

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held April 04, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on April 04, 2022 at 7:30 pm in the Village of Fort Recovery Council Chambers to conduct regular business.

Roll call was conducted with the following Council members present: Cliff Wendel, Luke Knapke, Scott Pearson and Al Post. Absent: Erik Fiely and Greg Schmitz (arrived at 7:34).

Also Present: Randy Diller, Roberta Staugler, Erin Abels, Leslie Gartrel, Bailey Cline, Eric & Pat Grieshop, Terry Thobe, Chuck Kaiser, Jim & Charlene Westgerdes, Paul & Virginia Fortkamp, John Bihn, Sara Bruns and Keith Uccello. The mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Reports to Council: VA Report, February and March Police Reports.

Minutes: Knapke made a motion to approve March 21 and March 24, 2022 minutes which was seconded by Post. Vote all yes.

Mayor: I was at the Mercer County Health Department meeting in Celina last week. They will have a Tax levy on the May ballot. The Health Department is getting moved out of the commissioners building. They are looking for a 6000 sq ft building and have looked at Doll Printing and the Mersman building. If the levy passes, the village would retain \$7,800 by no longer having to pay an annual fee to them. I am hoping that it passes. They fund themselves. They inspect wells and septic systems, which they bill for and contributes to their funding. When it comes to things like AA, they don't get paid for those programs. We did not talk much about COVID, like everyone else they are trying to get more help.

We have some folks here tonight that want to discuss lagoon issues. Would you like to hear what Randy has to say first? Diller: A little about where we are at and what we have done. We have been trying a lot of different things, not with great success. The minimum thing we have had is a DO incremental climb. **(Greg Schmitz arrived)** We have other things we have tried. I know the gist of things talked about in this group, mainly that there is a need to dredge the lagoons. I have yet to find anyone to say it needs to be done. Will it help? Yes. The smell is coming from hydrogen sulfide. We have been working with Coopers and Keith Uccello from Hawkins. Keith is here to formulate a plan and identify what we need to do. The Village has been working on a long-term Waste Water System Plan with Poggemeyer since last December. We had to do a lot of testing and are also taking into account for growth before they can come up with the plan. They say it is a loading problem. The three companies that I have been speaking with, Hawkins, IFM and Poggemeyer, basically, all had the same approach. We have to do what we can to take care of hydrogen sulfide.

Keith U: We are a publicly traded company from Minnesota. Our office is in Muncie. I travel all over the US to help with lagoons. I see a lot of food processing, rendering and slaughtering where we pull blood out of water issues. The wastewater lagoons can be tricky. There is a lot of science and a lot you must consider, such as PH, Alkalinity, DO, temperatures, heavy metals, greases, and fats. You put it all together in an equation and take away measurables. You must have data to back it up. Suffering from hydrogen sulfide, can be handled in most situations. That is what we are dealing with. If the answer is yes, there are three general approaches. In order to understand, bacteria consume oxygen, then nitrates and then sulfides. It does it in that order. It starts with oxygen and you will see your DO drop, it is the first indication there is a lot of loading. Then it turns to the nitrates, when they are both gone, they then go after sulfides, which causes the smell, at that point bacteria will consume everything and secrete the hydrogen sulfide. You see hydrogen sulfide in all types of water, dog bowls and wells. It forms and is created when there are not enough nitrates it needs a food source and makes an odor.

I started working with Randy for a time in a small capacity. I think I have a pretty good proposal for the Village. Once again, when it is created it is too late. It has to be addressed before it becomes a problem. They have been adding treatment at the lagoon and the pump station well; that is not the correct placement, it should be placed upstream where you don't smell it. They have done the typical; it smells at the lift station so add the product here. They have done several things with no success. There has been lack of help or understanding from

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the supply company on how to feed the products. 1.)Add calcium nitrate at Cooper LEP, to target as the bacteria starts consuming, they will go to the nitrates and feed at a heavy enough level. Hydrogen has oxygen built into it. I am talking about 34% hydrogen peroxide; it turns your hands white. It is a dangerous chemical on skin but if fed the byproduct is essentially water. 2.) Inject hydrogen peroxide at the two lagoons and chemically feed at the influent and then another put in between the two ponds. Help on influent at pond one will be used up. That will increase oxygen. We will be adding Nitrates at Cooper LEP at two separate places. 3.) Start a Bio-Augmentation program which will help both with the DO and sludge reduction in the sludge blanket at the bottom of the lagoons. It will work in conditions that lack oxygen, like on the bottom which is black, and has zero oxygen. It is hard to get oxygen at the bottom. Bacteria will begin consuming sludge, giving it more hydraulic capacity. It will help the odor. I feel this is a very aggressive plan.

