



# Village of Risingsun

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## REGULAR MEETING | TOWN HALL | MARCH 11, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER:** 3:00 p.m. by Mayor Rick Whetsel

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Larry Below	Dan Connor	John Dierksheide	Rachel Dissauer	Jared Capelle	Linda Krotzer
P	P	P	P	P	P

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

Amendment:

John D. requested an amendment to Feb. meeting minutes. Under new business 5<sup>th</sup> bullet point pertaining to the Route 23 property. He is requesting to add the following: The potential buyers will be aware it is their responsibility to maintain the access road to property and assume all costs of surveying the property.

1<sup>st</sup>: Linda K. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dan C.

All in favor (yes) Motion passed

**MOTION:** Pay voucher #'s: 13747 to 13794 For \$49,271.60

1<sup>st</sup> Rachel D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jared C.

All in favor (yes) Motion passed

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

- Mayor welcomed Kyle, Cindy, and Belinda from the Auditors Office.
- Mayor Whetsel outlined that Council will be voting on Ord. 2020-004 Permanent Appropriations.
- Mayor Whetsel also expressed concern with posting meeting information around the Village; it seems generally they are getting tore down. Seems the only way to post is thru social media. Looking into a way to keep the community informed and involved.

**GUESTS – Belinda Miller, Cindy McCafferty, Kyle McConnell (State Auditors)**

- Belinda explained we will be put into Fiscal Emergency late summer early fall due to the villages financial conditions. This is due to our balances.
- The State has agreed to reconstruct 2017-2019, reconcile and monitor the villages finances at no charge.
- Belinda wanted to touch on a few points with in the draft they provided council. If the analysis meets the requirements, she outlined who would be notified. She feels this could happen as early as this month (March). She also pointed out that we could elevate out of Fiscal Emergency by the end of April if we were financially capable. Belinda also reviewed the 6 conditions that you need to be put into a fiscal emergency we met one and that was #5 substantial deficit balances in village funds.
- Going forward into Fiscal Emergency the Auditors office will be oversite they will plan and supervise. The state will assist until we are out of fiscal emergency; they will work closely with the Fiscal Officer and Council to help aid in the recovery plan as well as day-to-day operations. The Recovery Plan will outline steps we will take to get out of the Fiscal Emergency it essentially is a 5-year forecast.
- Revenues will need to come up and expenses will need cut. Auditor will help then monitor. Fiscal Officer will submit monthly reports to the Auditors and will work hand in hand.
- All appropriations and debt will need approval however, council is still in charge.
- Belinda informed us we could get out of the emergency as early and Dec. 31, 2020. She stated the average was 4.5 to 5.5 years.
- She commended our local government for addressing the issues sooner rather than later.
- Mayor Whetsel brought up our audit from 2017 / 2018 why were these issues not brought up. The Auditors responded that the past audit will be redone and advised council to ask for an exit conference for future audits. Councilman Krotzer asked if we will be audited by the State going forward. No we will choose unless we are under contract with the current audit group. Council will look into a different audit firm moving forward.
- The Audit team has expressed that they will help with training of everyone involved. Reading reports, forecasting etc. this will allow things to be caught sooner
- Cindy stated that the budget was set for the year added some accounts and removed some as well. Not set in stone if we need to adjust council can with the proper legislation.
- The budget they put together for the village will be the starting point for the year and each year following will mirror the forecast. The forecast will be updated annually in Nov. Dec.
- Their audit has been sent to the Special Audit team for another closer review.
- 2020 budget that the auditors put together was based on historical data.
- Belinda said we might see things get worse before they get better.
- They will be in the offices evaluating process and policies going forward.
- Recovery Plan efforts will begin probably mid may this a lengthy and detailed process.
- Jared C. asked a grant question pertaining to ODOT grant opportunities while under Fiscal Emergency some cases they will absorb the match.

**GUESTS – Lori Brodie – Auditor of State – Northwest Regional Liaison**

- Lori said she will be checking in on us and was glad to see that we were headed in the right direction. Hang in there.

