

Village of Harveysburg

Village Council

October 25, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Present:

Dick Verga – Mayor
Pat Bennett – Councilman
Randy Carruthers – Councilman
Charles Juniel – Councilman
Jim Nelson – Councilman
Mark Tipton – Councilman / President of Council

Absent:

Randy Carruthers – Councilman
Steve Cochran - Councilman

Village Staff Present:

Richard Pottenger – Police Chief
Mary Wilkie – Fiscal Officer

Visitors / Guests:

Kim Herberth – Village Resident
Justin Evans – Basketball Warehouse

This is a summary of the meeting of the Harveysburg Village Council held Tuesday October 25, 2021, at 7:00 PM. Upon request, a recording of the meeting is available for review.

Mayor Verga called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Motion by Mr. Bennett to excuse Mr. Carruthers and Mr. Cochran. Second by Mr. Juniel. Motion passed by voice vote – 4 yea / 0 nay.

Disposition of Previous Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Nelson to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2021, Council meeting. Second by Mr. Juniel. Motion passed by voice vote – 4 yea / 0 nay. Minutes will be changed – “Mr. Hatfield owns the freezer, and he needs to be contacted to defrost the freezer”.

Mayors Report: Mr. Verga

Mayor Verga reports that from his two study programs, he cannot get a good response as to what the Village is to do with his “front door” project.

Mayor Verga again reports that Joe Lucas has finished all paperwork regarding the annexation of the Warfeld property and all that remains to be finished is for this paperwork to work its way through the Warren County Auditor’s Office. On 10/26/2021, Joe Lucas is to drop off all annexation paperwork at the office of Mark Webb, Harveysburg Village Solicitor.

Mayor Verga again reports that “we” need to do something with the Black School and that taking them to Court may be the next logical thing to do. Mr. Nelson reports that the Harveysburg Historical Society

is waiting on a property survey to determine the property line. Mayor Verga states that this survey will not take place until January and that he is not sure that this survey is all that important.

President of Council Report: Mr. Tipton

Mr. Tipton reports that he distributed to Council all communications authored by Mr. Webb regarding concerns raised by Council. There were two letters regarding tall weeds and grass and the third letter was to KAS Cable concerning remnant cables and equipment remaining on public property.

Mr. Tipton reports that in the coming week, the Warren County Health Department will conduct an inspection of the old hotel located at the corner of Main and Cross streets.

The Public hearing for Kevin Martins request to rezone his property at 91 Cross Street will be held Thursday November 4, 2021. Mr. Martin intends to rezone the property from undefined to B1.

Fiscal Officer: Ms. Wilkie

Ms. Wilkie reports that Joe Nelson has provided her a list of items to be placed on GovDeals. Details will be provided at next Council meeting.

Ms. Wilkie reports that a group named “The Basketball Warehouse” has been renting the gym all summer and would like to increase their rentals to five and six days a week. The group would like to present to Council a proposal to decrease daily rental costs to coincide with an increased number of rentals per week, including weekends.

Ms. Wilkie notes that in the Finance Committee meeting it was discussed that snow removal rates need to be adjusted for the 2021/2022 winter snow season.

Ms. Wilkie reports that our current \$400 monthly cap on fuel expenditures is proving to be too low and has arranged with WEX to increase our credit limit to \$1000.

The Finance committee discussed and approved Chief Pottinger’s proposal to fund three officers for FY2022 at \$17/hour. Chief Pottenger provided a worksheet showing estimated hours and associated costs. Ms. Wilkie will present appropriations at next meeting to address increase in expenses for 2021. All officers will receive their raises beginning with the pay period starting October 31.

Mr. Bennet makes the motion to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to increase the salaries of all paid officers to \$17/hr. Roll Call vote – Bennett, Juniel, Tipton – Aye, Nelson, Nay. Motion passed three to one.

Mr. Tipton requests Council to consider additional miscellaneous expenses listed as follows:

- Tarp for leaf truck – \$150.
- Snow removal signs / posts / attachment hardware – \$800.
- Heater hookup in garage – \$200.
- Speaker for auditorium – \$125.

Mr. Bennett makes motion to accept the recommendations to make the miscellaneous purchases. Second by Mr. Juniel. Second by Juniel. Roll Call vote – Bennett, Juniel, Nelson, Tipton – Aye, Nay – None. Motion passed.

Officer Cruse stated that the proposed speakers for the Gym may be able to be purchased using Covid Relief funds.

Village Attorney Report: Mr. Mark Webb

Mr. Webb reports that he has not yet had any response from the recipients of his letters. One letter to KAS Cable and two letters to property owners. Mr. Webb recommends that we have a more restrict policy in place regarding what our exact procedure for enforcement will be.

Guests:

Officer Cruse provided an overview of the grant for which HBPD has applied. The equipment applied for under the grant is two tasers, 5 bodycams, one car camera, a laptop computer and mounting hardware and a desktop data storage computer.

