit at the Brown's residence was way deep and Bob had some trouble with it, but he did it and on a holiday. JoAnn said "We know all about it. Benji was supposed to fix it two years ago." Aaron said we're not here to say that Bob's doing a bad job. We've had a lot of problems in August. Bob is getting things fixed around the Village that have been broken for a long time. He's doing a good job. There's gonna be times you're not gonna be able to get here right away.

Council continued to discuss the "knocking" question at turn-off time. Council decided to continue not giving a courtesy knock. Residents are given plenty of warning that their service is going to be shut off when they don't pay their bill.

Aaron said that at Van Almsick's property - 80 Somerset-Baltimore Road – there is a pool of water around the curb box. Bob said the water is leaking too slowly to determine what side of the valve the leak is on. It could be surface water just pooling there. Lowell said it's old water that's just sitting there – it's not clean water. The meter is in the house. Council decided to have David Price dig it up and check it out. We'll charge the customer if the problem is on their end, or it's just surface water.

Minday Tacderan 8337 High St. – meter pit is collapsed. Council decided to have it fixed as part of the revitalization project.

Aaron passed out the Village's Project List.

Aaron said we were asked by a couple of our customer's regarding Baltimore running their sewer line out 256 towards Route 37. They were told by Marsha Hall of Baltimore that they would not have to connect to it. Aaron checked with the State EPA. They said it was their rule that if a sewer line was installed within 200 foot of the foundation, a house or business would have to connect to it. It was up to the County Board of Health to enforce this. Aaron contacted Diana Uther and Larry Hannah from Fairfield County Board of Health. Aaron was told that they do abide by this rule, but they could also make exceptions to that rule on a case-by-case basis. If they don't make them connect right away, they would work out a plan so that the building would have to be connected over a period of years. They said they have not heard anything from Baltimore recently on that line, and no determinations have yet been made. Lowell said he read in the paper that as long as the resident's sewer system is working, they wouldn't have to connect.

Aaron asked Council if they want to continue termite control with Ben Kitchens. Garry made a motion to stay with Ben Kitchens Termite Control for another year. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Council discussed the request from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning to join their Walnut Creek Watershed partnership. No action was taken.

Aaron discussed the current nuisances. Aaron said that the notification letter for the Gust property was signed for. No action has been taken yet. Aaron said that we need to enforce our ordinances now that we've been approved for the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. We're going to be cleaning up the Village, and there are several nuisances around town that need to be taken care of such as junk vehicles and the problem of people parking on sidewalks. We should also adopt a property maintenance code for the Village. Mary said the State and other entities are going to be watching us. There are other issues like some bushes/trees that need to be trimmed so people can see when pulling out into traffic. JoAnn said we need to take care of cars parking the wrong way on the wrong side of the street. Aaron said it's hard to catch that sort of thing unless we have law enforcement on duty. We have piles of trash/rubbish/etc all over the Village that need to be cleaned up. Council discussed the issue of stray cats all over the Village, too. Aaron suggested we first need to identify what properties need to be warned about nuisances. Lowell said we should start on our own property because of the pile of cement/rocks/dirt we have in our own back yard. JoAnn said she complained about the pile a year or so ago. Aaron told her she never made any motions or took any action towards it back then. She said if a child falls off it, it could kill them. Aaron asked her for a motion to do something about it.

JoAnn made a motion to get rid of the pile of rubbish/cement/dirt/etc from behind the municipal building. Rita seconded it. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Aaron said he would call and get prices and get it done. Garry brought up the pile that is at the cemetery, too. Council discussed. JoAnn agreed to have her motion amended to include cleanup of the pile at the cemetery, too, as long as we don't go on Doug Hite's property to do it.

Aaron suggested getting service/safety committee members together to walk the village to identify the nuisances in the Village. It will be discussed at the next service/safety committee meetings.

C&C Lawncare gave the Village a quote of \$4,500 to clean up the backyard of the nuisance next door. It was agreed we don't want to take any action on that at this time.

Garry made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 pm. Seconded by JoAnn. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by,

Aaron Reedy