

VILLAGE OF HAMERSVILLE
Village Council Meeting
March 19, 2024

The Council of the Village of Hamersville met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were **Mary Edwards, Beverly Coomer, Melanie Trumble, Dale Owsley and Don Wilson**. Also present were: Mayor Justin Jones, Police Chief/Village Administrator Guy Sutton, Sgt. Travis Stone, Asst. Village Administrator Melissa Zahn, Jayme Eldridge, Fiscal Officer, David Grimes, Solicitor.

Residents: Angela Marlow

Jerry Seibert was excused from the meeting.

The meeting was called to order with the pledge at 7:00 p.m.

Would like to commend Tim and Justice for getting the pumps up and going.

Guy: Jerry doing letter to send to residents that abusing the pumps before enforce the Village Ordinance to charging the residents. Have same problem with water meter antennas.

Angela: Letters will be read and thrown away; need to repeat direct approach

Guy: Most have been told and nothing happens

Justin: Put in new pump and two weeks later same problem. Can you verifiably say if the resident is responsible or not?

Guy: Yes, can see it come out of the tube

Justin: Do the residents ask you to clean it up?

Tim: No, it's a residual issue - one pump fix and then SOS pump again to pull out any extra residue in pipe

Justin: What everyone think we need to do?

Guy: If you break it you fix it.

Justin: What if old pump and issue with the pump, can you tell if mechanical or abuse?

Tim: Yes – such as baby wipes coming out of the bottom

Justin: If you bill the resident, what are the details?

Guy: That is up to Council

Melanie: We have wording in the Ordinance

Angela: Never Finished

Melanie: Think \$500 is the cost, resident able to pay in a timely manner

Justin: Ordinance 2023-01

Melanie: Left lose to take each resident financial situation into account – some can pay immediately and some cannot

Justin: How do we go ahead and pull the trigger and make sure we cover all

Don Wilson: How do you bill if multiple houses on same pump?

Guy: Some you can't tell, but if you watch tubes they give away. The worst resident in town that abuses the pumps is on a pump by themselves

Justin: Who makes the call who is responsible?

Guy: What done in past, whoever does the maintenance on the pumps will take pictures and do a report, hand into me and then I look at the legal aspect, if legal aspect is there, good to go

Dale Owsley: Make an example, if flagrant offender, let the gossip go around, may only have to do once and the word will get out

Guy: Absolutely residual effect. Make people think.

Justin: Need to have the investigation done so that we the Village is being fair. Sewer is a big problem now

Guy: Had 2 months had water leak under creek. Water loss below EPA standards of 15%, I think around 7% excluding main breaks; Expenses with tamper with meters. Repairs in sewer from people don't behave well. Will cut cost on water. Hammer on sewer and water primarily won't be kind loss we are showing.

Melanie: Should fall under that Ordinance.

Justin: How long take pump out?

Tim: Couple hours, easiest if people break antenna on meters

Melanie: Do have any reserve antenna's?

Tim: Yes, 4 or 5

Guy: Need to have back up supplies. Short on all water inventory per EPA. Need water expert to help with series of breaks and no inventory.

Dale Owsley: do all residents have antennas?

Angela: Yes

Tim: If replacing water meter head should go plastic, have a spot for antenna to sit down in. Crock lid cost is around \$200.00

Justin: What ever you think trigger point to be on. Do investigation, need to have everything in order.

Melanie: Should go on documented evidence on pumps.

Beverly: Having documentation on how many times been at residence.

Guy: They proved their case when the destroyed the first one.

Justin: If taking action, need to tighten up Ordinance. Don't want residents thinking we are picking on them.

David: Anything in place now?

Guy: It is part of the agreement the resident signs when they become a new customer.

Melissa: Brown County Regional Water District charges \$500.00 regardless of what is broken.

David: Will look at other Villages to see how they handle.

Dale: When did put antennas on meters?

Guy: This was several years ago.

Beverly: Think need to send out letter

Guy: Residents should have to pay if they tamper with any part of meter.

Beverly: How many replace in a year, antennas, etc.

Guy: two dozen

Melanie: Send out letter making people aware that Spring is here, mowing season will be starting, to watch the antenna's

Tim: Four busted antennas, etc., within in the last two weeks. Is Village going to warn residents or just bill them? Think still need to go ahead and charge prior to sending out letter.

Guy: They know they are not supposed to be tampering with meters.

Travis: Been told as a kid, break it you buy it.

Tim: Had someone back over meter, busted whole meter basin, cost to replace around \$1000.00

Justin: Read a draft of letter to send out to residents.

Beverly: What if just put on the window a notice?

Guy: Post is OK, everyone knows when they signed the contract.

Melissa: When customers comes in to sign contract, always point out the sewer system details

Guy: Want to make sure all is equal. Completely trust Tim and Justin work. Resident can appeal any decision out of the utility department to the Council.

Mary: How many utilities customers are late on paying bill?