Justin Evans, area resident and co-owner of the Basketball Warehouse spoke to Council regarding future gym rentals and potential cost (rental) offsets justified by increase in days rented and performing routine maintenance and cleaning. He and his partner will put together a proposal.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Mr. Tipton provided an update on 374 Main. Village building inspector Tim Hobgood reported that the home needs new electrical service from the pole to inside the home. He inspected the home on Wednesday October 20'th and informed the owner of the results of his inspection. The homeowner stated that she will get an electrician to perform the required update.

Mr. Tipton reports that he had requested information from Village Fiscal Officer Mary Wilkie regarding the Village income stream from Brimstone LLC. Via UAN export, Ms. Wilkie provided information for the years 2014 through 2020. The UAN data shows steady income with increases in the years 2014 through 2016 and then income decreases in the years thereafter. In summary, income from Vendor permits and reimbursements for RenFest security / traffic control are no longer received.

In addition, there was also no discussion of the discontinuance of vendor fees in Council minutes or in the minutes of the Finance Committee – the discontinuance of the vendor fees “just happened”. Further research and investigation have not revealed any Ohio State law that prohibits the collection of the vendor fees that are explicitly defined in the original Village contract. Mr. Tipton put together an information and background package of assorted documents for Mr. Webb to review concerning this issue with our existing contract and the undocumented termination of vendor fee payments to the Village.

Mr. Tipton announced that the food pantry run by Darrell McKinney and the Found By Faith Food Pantry at 132 South Street is now open for area residents. If you know families in need, please inform them that the pantry will be open tomorrow evening, October 26'th, from 5:30 until 7:30. Ms. Wilkie reports at the prior session, 85 people were provided assorted fresh vegetables, meats, breads and canned goods.

Ms. Wilkie presented the CenturyLink estimate to provide two copper phone land lines into the Village office. The cost will be \$176 per month. Mr. Nelson makes the motion that the Village switch to CenturyLink for phone service. Second by Mr. Juniel. Roll Call – Bennett, Juniel, Nelson, Tipton – Aye, Nay – None. Motion passed.

Police: Chief Pottenger

Nothing new on the vehicles other than one of the vehicles has an issue with a spotlight that may be covered under warranty.

Saturday October 30th is the Halloween party for kids in the gymnasium and he has asked Kim Herberth to be one of the costume judges and he is looking for several other volunteers. Chief is still looking for additional help to set up for the event and the party will run from 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM. Gary, the proprietor of the Village Market will be providing prizes for the costume winners and snacks for the event. Gary may also be donating to our annual Holiday event if it is held.

There is one more weekend for RenFest and notes that the festival has been busier than prior years.

As discussed earlier by Officer Cruse, the grant will provide \$13,608 in direct funds and the Village match will be \$4,536. Chief Pottenger will be requesting forgiveness of the Village match.

Chief Pottenger reports lots of traffic on ST 73 still above 70 mph. Officer Cruse is back on duty and has written 25 citations. In the past two weeks there have been two DUI's at the RenFest on private property and both of these incidents involved some type of vehicular crash.

Firearms training will be Saturday November 13th. Chief Pottenger reports that we have police coverage for almost every day. The Chief also wanted to remind folks that everyone must now use area code prefixes when dialing emergency numbers like 911. Mr. Pottenger will not attend the November 8th meeting.

Committees:

Community Relations

Kim Herberth requests that the gym be made available all day on December 10th so that there is ample time to prepare for the Holiday Party.

Finance - None

Grants - None

Planning and Zoning -

Mr. Verga stated that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for October 26 is cancelled due to the President of Planning Commission is ill with Covid.

Mr. Verga states that he still objects to a vote by Council to extend the term of the President of Planning Commission by six months past the state defined maximum term. Mr. Verga states that no vote of Council can over state law.

Mr. Verga states that Mr. Tipton is of the opinion that since multiple members of the Planning Commission have not been approved by Council that the entire Planning Commission needs to be disbanded.

Mr. Tipton responds to Mr. Verga by noting that “disbanding by resignation” was simply an idea, a suggestion (not a directive) and a process by which there can be a “clean start”. There is an election next week, we may have new Council members and there may be other new and unique ideas and that Council should be open to new ideas that may be presented.

Mr. Verga ends the discussion stating that he doesn’t know what to do about the Planning Commission and that is a topic for further discussion.

Records - None

Trees - None

Motion to pay bills and to accept the bank reconciliation was entered by Mr. Nelson. Seconded by Mr. Juniel. Roll Call vote – Bennett, Juniel, Nelson, Tipton – Aye, Nay – none. Motion passed.

Mr. Juniel made the motion to adjourn at 7:54 PM. Second by ALL. Motion passed by voice vote.

Attest:

Mark Tipton, President of Council, acting Clerk of Council

Mayor Richard Verga

Mark Tipton, President of Council

Steve Cochran

Randy Carruthers

Pat Bennett

Charles Juniel

Jim Nelson