I hear there is a lot of people in town that have some frustration. There still has to be a discovery, I have been here for two weeks. Something did come to attention recently; the lift station does not run on the weekends. Monday there is a high flow when all biological gets pushed down the pipe. We have identified this and we can eliminate. I can't eliminate things if I don't know it. This is common, it is not snake oil, its common practice. There will be a testing program. You have to find out what the problem is. We have already set up lab testing. We will be looking at heavy metals because of the toxicity they create. Lead, copper zinc, chromium which might have a negative effect. I think we are ready to roll; I can start tomorrow, if the Village is ok with the plan I have put together. Are there any questions?

Kaup: In the lagoons, are the enzymes too cold to work? Uccello: Once it hits 50 deg, they should be starting to work. Diller: Ryan said the pond was 10 Celsius, it should get there by next week. Kaiser: Are you going to start overloading the pond. Will you treat aggressively all summer? Diller: We will follow the testing and do what is necessary. Prior to Keith being involved, we have been feeding at two points, we can see a little difference in DO, not what we would like. We are just masking trying to cut the smell. Last year we added calcium nitrate, we didn't think we had a lot of success from it. I have talked to Poggemeyer and they agree that what Keith is recommending, is a good step. Would it be necessary to dredge? Would it be worth it? They said if you can get the sludge down to a foot which is a normal lagoon operation. We are close to two foot of sludge in the majority of the primary pond. If we move forward with a bio-augmentation plan, we have learned some things. Poggemeyer is looking at a lot of options. How do we handle it long term, that is our plan. They are looking at all the same numbers Keith is looking at. We need to test for chemicals, we may not find the problem, but we may eliminate things that are not problems. Everyone thinks it's a loading issue. Nothing is off the table. Understanding municipal lagoons is different. We don't try to build them up and then dredge them out. They are different than a farm, we are trying to treat it in the pond. We should be able to get rid of the smell long term and find out maybe there is a process we need to add. Our NPDES permit is coming up, we may have to add additional restrictions. We will be looking at all of it. Keith is hitting on what our problem is. I think we can address it quickly.

Eric Grieshop: Is sulfur what the smell is? Pat Grieshop: It seeps into our basement and our garage. It is bad. I invite you all out to our house to see for yourself. I think short term Randy, I know you have tried, would dredging be easier and cheaper than to neutralize? Chuck Kaiser: You still have to fix it why not dredge and make it bigger now? Bihn: How do you cut the overloading? Keith: I work with a lot of people; it is kind of the way we operate; we are there to get our hands dirty. We give advice and make sure stuff is put in at the right position. With all three products, I feel the problem was there already. Once it begins, the chemicals must be put in earlier, the operators are not doing it correctly, it is a common problem.

Westgerdes: If you follow it up stream isn't that proof it is oozing from the processing plant? Is it fair for the town to pay for all that? Diller: Coopers has paid for a lot, it is not 100% their issue, we can only assume, maybe we are wrong. They are our biggest producer at 40% of daily production. Obviously let's treat it from there. We may find something in another manhole. Eric Grieshop: What if you dredge and treat? Keith: I would never disagree with dredging, but if you think it is going to solve it, you might be disappointed. I am here as

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advisor. Chuck Kaiser: What you are talking about will take forever. Bihn: If you put nitrates up stream until gone will it still have a smell? Keith: The reason for the two feed points is to come in and neutralize. I suspect when they reduce loading in the first lagoon the second one should be ok. Eric Grieshop: How long will it take to fix? Keith: It is hard to say, 100,000 gallons in 100,000 out. There is 28 million gallons between the two ponds. If you do the math, it should be in under 40 days. I don't think it will take that long, less than a month maybe sooner.

Westgerdes: It has been established how long? Diller: It is not the volume, it is the amount of loading, we are addressing on all fronts. We are going to be looking at about every business in town. Cleaning products and bleach are a bug killer when they get in the ponds. We are looking at everyone harder. I looked into the dredging process, to follow 503 regulations, we would have to test on the sludge, and test on soil where it would be going. Everyone I have talked to; those things are typically done in Ohio when there are enough wheat fields and/or when crops come off. It is certainly not off the table. In the meantime, we will go ahead with the other process. If we make progress with the approach, Keith said we could see results in as early as a week, but won't promise it. That is our approach right now.