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

**MOTION:** To accept emailed reports/financials.

1<sup>st</sup> Jared C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Linda K.

All in favor (yes) Motion passed

### **STREET DEPT.: – Mike Shultz**

- Trucks picking up railroad ties along Railroad St. creating a mess in people's yards by using Oak St, Maple St., Elm St, and Railroad St. Contractor is National Salvage. Mike contacted them and he sent pictures to Jenny Wade his contact. They have agreed to fix yards when the project is complete.
- Toledo Edison is sending estimates we are on track to do 27 more led lights.
- Road repairs we received quotes for road resurfacing from Myrtle to the Corp Limit. In 2010, it was \$24,000 current quote \$68,000 broke into Phases the Myrtle to Corp. Limit was roughly \$18,400.00.
- Unloaded salt out of truck and purchased 2.5 ton of cold patch to fill potholes. The purchase price was 110.75 / ton. Holes will be fixed ASAP.

### **FIRE DEPT.: – Mike Cox**

- New batteries in Grass Fire Truck.
- Tonado Siren needs new batteries. Seems to be every 3 years.
- Training will be done by Fire Ground Training LLC every other month. Cost will be \$1500.00/ year.
- Spending freeze in the dept. due to levy on the ballot. This would equal 70% of the Fire Dept. budget. PLEASE VOTE!!!! If levy fails in Montgomery Twp., the village would have to wait on long distance fire trucks coming from Helena, Kansas.
- Fire Dept. went out knocking on doors to promote the levy. Seems that some false information / misconceptions are going around. The levy will be for the Fire Dept. and the operations of the Fire Dept. No funds will go to the General Fund.
- Entering into the warm season again, OPEN BURNING IS A CRIME. Gena will get the EPA laws and regulations and make them available. The Village will be using the EPA regulations.

### **ZONE REPORTS: Mayor Whetsel asked for no reports.**

- One issue that was addressed collectively was the trash issues in the Village. Mayor Whetsel advised council to collect information and we will get with the Police Chief and start writing violations.
- Rick will work with Corey Speweik to work on burned houses and the Health Dept. on High St. property.
- John D. added he had spent time at Poggemeyer to get information on the CHIP Program. This a program designed for those who are need of high priced repairs etc. to their properties. The information for this program is at the Hall if anyone would be interested in exploring this program. It is based on income, and is a sliding scale so if after the work is done and you transfer or sell you would then need to pay back 20%. He stated that the program still has funds available if anyone is interested.

- John D. and Linda K. both received anonymous letters directed towards zoning issues in town. John D. stated he is in the process of planning for a building to house his collection of cars on Main St. He asked that we all be patient. Linda K. passed information along to John on another property on Main St. that was pointed out in these letters.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Rt. 23 property anything we sell under \$10,000 will need to go into a Capital Improvement fund
- Sidewalk project is in the hands of the County. They will go as far as the funds will take us.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Ordinance 2020-004 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING PERMANENT ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE VILLAGE OF RISINGSUN IN THE YEAR 2020  
1<sup>st</sup>: Larry B. 2<sup>nd</sup> John D.  
Rachel D. – Y, Linda K. – Y, Larry B. – Y, John D. – Y Dan C. – Y Jared C. – Y
- Will need to get percentages from the PEP Ins. Bill to separate amongst the dept. accordingly as we now have no choice but to pay it all at once. With this being said Mayor Whetsel will be, asking for the help of Jim Essman to help evaluate and negotiate our rates currently the Insurance for the village is \$21,000.00 / year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Called by Mayor Whetsel @4:50p.m. Linda K. 1<sup>st</sup> Don C. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION:** To resume council after Executive Session pertaining to Fiscal Officers Time in 5:03p.m.


1<sup>st</sup>: Linda K. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jared C.


All in favor (yes) Motion passed

- 5 year forecast, people will want to see some services

**MOTION:** To Adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Rachel D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Larry B. All in favor (yes) motion passed.

**Next Meeting:** April 28th @ 6:30p.m. Town Hall Building

  
Gena Rathburn  
Fiscal Officer / Clerk

  
Rick Whetsel  
Mayor