

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## HARVEYSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

### JANUARY 14, 2019

Note: This RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS is a summary of the discussions and is not a word for word account of the discussions.

The regular second Monday of the month meeting of the Harveysburg Village Council was held pursuant to call, upon the proper notice to the public, on January 14, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Harveysburg Village Government Center, 79 West Main Street, Harveysburg, Ohio 45032.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Verga, Council members: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Juniel, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Rhoads - members responding here. Village Staff: Village Administrator – William Combs, Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council – John Faulkner, and Village Solicitor – Joe Lucas.

Guest attending tonight's meeting registered their names and addresses on the sign-in sheet provided by the Clerk of Council. Sheet attached.

The meeting was call to order by Mayor Verga at 7:02 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and a moment of silence.

#### MINUTES

Mayor Verga moved, Mr. Juniel 2<sup>nd</sup>. to table the minutes from 12/10/2018 and 12/20/2018. All members voice voted yea, motion approved.

#### REORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL

Each year the first order of business for the village council is to reorganize, elect a *President Pro Tem*, in layman's terms a vice-mayor. All members expressed pleasure with Mr. Bennett for 2018. Mr. Cochran moved, Mr. Juniel 2<sup>nd</sup>. a motion to re-elect Mr. Bennett *President Pro Tem* for 2019. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Bennett-abstained, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Juniel, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Rhoads voted yea. The motion was approved.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Verga began his remarks by calling attention to the 9-1-1 emergency telephone contact service, via Verizon and Straight Talk on Thursday, January 10, 2019. A citizen needing help for a medical emergency was unable to connect locally with the Warren County Telecom, the 9-1-1 dispatch center. The dispatch center finally received the call for help when the victim's mother was able to connect with the out-of-state grandmother and she called. The Massie Creek Fire Chief received a call from Warren County Telecom at 21:00 asking him to go to the station and check the service. At that point it was determined the 9-1-1 service was down on the Verizon line and properly reported as down to Verizon. Various conversations had taken place involving several people and about mid-morning Friday, Warren County Telecom advised the Chief service had been restored. Then, on Monday morning, January 14, 2019 Mayor Verga began to follow-up with Verizon asking questions about why it was down and had been down for an undetermined longer period. The Verizon official responded saying it was an internal matter and not intended for public distribution. That was the wrong answer for Mayor Verga, who's next call was to the State of Ohio-P.U.C.O.'s office to register a formal complaint. The P.U.C.O. office advised they only had authority over 'land lines' and cell phones were the concern of the Federal F.C.C. Since the Federal Government is in shut down mode, Mayor Verga had reached the end-of-the-line, at least for now.

The Mayor had conversation with another resident needing emergency services, she called four times unsuccessfully before completing her call on the fifth attempt. This was an event nearly sixty days ago. This prompted more inquiries to Verizon about who and what checks the system. He was advised a 'heart beat' system constantly monitors the 9-1-1 system to make sure it is operating properly, however, this time the 'heart beat' monitor was also down.

Second item, the '*STATE OF THE VILLAGE REPORT*', a report to Council and community by the Mayor as required by the Ohio Revised Code.

The Mayor likened 2018 to a Chinese year of the goat, but for the Village of Harveysburg goat is an acronym for the greatest of a time. His first comments were about coming to the village council some 17-years ago and how that council was and compared to the council of 2019, acknowledging each of the councilmen and thanking them for their work. Moving on to the Village Administrator - Mr. Combs, the Fiscal Officer – Mr. Faulkner, and the Clerk of Courts – Mr. Fugate and then the Street Department personnel – Bill Hubbell and Joe Nelson. The Village has a good team of personnel that functions well as a team.

Moving on to the Police Department, Chief Pottenger and his officers. He expressed a comfort in their finances, the rolling stock – the fleet additions, the new officers to come on board in 2018 and a desire to improve the compensation package for these devoted officers.

The streets & building committee has been working on two 'big projects' for 2018-19 – 1. water projects and 2. the storm sewer project. The council has applied to the county for a CDBG grant for this storm water project, this grant will be in the \$100,000. range. The village completed several lineal feet of new concrete sidewalk during 2018 and the plan will be to identify the 2019 sites. The long range plan is to put ourselves out of business for sidewalks. The roads, Harveysburg once known as a pot-hole capital of S. W. Ohio wants to engage in sealing the asphalt highways for 2019. Rule of thumb is every 2-years – bad winter and 3-years - mild winter. The offices and gym need some improvements. Council chambers needs wall modifications, drywall and electrical improvements as well as lighting and an improved air-conditioning system. The hallway needs paint and floor treatments. Bathrooms need to be updated and hot water availability. The kitchen has seen major improvements and has survived major workouts during the past holiday season. The gym needs acoustical and heating improvements. Since the glass-block have replaced the old windows the gym could be used as a storm shelter. A stationary generator would be a welcomed addition. The basketball court has undergone major improvements in 2018, weeds and undergrowth were removed and the court repaved. For 2019 perhaps a shelter and lighting, as part of the original overview. The old Massie High School building needs to find a grant in order to raze the building and re-purpose the land – perhaps as a site for a Veterans Memorial. Communications are a vital part of keeping citizens in the know, how about an electronic sign to post upcoming community events?

In the 4<sup>th</sup>. quarter of 2018, council heard a presentation covering vacant houses/buildings and having required permits and licenses for buildings to remain vacant.

The Police Department is enjoying new vehicles to make doing their jobs easier. Let's not forget the Street Department and their need for updated and improved rolling stock. A loader and new(er) snowplow would be welcomed by the street department.