Fortkamp: How many aerators are you using? Diller: We have 36 air diffusion bubblers and 6 surface aerators. We added three at the influent. Then added three more in pond two. We have hit it with more and are looking at other options. For 30 years we were small enough with mostly domestic waste and didn't need anything. We went from 60-80,000 gallons per day to 170,000 going in there every day. It is something we have to deal with moving forward. Our goal is to eliminate the issues. From there we can zero in on a long-term plan. It is likely to include changes at Coopers where we have to get loading down. I thought it was better last summer, but I guess it wasn't, I did not know it. I now go out at least once a day, lately 11pm at night too. I will be more adamant at maintaining that oversight.

Pat: I didn't hear the answer on chemical hazards? Uccello: Yes, they are concentrated but the byproduct is water. Calcium nitrate is calcium in water and broken down a form of ammonia. Essentially you are putting ammonia in the pond. Urine in a pool turns into nitrogen gas. Pearson: I drove around at 8:30pm and the smell, I was blown out of my mind. Keith: Again, we are in discovery, it's the low flow, the daytime 7-5 water consumption is high. Overnight it sits stagnant in the lift station. Diller: We hold close to 5,000 gallons in the lift station. Keith: When you have it sitting in the tank a biofilm begins growing, fat and grease form a seal. If you cook with grease, it forms a coating, similar at the lift station. Bacteria loves it. At some point you run out and it starts consuming sulfites again. A lot of time flows are not really good in some of pipes because there is no water replacing it.

Diller: One thing we have done is put a small aerator in one lift station. We will do this in our other lift stations to help. Bruns: Is it wise to keep adding egg waste if it is very difficult to eliminate once it is in? Should we know about our system so we don't do damage from Cooper LEP to retention. Once it is in the pipeline, is it just enroute, is it a little easier to mitigate that? Egg proteins and hydrogen sulfites are not easy to repair or fix. Is that responsible? Keith: It is hard to say. Common sense would say what you are saying is accurate. Bruns: I don't know all the terms. Keith: Wastewater operators look at the BOD & ammonia and phosphorus in balancing and treating the pond. You would need avg BOD of 125. At that level it comes in quick and leaves quick. Storm water provides excess water that is relatively clean and that water opens and bypass to river. In some systems even though it has sewage in it they open valves because solution is dilution.

Diller: We went through sewer separation; because EPA does not like dilution. They want to use lagoons to treat as long as possible. We used to get a couple million gallon a day when it rained. Now it might be 300,000 a day. We are always looking to locate those infiltrations, now it would be nice to flush out. Keith: They are trying to eliminate storm water. I don't know how to answer the question, is there value if the facility was gone? I would say if you take a look, water coming from the facility looks good. The water is very clear as solids are removed. Diller: We see very little solids; it doesn't look much different than water from a hose. It can have a stink.

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Chuck Kaiser: You have aerators in first pond. When they aerate isn't that taking all the oxygen out of good water? Aren't you making a problem? Keith: Could be. Diller: We knew you could, but aerators are always running. They are fine bubbles traveling in water. Not just manually pumping air into it. It is supposed to travel with the stream. Bihn: Just because you don't see it, doesn't mean you don't cause an issue. Diller: The water will always be brown. Bihn: You can see it that is why you run tests. Jim Westgerdes: You mean we can't fish in it? Diller: I haven't seen fish, turtles yes and we have geese. Diller: We are making as much effort; I know it doesn't help you tonight or tomorrow. I can't dredge the ponds next week. But I can start these others things. Jim Westgerdes: As long as you have a plan.

Diller: We started hitting it in February. We weren't maybe feeding it in the right places. We will make the effort to do this as quickly as we can, continuously for a long time, maybe forever. If that is what it takes to make it work. Jim Westgerdes: Will you dig a third lagoon? Diller: We had the plans ready; our volume does not dictate the need. Three companies said we could turn off lagoon two. I think before a third pond there are other treatments out there. What is going to take care of our process down the road can be fixed. Coopers is heavily invested into this. Keith has been working with them. Keith: I will tell you the front of the building is where all the raw goes. They are putting peroxide in it. It sits stagnant and there is no odor in that building. There are pipes that vent in that room the odor is gone. The egg is still in the water.