Melissa: It is the same people

Mary: Said going have problem with utilities people barking at Melissa; big discrepancy over estimating; had no one to read the meters; Village should forgive late fee for this month.

Melissa: Have not applied late fees; don't think need to change shut-off. Same people are late. People pay in payments; typically, don't do partial payments, but under circumstances will do this month only.

Melanie: Mine was only affected like \$10 to \$20, how big is discrepancy?

Melissa: Gas/propane customers not affected as much; all electric residents got hammered.

Justin: \$300 to \$400 difference

Justin: Understand sticker shock

— Melissa: Only one other time had to estimate meters since been here

Justin: Village in future can maybe give better communication if estimating

Beverly: How many going to be shut off?

Melissa: Won't know till the 25th, normal residents are on the shut-off

Mary: Don't want to get int this situation again

Tim: Not do difficult to read; out of 540 meters had to read around 40; First time radio reads took around 3 ½ hours, second time it took 7 hours; time varies

Justin: Waive late fees for the month; keep shut offs the same. I am willing to take the hit on estimation, I have only been in office a couple weeks at that point.

Angela: Does Village have back up readers?

Guy: Tim and Justice

— Justin: Will have Tim teach how to read them

Mary: Waive late fees. Stand firm on 26th shut off.

Motion by Don Wilson to waive late fees for the month of March and stay firm on shut off. Seconded by Dale Owsley. All in favor. Motion carried.

Justin: Brush days?

Beverly: Clark Township, when they doing cleaning up days?

Melissa: Guy determines when do.

Tim: Best time to do brush clean-up is April 8 – 12 and April 22 -26.

Guy: Even know the brush clean-up is important, will still have daily duties with sewer, etc. that are the priorities

Mary: Dumpster days?

— Melissa: Don't have yet

Justin: Need credit card policy

Melissa: Has a policy.

Angela: Need compliance officer

Beverly: Need to do Committees for 2024

Melanie: Old Business; what about Veteran banners?

Guy: Called company, said have them done, would deliver. Still need to get the pictures back from this company. Would like to switch companies. Found a reputable company that we currently use, Display Sales. They are a little cheaper, 14-day turnaround, could be up to 21 if company busy. Already have an account with them. Profit margin with this is minimal. Would like to allow that money to accumulate and apply to a disabled veteran that can't afford a banner.

Justin: Is the currently company going to full-fill the orders he currently has?

Guy: yes, we are holding the money until they are correct.

Melissa; Banners are done, however, don't have the original pictures back along with the order forms

Guy: Offer banner to firefighters, police officers, EMT's, etc.

Beverly: Ask about email sent grimes from last meeting?

Justin: Village administrator cannot approve police expenses without Council.

David: Guy can serve as an Administrator and Chief of Police, but Council has to approve police expenses

Guy: Once budget approved by Council for Police, that was police expenses

David: Option – isn't specific, up to Council

Dale: Don't want to have Guy on a string that he can't made decision

David: Just make sure documented as to limits

Motion by Dale to allow Guy Sutton to spend up to \$5000.00 per expenditure for the Police Department. Seconded by Don Wilson. All in favor, except Beverly, voted no. Motion carried.

Motion by Mary to approve the 2024 Permanent appropriations. Seconded by Don. All in favor. Motion carried.

Angela: 13 vehicles on the blanket policy?

Melissa: Need Ordinance to increase rates for trash to \$23.50

Melissa: Have went through the Resolutions and Ordinances. Resolutions are in the minutes and Ordinances have a book.

David: ORC 731.20 states by law, Resolution and Ordinances should be recorded by book

Motion by Melanie to approve using Display Sales for the banners. Seconded by Mary. All in favor. Motion carried.

Guy: Anything on grant?

Beverly: How many pumps we need? No match. If denied the first round, still eligible for the second round

Angela: Lawsuit, all Village administration and council should attend Sunshine Law Classes by 2023 as part of the lawsuit.

Angela: public records commission needs refreshed

Angela: Compatibility problem, want Grimes to clarify, holding two positions, such as Melissa

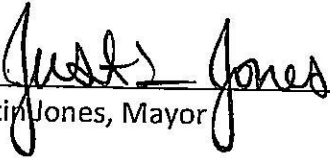
Angela: Public records request, ask for clarification – ask for utility audits, asked for months ago, Ordinance/Resolution when you create Ordinance for Megan? Would like to see Ordinance for Guy

Angela: Should have physical through OP&F; Waiver residency for Chief?

Angela: Overtime and Comp time, who has classification? Comp time except for Police Department; Guy approved Travis comp time- classified exempt or non-exempt; Want to make sure pay comp time if deserve it; Fed FLS Policy Title 5

David: A lot of that does not apply to the Village because we are a Village. This is more internally for the Village to review and decide.

Dale moved and Don seconded to adjourn the meeting.


Justin Jones, Mayor

Don Wilson, Council

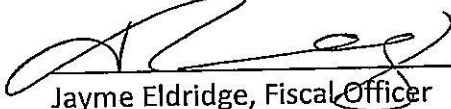

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