

Village of Thurston
Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017

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

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present JoAnn Hite – present Jimmy Barber JR – present
 Garry Boring – present Lowell Hite – present Heather Baker - present
 Mary Boring, Mayor – present Aaron Reedy, Clerk – present

Mary asked if any visitors wished to speak. None did.

Garry made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. The time is 7:01.

At 7:50 p.m., Robert made a motion to come out of executive session. Garry second. Roll call vote: All yes.

Mayor Boring said she was writing Fire Chief Jim Hite up for three different issues: 1) Failure to thoroughly investigate the 1500-hour rule before advising Council; 2) changing the point-to-pay system without approval of Council; 3) misuse of a purchase order. In light of these issues, the Mayor asked Council to make and approve the following motions:

Motion to lower the chief's spending limit from \$1,200 to \$100 so as to bring almost all purchasing decisions to the Council before any money is spent for the fire department. Robert made the motion. Garry seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Motion to require the Fire Chief to put in writing all oral and written correspondence between himself, officers, employees or Walnut Twp Trustees to be copied to Mayor and Council. Garry made the motion. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Motion to require that Council must approve any hiring, firing, promotion or demotions of any fire department employees before such action is taken. Garry made the motion. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Motion to require the Fire Chief to get, in writing, any opinion of any outside source in all regards to Fire Department management, when such a situation arises. Jimmy made the motion. Robert seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Motion to require that Council must approve use of any new vendors for the fire department, and opening of lines of credit for any such vendors. Heather made the motion. Jimmy seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Motion to change effective immediately the committee meeting nights to Wednesday so that a representative from the Village can attend Walnut Township meetings so that there is never again a situation where there is misunderstanding or miscommunication between the two entities. Garry made the motion. Jimmy seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Garry made a motion to approve the December, 2016 meeting minutes. Robert seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Jimmy made a motion to approve the January 2, 2017 organizational meeting minutes. Heather seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Jimmy made a motion to waive council pay for the January 2, 2017 meeting. No further action; motion not carried.

Garry made a motion to approve the December 2016 financial statement. Jimmy second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Second Reading – Resolution 2017-2 – A Resolution to Increase the rate of pay for the Village Secretary.

Business from Fire Chief - Chief Jim Hite was present. He asked for approval of a PO for \$1,500 for FF1 training to CTEC for Austin Thompson. Jimmy made a motion to approve. Heather second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Jim said he wanted a line item added in the budget specified for gear. Aaron said historically he was told to put this in the Capital Outlay line item. Jim would like it separated. Aaron will create the legislation for next meeting to make that happen.

Jim said the Walnut Township Trustees are going after a 3-mil levy to be put on the May ballot. 1 mil would bring in \$205,000 - \$218,000. Council could decide to remove the 2.5 mil levy they currently have on for Fire in the Village. Jim said he would like to get a pay raise approved for the part-time employees to match what surrounding departments are paying. He's looking to see if it's doable in the budget. He said we also need to be looking at buying a new engine and a new medic. Jim will be meeting about a 5-year plan regarding the new levy.

Jim said he screwed up regarding moving payroll from the Township to the Village. He got another opinion that the 1500-hour rule would still have to be considered by the township rule even if the Village is processing the payroll. Jim said he'd like to establish a pay step increase for the guys; other departments around us pay more. He'd like to see a 50-cent per hour increase over a period of time. If they start at \$9.00 per hour, they would get a step increase over time. Jim will investigate the ability, write it up and submit for approval. He said he'd like to pay about the same as Millersport.

Jim would like to establish a pay-on-call system for volunteers instead of the current point-to-pay system. He still must develop the process, but wants to look at paying volunteers monthly.

The passenger door broke on Medic 2, but it's been fixed. The tanker has a rattle in the front end, but trying to get it to Kreagers. Christmas decorations were taken down last week. They will bring them to the municipal building. They need a new hose cover on the engine – its raised about 8". He has to get a quote on it.

Jimmy made a motion to approve PO's for the following:

- \$1,500 to Heritage for EMS Supplies
- \$1,500 to Boundtree for EMS Supplies
- \$1,400 to NFPA for fire codes

Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Jim presented a copy of the roster to Aaron. Aaron will copy for Council. Garry made a motion to approve Greg Wells to the fire department as an inspector. Robert second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Business from the Safety Committee – No business to bring forward.

Business from the Service Committee – No business to bring forward.

Business from the Finance Committee – Didn't meet.

Business from the Regional Planning Representative – Robert said there was nothing that concerned the Village.

Old Business – Council would like to attend the next meeting of the Walnut Creek Sewer District to see how progress is being made for providing sewer out to Weidner's Corner. Aaron will let Pat know.

Mary said the property next door (old school property) was in foreclosure with the county prosecutor.

New Business – Aaron said account #60 has asked for a water credit for water usage due to someone leaving the outside water spigot on for several hours. No motions were made to give a credit.

Mary said that a resident at 2097 Main St. is asking for handicapped parking in front of her house. Solicitor is preparing legislation.

As there was no further business to discuss, JoAnn made a motion to adjourn. Jimmy second. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried. Time is 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully prepared by,

Aaron Reedy