Chuck Kaiser: Why is it when MSI is there pumping out the smell is bad when I sit on my porch? Keith: Is it around back? Cliff: Where all the solids are pulled out, eggs are held in underground water. Chuck Kaiser: It is just when they are pumping it is as bad or worse than the ponds. Paul Fortkamp: Can you begin testing and get soil samples so if you do need to dredge you will have all your ducks in row ready to do it? Diller: Certainly, it depends on timing, how much will we need? Will it be enough when the wheat comes off, or in the fall? It is something we will begin the process on. First testing is the discovery. Only thing that might stop is if it tests for a lot of metals. We have not seen that in previous tests. If we can't, then the hauling expense goes up 10 times the cost. We are being told dredging cost is \$100,000 which is not scary if it is necessary. We will know more when we test. The initial report from Poggemeyer is expected April 18th. We want to make sure what we do this year takes care of next year. If we can keep treating clear through, whatever will take care of it.

Eric Grieshop: If you dredge, would it take less chemicals? Keith: No, if the problem is still there. Even when you dredge vegetation begins growing, it creates a disruption from some of those processes. I would never argue against dredging, but you must weigh the options. Diller: It will help but won't eliminate the problem. Chuck: Would it be easier? Diller: It would add more volume. Keith: With a lot of wastewater, when it is clean you need to add to the feeding process, they would bring in semi loads of sewage from other systems to activate it. You need a little but could use a reduction. Diller: If you can get to less than a foot, it won't get you away from using chemicals. Westgerdes: Is the bottom of the lagoon mud or rock? Diller: Just banks are rock. Mayor: When dredge will the water stay in or drain? Diller: We would not be allowed to drain. If you make it deeper because it is sitting close to the Wabash the question is, will you hit a sand vein or a water vein? You have to be careful.

Grieshop: Are you waiting for ok from them or us? Diller: We just got the proposal at 5:30pm tonight. Grieshop: Be prepared to dredge it. Diller: I don't want to discount it as being the answer but I don't think it will solve it. Grieshop: Will the air be better than sulfur? Keith: Yes, if you don't smell the sulfur, you will be good. At .05 parts per million which is 50 parts per billion. Detection is very low. Paul Fortkamp: Sounds like you have a plan. Diller: We will do the best we can. I will try to reach out to Eric and Chuck when I have more information to share.

Mayor: Keith I want to thank you very much for attending tonight!

Chief: Stats are in drop box. I am applying for a vest grant. Concealed carry vests. Adams will go back to Brandon. Applying for a grant we are resp for 50%. The Charger is at Buds again. They couldn't get it to throw the codes we ran over today and they kept it running so they could see the errors.

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RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

RES 2022-04 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2022 APPROPRIATIONS. Pearson made the motion to suspend the readings which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution, seconded by Wendel. Vote all yes.

RES 2022-05 A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER \$100,000 FROM GENERAL TO THE SCMR FUND. Pearson made the motion to suspend the readings which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution, seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes.

ORD 2022-04 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE. Pearson made the motion to suspend the readings which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes by roll call vote. Post made the motion to pass the ordinance seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes by roll call vote.

Staugler: The Bank Reconciliation for March is ready for approval.

Diller: To wrap up tonight's discussion, I will meet with Cliff. We will get started and deal with it. I think we are on the right path. It is not the only answer. Keith from Hawkins and IFM will continue to assist. Post: Will you begin treatment tomorrow? Cliff: We haven't worked out who is going to do what. Diller: We have not gotten the costs yet. Gartrel: Will you have a special meeting? Diller: No, it is within our operating expenses.

St Rt 49 Reroute: Randy met with Justin Yoh from ODOT. The traffic count did not warrant a traffic light. But they would recommend Wayne/Broadway be a 4-way stop. A 4-way will get everyone used to stopping, with the crosswalk and a potential coffee shop. Choice One would agree with that assessment. Don't think the speed going out is as big an issue as coming into town. One thing, the speed limit will go to 35MPH, it has always been on Boundary St, but did everyone go the limit? They will put the signage order in tomorrow. The switch on SR 49 will officially be made. We can do whatever we want on Wayne St. If we want to do it, they said have at it. I will order a LED flashing stop sign to add to the existing sign, it could be moved to a different location down the road as needed.

Does anyone have an opinion? Pearson: could we put out a donation box for truckers to pay for a stop light? Cliff: I was against a 4-way at Wayne/Broadway. Pearson: You have to get people to stop. Diller: We have been brain storming; one idea is to put one in the middle of the street on Wayne to help people see and make trucks not go the old route. Schmitz: The bank side has a lot of stuff there. Diller: Out in the sidewalk where it stands out so you can still see if a truck is parked in front of the Carr block. If a 4-way not quite as critical. I think it is the smart thing to do now, we need to control until we know what happens to the coffee shop. There is limited sight, if coming off the stop sign. Consensus was to move forward as suggested by ODOT.

