



Village of Risingsun

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**** Regular Council Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2019 ****

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m. Regular Council Meeting @ Town Hall by Mayor Rick Whetsel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Larry Below	Dan Connor	John Dierksheide	Rachel Dissauer	Jim Essman	Linda Krotzer
A	P	P	A	P	P

MOTION: Accept minutes from previous meeting.

1 st :	Linda K.	2 nd :	John D.
All in favor:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	Passed: <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Opposed:			

MOTION: Pay voucher #'s:13603 to 13645 in the amount of \$24,444.66

1 st :	Jim E.	2 nd :	Dan C.
All in favor:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	Passed: <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Opposed:			

GUESTS:

Earl Morse – EMS
 Denise Beck – Park and Taxes

MAYORS REPORT – *Rick Whetsel, Mayor*

- Mayors Court Report:
 - 9 Cases = \$864.00 to General Fund
- Spoke with the Solicitor (Cory Speweik) no update on Onsel Properties to report. However, Cory did send the information to their attorney to get issues resolved and save the village money.
- Ordinance 873: 1% income tax 2nd reading. The Jan. reading was the first; it was then tabled to be put to a vote for a 2%.
- Ordinance 875: Hiring of a tax commissioner 2nd reading.
- State Auditors are in and moving along. Gena has been working with them to keep the project going. Since the 2% failed, they have pretty much told us that we have to approve a 1% to keep operating.
- The Street Comm. met to assign zones for the village. These zones will have a councilperson assigned. Zone assignments will be posted with contact information by the first of the year. This will enable you, the citizen to have a go to person to represent you and your concerns.
- CDBG Sidewalk Grant was cancelled due to defeat of the 2% income tax. However, it seems to have given new life. Poggemeyer the design firm worked with the state to see what could be done. They have allowed us to keep the state portion of the grant. So the project will be downsized and the village will come up with a plan to at least fix some sidewalks on Main St.
- Finance meeting will be on Dec. 4th at 3:00 p.m. to go over budgets department heads from Street, Fire and Police will meet this day.
- Park issues that came up earlier in the month. The mayor took responsibility for the mess, as the food giveaway on Wed. was a bit messy with the weather and rotten potatoes. However, this sparked conversation and due to the defeat of the 2% tax, there will no longer be any free days for organizations going forward at the park building.
- Rachel D. is out of the hospital for a second time and seems to be doing well.
- Congrats to John Dierkesheide and Jared Capelle on their new term on council. Sorry to see Jim Essman go.
- Tree Lighting at Central Park Dec. 6th @ 6p.m. (refreshments and music)
- Kids Christmas Party Dec. 13th @ 6p.m. at Park Building lasting until 8. Santa and Ms. Claus will attend.

GUEST(S) – Denise Beck – Park and Taxes

- Would like to see some sort of trash receptacle for dog waste throughout the park. Some bag stations are without bags someone will let Joy Sterling know so we can get those restocked.
- Denise voiced her opinion on going with a local tax preparer vs RITA she is in favor of RITA. She stated that RITA would have a lower threshold for nonpayment and would benefit the village by going after delinquencies. Mayor Whetsel responded that we would be going with RITA. Denise also stated due to the defeat of the 2% that some items will need to be cut back or eliminated. Mayor Whetsel responded that those issues are on track to be discussed after the first of the year.

Earl Morse – SE Ambulance District

- Still in the process of getting, the staff secured for the opening. Looking to be operational by the 3rd week in December. Uniforms are being fitted and purchased. In addition, the pharmacy board gave approval and offered a 10% discount on their first order of meds. Therefore, they will be stocked and ready. As far as staffing goes they will probably have to payout overtime as the hiring process is taking longer than expected.

FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – Gena Rathburn, Fiscal Officer / Clerk

Cash Summary Report:

a. Total Cash Balance of all Funds:	\$92,058.75
b. Available Village Checking:	\$85,550.44
c. Available Court Checking:	\$ 1,458.46
d. Payment Listing 10/22/19 – 11/26/19 Warrants 13603 - 13645 (see att.) =	\$24,444.66

Sad day in the village on the 5th of this month as the 2% income tax went down in defeat. It has caused me to pause and think of the future. I am certain we will get thru this, as we are resilient. However, I feel as though we need to take steps to merge the gap between the village government and the community. As a member of the team, here within the village government I would like to see this change in the upcoming year.

Finance Committee met on the 13th. We reviewed the mid-month financials and started reviewing budgets for the upcoming year. We were able to get thru Street, Fire; Police will need a bit more clarification before approving. Then onto the general fund. This has been a weird process coming from the private sector into fund accounting. Happy to report that with the reconciliation audit going on the auditors will be working with me through most of my questions and concerns going forward. Slow process. I am sure we will be amending our certificate a few times here the first of the year.

Policies Policies Policies seems to be all I say anymore. So of course, this is on my radar for the upcoming year. We have been very lucky sneaking thru audits without the proper policies in place. With that being saidI attended the (Sunshine Law) Public Records Training on the 19th it was very interesting and enlightening. The two big things that I want to put out right straight away is that the sub-committee meeting need to have invitations made to the public to observe along with meeting minutes. This is for Finance, Zoning, etc. The second is a record retention policy; I have started some groundwork in this area and extensive reading.

