



# Village of Risingsun

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**\*\* Regular Council Meeting Minutes – December 17, 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
P	P	P	P	P	P

**MOTION:** Accept minutes from previous meeting.

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

**MOTION:** Pay voucher #'s:13646 to 13659 in the amount of \$5,170.13.

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

**GUESTS:**

Justin Spencer – Little League

## **MAYORS REPORT – Rick Whetsel, Mayor**

- Mayors Court Report:
  - 8 Cases = \$988.00 to General Fund
- Mr. Onsel unfortunately passed away. His daughter is still on board with donating the properties to the village. She is currently working with Corey Speweik, the Village Solicitor to get this done.
- State Auditors are still working with Gena to get things in order. The 1<sup>st</sup> of the year we will be in a Fiscal Watch. The Auditors are doing this free of charge which the Village greatly appreciates. The Village has not had a formal audit since Mayor Whetsel was elected.
- Council in January will divide into two committees one for Finance and one for Street. These committees will aid in the recovery plan for the auditors going forward. They will provide updates going forward into the Feb. March council meetings.
- We will be voting on the Fire, Street, and Police budgets.
- Special thank you to Erin Hartley, Trinity Morlock, Pastor Mellissa and Pastor Steve for making the tree lighting a success.
- Council will have a poster in January of their zones. There will be 6 zones, this will give the community a go to person to voice their concerns. Each councilperson will report on their zones at meetings going forward.
- Department heads will now report on a quarterly basis, March 24<sup>th</sup> will be their first report for 2020. If anything needs council approval contact Gena to get it on the agenda.
- Will be voting on Ord. 873 / Ord. 875 as well as Res. 663.
- To the discussion last month on the dog matter at the park. Bags will continue to be provided however, no receptacles will be. Thank you Joy Sterling for providing the bags for this purpose.
- Street Dept. will be going down to 3 days a week.
- We procured 2.5 ton of salt for the 2020 season. The areas of focus will be Police, Fire, Post Office, Rail Road, and major intersection off of St. Rt. 23.
- MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## **GUEST(S) – Justin Spencer – Little League Ball Association**

- Justin will try and be to quarterly meetings going forward.
- This year (2020) there will be a new league set up. Boys and Girls under 8 will still play in the Southwood League. However, 8 and above girls will play out of a Hancock county league, boys 8 and above will play in a Seneca county league.

- Outlaws Fast pitch Softball will be for girls 10 – 18 U. This will give players in this area a low cost travel ball experience. Currently, the Outlaws have 50 members from 5 different schools. The girls will get started at the end January as they will be playing spring as well as summer. The spring league will not have any affiliation with Lakota Local Schools.
- Fundraising efforts will be Honey this year so if you see or hear of anyone selling honey please support the little league.
- Sign-ups for ball will be in February and possibly Jan.
- Red clay for Pine Field and the back softball field is at Palmer Brothers currently waiting to be put down.
- Looking into a couple of grants also for the grounds and equipment.
- Plans for the Park restroom building needs to be a collective effort. Mike, Rick and Justin will get together and see what the best options are.
- Justin also passed around a mowing proposal for the grounds. This would be a collective effort between the Street Dept. and the Little League.
- Sgt. Osbourne brought up parking to keep everyone safe. Justin is aware and will be spreading the word. He stated that the ball association has purchased new no parking signs for the grounds.
- Stay tuned for opening day announcement for May 2020.

## **FISCAL OFFICERS REPORT – Gena Rathburn, Fiscal Officer / Clerk**

### **Cash Summary Report:**

- a. Total Cash Balance of all Funds: \$89,612.04
- b. Available Village Checking: \$84,853.74
- c. Available Court Checking: \$ 1,665.00
- d. Payment Listing 11/26/19 – 12/17/19  
Warrants 13646 - 13659 (see att.) = \$ 5,170.13

Not much to report seems like I just did this. Anyway, I will keep it brief.

Training on the 10<sup>th</sup> was a bit overwhelming to say the least. I am tasked with taking this ship into the new year with little to no knowledge of what is expected of me or what to expect. However, I am and I will get thru this. I have aligned some resources to aid in this project going forward. Lots to do and deadlines to meet not to mention going into uncharted territories. The training covered an upper level rundown of what to do and references a 125 pg. manual to help you get it done..... yep I said 125 pages. With that being said, I also have to try to close out 2019 keep the auditors happy and maintain day to day. One way to make winter go fast I guess. In addition, I need to keep up on all of 2020's legislation that needs to either be updated or created. I will be paying more bills this week to close out the year.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT: *Shawn Beckley, Police Chief (Kevin Osbourne)***

- Lexipol Policy and Procedures will be completed in Feb.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT: *Mike Cox, Fire Chief***

- Pharmacy room and Medical box have locks.
- Sizing for the hoods and gloves was done should see them by next council meeting. This was made possible through a grant from BWC.
- Applied for MARCS Radio Grant.
- Training was cancelled for Dec. Next training will be in Feb.
- Per Chief Snyder from the South East Ambulance Dist. Should have keys to the new EMS building the week of Christmas.
- Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> or the 1<sup>st</sup> the codes will be changed on all coded doors at the hall. Police and Sheriffs Depts. Will have codes.
- Coffee shop will be done as of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.
- Air tanks will be coming in.

