

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**Lithopolis Village Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2009 7:00 PM**

**Council Members Present:** Brenning, Hush, Simon, Long

**Council Members Absent:** Brausch and Deem

**Present:** Jon Browning- Solicitor, Jacinta Seagraves- Fiscal Officer, Chief Barton- Police.  
Eric Sandine, Mayor and Ed VanVickle, Village Administrator had an emergency at the Waterplant.

Mayor Sandine and Administrator VanVickle departed before the meeting started to check an alarm at the Water Treatment Plant.

President Pro-Tem Long called the meeting to order; led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and asked for a moment of silence for the US Armed Forces.

**Minutes**

Minutes from March Regular Meeting reviewed.

Motion to accept Minutes from March 10<sup>th</sup> as presented by Simon

Seconded by Long

Ayes: Brenning, Hush, Simon, Long

Nays: None

**Public Comments**

Mr. William Nicholson alleged that his water bill has incorrect for the last 5 out of 10 months. He repeatedly stated that someone should be fired because of it. It was explained that we are still adjusting to changes in the billing and meter reading software. Mr. Nicholson was not satisfied with the answer.

**Reports from officers**

**Mayor**

**Village Administrator**

**Police Chief:** Chief Barton presented the March police activity report.

**Fiscal Officer:** Still working to get the UAN accounting program up and running. The LGS Reps. have been coming weekly to assist. The annual Auditor of State Conference is April 23 & 24, 2009. This conference provides updated training on different areas of the Fiscal Officer responsibilities.

A representative from the Fairfield Soil & Conservation Div. presented a model of an entire village in an effort to explain what happens from beginning to end to provide clean, drinkable water to the consumer. She explained that the green areas on the model depict lawn and/or vegetation and the brown areas depict soil.

7:35pm Mayor Sandine and Mr. VanVickle return.

7:44pm Ms. Hush excused herself temporarily and said she would return as soon as possible.

Ed shared that the village is working toward plotting our water system on the County GIS system to show each water valve in the village. This will allow quicker response and repair to water main breaks.

7:55pm Mayor Sandine asked to briefly adjourn meeting to take down the display used for the presentation and to allow time for Ms. Hush to return.

8:03pm Ms. Hush returns.

Meeting resumed at 8:05pm

Mayor presented an update on Columbus Street Project. He stated that we will not get ARRA money from the State or MORPC. With MORPC there is still a possibility we could get money to resurface parts of Columbus Street from \$10,000,000.00 still available for approved projects.

Mayor presented an update on OPWC. Sue at Fairfield County has received money that will be disbursed according the 2009 allocations. However, the time line will be very short compare to previous years. The village will have all information ready to go.

Councilman Long expressed disappointment in the whole process. He feels that the state will waste \$51,000,000.00 on studies and projects that may or may not happen.

Mayor Sandine shared with council that the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office will no longer handle the village's Franklin County cases. These cases will now be handled by the Village Solicitor.

Mayor Sandine told council that Bloom Township is not interested in the village's proposal to expand police protection to cover the entire township.

Mayor Sandine proposed to council possibly turning a resident's water off if trash suspension is requested. The village has experienced more requests for trash suspension than usual and he feels that some people may be requesting suspension just because the service is not wanted rather than because no one will be at the residence for a period of time. Councilman Simon suggests handling each incident on a one on one basis. Brenning adds that what we have been doing seems to be working. Mayor Sandine says that everyone should be treated the same. Brenning shares 3 suggestions. (1) Do nothing different (2) Turn water off (3) Monitor water use during time of suspension and if more than an acceptable amount has been used the resident is expected to pay the charge for trash service during the time originally suspended.

We'll develop a policy soon and bring it back to Council for review.

Ms. Deem arrives at 8:23pm.

The Mayor indicated that he had invited a representative from the Fairfield County Engineer's office to attend the meeting to discuss the movement of the waterline and the construction detour, but they declined at this time.