Reconciliation Audit is in full swing I have heard they are thru the 2017 calendar year and are starting 2018. I have made myself available to them and have provided information in a timely manner to make the village look good. I just want the council to know we will be responsible for a recovery plan after this that will be due 120 days after the audit is finished. I will definitely need assistance with this when the time comes.

I hope everyone has a wonder Thanksgiving Holiday!

POLICE DEPARTMENT: *Shawn Beckley, Police Chief (Cameron Tsolis)*

- Business as usual nothing to report.
- Denise Beck asked to address Cameron and Mayor Whetsel allowed. She asked if there was any way to go for a grant to upgrade cameras at the park. Cameron said he would bring it up in their dept. meeting and report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: *Mike Cox, Fire Chief*

- Pharmacy room is in need of being compliant. This will require an additional lock on the door to the old jail. Mike Cox will install. A plan will be put together to secure the vehicles that carry this type of material as well.
- The Fire Dept. is a public building however; we have a great facility to utilize for public events. Chief Cox mentioned using the park more often to accommodate the public. Mayor Whetsel added that going forward the park building will be utilized for events such as trick or treat and the Veterans Day celebrations. Mayor Whetsel also added that the coffee shop in the fire hall will stop after the 1st of the year. Chief Cox added he will change the code to the building.
- With the new joint EMS becoming a reality the Chief stated that the dept. will still carry meds for EMS calls to aid the surrounding areas.
- Policies are becoming an issue it seems. So Chief Cox is looking at price comparing some options and moving forward in 2020 to update policies and close any loop holes within current policies.
- **OPEN BURNING IS A CRIME!!!!** If anyone in the village thinks that someone is illegally burning you should call the non-emergency number for the Wood County Sheriff (419-354-9001). There is recreational burning parameters available at the hall if anyone would like a copy. Hall hours are 8-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

- Fire levy that failed was a disappointment but not a deal breaker. The Chief added that the approx. \$9,000.00 / year that it generates was traditionally setback for equipment upgrades i.e.: new fire engine. He stated that the levy was 8% of his budget. The dept. saved the funds from 1983 to aid in the purchase of the current fire engine. Now what concerns the Chief is that the Township levies that are coming due would not pass. He feels that with the joint EMS, people will assume that this is for fire protection as well **and it is not**. The department will be putting together an action plan to get the voters educated going in to a new election year.
- Chief also stated he is not a fan of the 1% tax being imposed.

**** CORRECTION ** FROM SEPT, 24 2019 MEETING MINUTES ****

FIRE DEPARTMENT: *Mike Cox, Fire Chief*

- ~~Toledo Fire Dept.~~ was out and conducted some interior hose drills.
Fire Ground Training LLC
- ~~Auxiliary~~ is having a craft weekend October 4, 5, and 6th. This will be at the Park Building.
Fire Department
- Scott Township will be meeting Monday the Sept. 30th to discuss the lease of the old fire truck. If they decide not to proceed the fire truck will go up for auction.

STREET DEPARTMENT: *Mike Shultz, Street / Facilities Manager*

- Mike addressed Denise Beck on her park concerns. Mike is not in favor of moving barrels for K9 fecal matter. The concerns are being looked at and there will be changes made going forward per Mayor Whetsel.
- Christmas lights are up, moved to sidewalk side to allow easier access.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

- Nothing to report.

ZONING DEPARTMENT: *(Mayor Rick Whetsel)*

- Looking for new Zoning Officer this would be during the summer months 3 days / month.

OLD BUSINESS:

- CDBG grant was given back and after the design firm and the state discussed. They are allowing us to proceed without matching the funds due to our current financial situation. With that being said Mayor Whetsel will be working with Poggemeyer to determine where to best use the funds on Main St.

MOTION: To move forward with the downsized sidewalk project.

1st:	John D.	2nd:	Linda K.
All in favor:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	Passed: <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Opposed:			

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Ordinance 873 : 2nd Reading**
AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING, AND ENACTING AND ORDINANCE IN THE VILLAGE OF RISINGSUN FOR THE LEVYING OF A TAX UPON SALARIES, WAGES, PROFITS, COMISSIONS AND OTHER COMPENSATION
- **Ordinance 875: 2nd Reading**
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSIONER VILLAGE OF RISINGSUN, OHIO
- We will be using RITA as our tax commissioner.
- Park bathroom building repairs. Fire Auxiliary has set aside \$600.00 to help with repairs. The Auxiliary will also be purchasing a baby changing station for the bathroom facilities. Will look at getting donations. It was also added that we need to start replacing the light covers as well. They are ranging in price at about \$35.00/light.
- Council meeting for December needs to be moved to the week of December 17, 2019 due to the Council meeting falling on Christmas Eve.

MOTION: To adjourn meeting.

1st:	John D.	2nd:	Dan C.
All in favor:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	Passed: <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
Opposed:			

Next Meeting: December 17th, 6:30p.m. Regular Meeting @ Town Hall

Gena Rathburn
Fiscal Officer / Clerk

Rick Whetsel
Mayor