**Public Service Announcement - 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.

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

- 2.5 Ton of salt on the truck.
- Leaves are done.
- Opera House cleaned.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

- Nothing to report.

**ZONING DEPARTMENT: *(Mayor Rick Whetsel)***

- No Zoning for now. Will see where we are at closer to summer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- CDBG Grant: Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Ordinance 873 : 3rd 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
- Jim Essman spoke in length about the state of the village and the need for the 1% (See attached Appendix 1)
- John Dierksheide voice his concerns. He stated that he was elected to represent the people and that the people had spoken at the Nov. election by voting the 2% down. He had felt that he should do the same. John also recommended a Town Hall mtg. for January.
- Rachel Dissaur said that maybe desperate times call for desperate measures and that council should forgo their pay. Then it was stated to put back on the ballot .... Rachel added that we cannot wait we need the 1% to stay out of the States clutches.
- Mayor Whetsel stated he felt the tax comm. dropped the ball on the communicating with the public on the 2% tax that now we are in need of 1% or we will be taken over by the state.

**MOTION:** To move ahead with Ordinance 873 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	John D.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Larry B.
<b>All in favor:</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	<b>Passed:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
<b>Opposed:</b>			

**ROLL CALL:**

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

- **Ordinance 875: 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**  
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSIONER VILLAGE OF RISINGSUN, OHIO

**MOTION:** To move ahead with Ordinance 875 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

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

➤ **Resolution 663:**

2020 Temporary Appropriations for 2020. To operate thru March 31.

**MOTION:**

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	John D.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Larry B.
<b>All in favor:</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	<b>Passed:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
<b>Opposed:</b>			

➤ Pass budgets for Fire, Police, and Street 2020.

**MOTION:** To move ahead with 2020 budgets (street, fire, police)

<b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Linda K.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Larry B.
<b>All in favor:</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	N	<b>Passed:</b> <input checked="" type="radio"/> N
<b>Opposed:</b>			

➤ Thank you Jim Essman for over 20 years of service to our community you will be missed.

➤ Special Thanks to Joy Sterling from Joys Sweet Treats for providing sandwiches and cookies for Jim Essmans last council meeting. You can reach Joy at 419-308-2432 or on Facebook Joys Sweet Treats.

➤ Town Hall will be closed the week of Christmas. Have a safe holiday season.

**MOTION:** To adjourn meeting.

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

**Next Meeting:** January 28, 2020 – Town Hall Style Meeting at Park Building 550 Salem St. Risingsun, OH 43457. 6:30 p.m.

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Gena Rathburn  
Fiscal Officer / Clerk

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Rick Whetsel  
Mayor

Presented by: Jim Essman @ Council Mtg. ①  
12/17/19

Subject: 1% Income Tax

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, DUE TO DECREASING REVENUE AND INCREASING COSTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE GENERAL FUND IS PROJECTED TO BE IN A NEGATIVE BALANCE OF APPROX. \$30,000 AT THE END OF THE YEAR. AS THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE BY THE STATE, THEY HAVE PLACED RISINGSUN IN A FISCAL WATCH STATUS. STATE AUDITORS ARE AT PRESENT AUDITING THE LAST THREE YEARS OF RECORDS TO DETERMINE THEIR ACCURACY. AT THE END OF THEIR AUDIT, RISINGSUN COUNCIL MUST SUBMIT A PLAN WITHIN 120 DAYS BY WHICH THIS DEFICIT IS RECONCILED. THIS MUST BE DONE BY EITHER INCREASING REVENUE OR BY CUTTING COSTS. DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS THE MAYOR AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAVE MET WITH EACH DEPT. HEAD TO DEVELOP THE 2020 BUDGET WITH THE VIEW THAT ONLY ESSENTIAL SERVICES

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will be funded. As this was basically the same idea for the formulation of the 2019 Budget, little savings were realized. Even more drastic measures were considered by the committee, such as cutting police hours and/or trimming back maintenance services. These ideas were, however, discarded as being injurious to the welfare of RisingSun citizens. One innovative idea, proposed by the mayor, was adopted. The position of zoning inspector was eliminated, instead each council person will be responsible for a section of RisingSun to look for zoning issues. Since, however, not enough savings was achieved to satisfy the auditors by cost cutting, an alternative plan must be found



③

IN ORDER to submit a verifiable plan to the state which will reconcile this DEBT. This is where the 1% EARNED INCOME tax comes in. It provides RisingSun with a sustainable and verifiable stream of income to satisfy not only this DEBT, but also to maintain services. I know that there are those who will say, "Just put the 2% income tax back on the ballot next year." Given past history, however, that suggestion is more a hope than a concrete plan to ERASE this deficit and satisfy the auditors. I know that there are those here who oppose this plan, that is their right. However, I would like to ask them if they have another idea, to bring it forward so that we may evaluate its merits. Barring this, I would urge a unanimous affirmative vote on the 1% tax.

④

so that the Risingson council may speak as one.

It must be REMEMBERED that if it cannot move forward with a verifiable plan, the state will take over financial control and impose its own will on the future of Risingson.