Community Relations has enjoyed success in 2018 – we need to do more in 2019. Ideas for 2019 could include a community festival with a parade, partnering with the township. 'Togetherness' is a common theme.

The Planning Committee is currently engaged with the Township over a 6.8-acre annexation – this is a work in process. The Paul Brother's building on South Maple Street zoning or rezoning. Zoning for the intended uses at hand and not betting on the come. Revision for the zoning/planning instrument has not been updated in 10-years, the sub-division regulations since 2010 and the architectural design regulations since 2011.

The Finance Committee's goal is to be boring to all others but the Fiscal Officer. In 2018 the bi-annual audit was completed for the fiscal years of 2016-17. Mr. Faulkner completed all of the outstanding documentations for effective financial accounting and reporting systems stemming from the fiscal emergency at the Village of Harveysburg in the early 2000's. A letter dated May 31, 2018 was received that all the reporting and monitoring requirements of the Auditor of State under section 118.27 (A) (3) of the Ohio Revised Code have been concluded.

The Records Committee continues to meet regularly as required by the Ohio Revised Code. A special thank you acknowledgement is being extended to Ms. Alma Plummer, currently recovering from a broken hip, for all the volunteer hours she spent in 2018 helping with the records.

Tree Committee – the Village of Harveysburg lost the distinction as a 'tree city' for not completing all the requirements for 2018. Goal – in 2019 to recover from the previous failure and move on. Planning for an Arbor Day celebration in April. The flower pots at various intersections will return bigger and better for 2019.

The Grants Committee to spark interest from the citizens as well as the administration. The Village has become a member of the *National League of Cities* in an effort to identify possible grants/grantors. The Community Relations Committee has taken steps to identify its self as a 501-(c)-3 organization for IRS and grant recognition.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions, no questions, but several comments. Mr. Carruthers – spoke favorable about Mr. Verga becoming a part of council and thanked him. Mr. Cochran – the effort and energy of the Mayor is very much appreciated. Mr. Bennett – the Mayor is a V.I.P. in his life and he appreciates it. Mr. Juniel – thanked the Mayor for bringing him from the city to the Village of Harveysburg and a being a mentor. For all of the kind words the Mayor is truly humbled and thankful.

#### PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

Mr. Bennett extended his best wishes for a Happy New Year.

#### VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR / STREETS & BUILDINGS REPORT

The Village Administrator's report is short and limited to the fact that council persons should be compensated for their work.

#### VILLAGE SOLICITOR

The VS presented a resolution to approve 2019 garbage and trash monthly, beginning with the first billing cycle in 2019. The rate increase will be \$0.60-per month. Mr. Carruthers moved, Mr. Juniel 2<sup>nd</sup>. to introduce the resolution as an emergency resolution. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Juniel, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Rhoads voted yea. Motion passed. Mr. Bennett moved, Mr. Carruthers 2<sup>nd</sup>. to adopt this resolution for the first billing cycle in 2019. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Juniel, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Rhoads voted yea. The motion passed and the resolution adopted as **Resolution #2019-001.**

A second resolution was presented to approve Mr. Combs as a non-resident of Harveysburg as he serves the Village as the appointed Village Administrator. Mr. Nelson moved, Mr. Juniel 2<sup>nd</sup>. to introduce the resolution as an emergency resolution. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Juniel, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Rhoads voted yea. Motion passed. Mr. Nelson moved, Mr. Juniel 2<sup>nd</sup>. to adopt this resolution. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Carruthers, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Juniel, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Rhoads voted yea. The motion passed and the resolution was adopted as **Resolution #2019-002.**

A law suit against the Village has been filed by Patriot Communication claiming the Village has violated a long term contract referencing leasing space on the water tower for antennas. VS Lucas is looking into this matter and will advise.

FISCAL OFFICER

Mr. Nelson moved to ratify, approve, and pay the bills, Mr. Carruthers 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll-call vote: Bennett, Carruthers, Cochran, Juniel, Nelson, and Rhoads voted yea. Motion passed. **Resolution #2019-003.**

The FO reported the reconciliation of the Mayor's Court bank account has not been completed. Continues as a work in process. In December, 2018 a dollar amount has been established as the 'off' amount. We will test this amount for the next several months to verify before any entry is made to the Village records.

COUNCIL'S GUEST & PUBLIC COMENTS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Kim Herberth and Mark Tipton remarked how well the streets had been cleaned of snow over the weekend of 12 & 13 January, 2019

UNFINISHED –OLD BUSINESS

The gym replacement air-handler has yet to be replaced. The contractor has been in communication with the Mayor.

NEW BUSINESS

(None)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Department

Chief Pottenger briefed the Council about the potential of a dog becoming a part of the police department. A police vehicle has been received from Warren County to transport the dog. Chief Pottenger announced his pending retirement from the Corrections Center sometime during the 4<sup>th</sup> qtr. 2019. Noting the 9-1-1 problem in the Mayor's report, Chief Pottenger offered this number as a direct number to the Warren County Telecom 513-925-2525. Chief Pottenger investigated a citizen complaint of trash and animals being kept in improper quarters where he did not encounter any violations.

Community Relations

(None)

Planning Committee

(None)

Finance Committee

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

A village credit card was discussed as being more secure than using the existing debit card. This is a work in process.

Records Committee

(None)

Grants Committee

(None)

Tree Board

(None)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(None)

WORK SESSION

(None)

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the business at hand, the next council meeting will be on January 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm.  
Motion to adjourn: Mr. Nelson moved, Mr. Juniel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Voice vote: All members voted aye. Time 8:55 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Council signature page and guest sign-in sheet.

Respectfully submitted, John Faulkner, Clerk of Council