Streets: Randy got an updated quote on Gwendolyn/Wigg Street. They included everything including sanitary, sewer and water lines. We have inspected the sanitary on Gwendolyn and no need for replacement. I had them pull it back out. Their engineer estimate is \$368,000. Where will it bid is the question. One could be 20% under or 9% over. At 20% under \$300,000 is the potential cost. We have \$150,000 in ARPA money. With Street appropriation we have \$225,000 currently set aside for street work. Milligan St would run around \$125,000. Cutting out existing concrete, saving curbs. Adding stone that should be under street, asphalt, can't do until after park season is over.

Thoughts? Pearson, we can bid it to see what happens. Diller It could be a potential project for this fall to finish in spring. Pearson: I'm in. Knapke: The pool area is bad. Diller: It is \$150,000 over and above what we have set aside. Or get Milligan done? Schmitz: What is the time frame for spending the funds? Diller: We have until 2024 to appropriate the ARPA funds. Do we want to take the conservative approach? Kaup: Do we know how much we are going to spend on lagoons? Post: Conservative approach, yes. Kaup: We could use APRA money and get the water line out of the way. Diller: We could do some work ourselves. Engineer estimates \$50,000 for the water line. We could go ahead and look at getting that done. All agree to move forward with planning for Milligan Street for this fall.

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Tap Grant: They have narrowed it down. The right-of-way is narrowing the required temporary permits to six properties which could cost \$30,000. They are looking at cutting the hill down 2' which would take care of the site issue. It will take some retaining walls; which has been built into the project. I will meet with property owners to see how we see this going. Post: Who pays for it? Diller: Part of the project and located in the R-O-W. Right now, there is no parking on either side of road, it is marked to continue parking on the north side. There are 10-12' tree lawns. They are looking at potentially narrowing that down. Randy will meet with some of those people. Will do a new pedestrian count because of cross walks. I told them that I could make sure we have pedestrians to count.

School Transportation Plan: Grant paperwork has been pushed back to week of April 18th.

PUCO: Randy talked to PUCO; they couldn't find the exemption request. It was located, docketing sent the request to a different division incorrectly. It is a 6-9-month process.

Legislative Items: HB519 did pass the house, now it is in the senate. Still don't have any requirement where the village would be notified if an extension is filed with the IRS. No vote or meeting on Airbnb or water bills. HB 512 Village contribution to OP& F from 19-26% in next 5 years. Cannot find one time through the bill where it says an audit shows they will run out of money. For us it will cost at least \$10- \$15,000 per year. It is not going to bankrupt us but compared OPERS at 14% and OP&F at 19 and taking it to 26%. It doesn't get the pension up higher just the fund will have more money.

Work from Home Withholding: Ohio Supreme Court did not overrule the previous court ruling so we will not be required to refund tax collected by those working from home during 2020. Angie not sure we are not net positive. Now those working at home are paying income tax to us. Just trying to pull more money from the Villages.

Park: Still need to hire workers.

Pool: We are starting maintenance.

Cemetery: The Open/Close fees were bumped up by the contractor so our prices will go up accordingly.

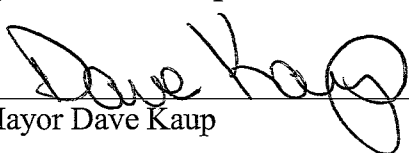
Important Dates: The Psi Iota Xi Vendor Market this weekend has a good number of vendors signed up for the Brick Street Market Saturday Morning.

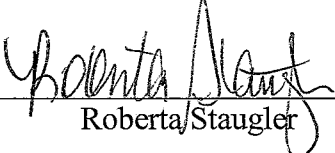
Charging Station: Nickamps Market now has a charging station which was installed by Midwest Electric. I found out AES does have funding available for charging stations also. So Randy is looking into it. Mayor: Celina does have one also.

Poll Council: Schmitz: Are they going to fix the grates uptown? Diller: They will get the grates fixed and painted; we won't plant trees until this fall. We also have new planters coming for downtown.

Council reviewed invoices #30947 to #30975 including then and now certificates, inter-departmental transfers, expense adjustments and memo expense 220044 to 220048. Wendel made a motion to approve as presented, this was seconded by Knapke Vote all yes.

Wendel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Knapke Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.


Mayor Dave Kaup


Roberta Staugler