The Mayor recapped to council that the county is preparing to repair the bridge on Lithopolis Rd. in front of the Simon property. This will require the existing waterline to be moved. Fairfield County offered to cover the cost and allow the village to pay back in payments. Mayor Sandine found that the cost would be approximately \$20,000.00. The Village Solicitor is checking to see who is actually responsible for that section of road. Simon states that the county will have an easement for that portion of road. Mayor adds that the village has no objection to move the waterline it just wants to clarify where the responsibility lies to pay for it.

Mayor goes on to share that while repairing the bridge, the county has no intention of putting up traffic lights at dangerous intersections where traffic will increase dramatically. Mayor Sandine suggests we could do one of two things. Either ignore the situation since it is a County project or do a Resolution to voice our concerns. Hush feels that the intersection of Elder Rd. and Winchester Southern Rd. is a very dangerous intersection and

we should do something to voice our concerns and clear our conscience. Mayor Sandine proposed a Resolution to voice the village's concerns and requesting to suspend the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings to expedite the objections before the work is started.

Motion to suspend the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings by Long

Seconded by Deem

Ayes: Brenning, Hush, Deem, Long

Nays: Simon

Simon wants to put more thought into the issue before suspending readings. Motion to suspend readings failed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading will take place at May meeting.

Mayor states that a Council action would be needed to authorize the spending necessary to move the water line.

Mayor Sandine informs council that the Building Department is losing money on to the existing fee schedule. The initial fee schedule took into account multiple inspections for each trip by the inspector, but with the down turn in new builds, we are being charged the full amount for each trip.

The Mayor presented Council with an Ordinance to revise the Building Department fee schedule. Ed proceeds to read the revised Building Department Fee Schedule being proposed. Mayor asks council to note Zoning Fees have been lowered.

Brenning agrees with changes.

Mayor states that we cannot continue to subsidize the Building Department with General Fund Revenue. If we don't feel that we can modify the fee structure then we need to review if we want to have a certified Building Department. Brenning states that as long as we bring it up to where we are not losing money anymore she would approve changes. Mayor stated that we need to implement the changes as soon as possible as we are losing about \$520 per new build.

Motion suspend the rules and waive the second and third reading by Long

Seconded by Deem

Ayes: Brenning, Deem, Hush, Long

Nays: Simon

Motion to suspend the rules failed.

There will be a second reading at the May meeting. The Village will continue to use general revenue funds to subsidize the Building Department.

### **Old Business**

Zoning Code Amendment	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading – pending public hearing
No Through Trucks Ordinance	discussion
2009 Basic Code	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading

### **New Business**

None

## Council Round Robin

**Deem** – Week of May 11 is Spring Clean Up. Would like to put something in the next Newsletter to encourage participation. Will check with local churches for volunteers. Simon suggested the Boy Scouts. Ed added that the Crossroads Church has continuously offered volunteers.

**Brausch** - None

**Long** – Joe Smith, Bloom Township Trustee, suggested the village can borrow a roller from them the next time one is needed. The Mayor and Ed both said that the cost of \$200.00 to rent a roller is much easier and more practical considering issues they would need to deal with in borrowing the Townships.

**Simon** – He would like an explanation on suspending rules. He thought the majority rules to pass a suspension of rules. Mayor stated that 5 of 6 is needed to suspend the rules and to pass an emergency measure. 4 of 6 is necessary to pass an Ordinance or Resolution at the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and a majority of Council members present needed to pass a motion.

**Brenning** - None

## Executive session

Motion to move to executive session to discuss pending legal and personnel issues by Long

Second by Brenning

Ayes: Brenning, Deem, Hush, Long, Simon

Council returned to Regular Session at 9:46pm.

There being no further public business a motion to adjourn by Brenning

Seconded by Long

Ayes: Brenning, Deem, Hush, Long, Simon

Nays: None

**Meeting adjourned at 9:47pm.**