

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO 10148

Held September 19, 2022

**ALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on September 19, 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, Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson and Al Post. Absent: Erik Fiely.

**Also Present:** Randy Diller, Roberta Staugler, Erin Abels, Leslie Gartrel, Bailey Cline, Melvin Stein, Jared Laux and Neal Spencer.

The mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

**Reports to Council:** VA Report, August Finance and Income Tax Reports.

**Minutes:** Wendel made a motion to approve August 1<sup>st</sup> with a correction Cliff Wendel was absent and August 15th, 2022 minutes as presented which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.

**Chief:** Nothing to report

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES**

**RES 2022-12 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND AMOUNTS AND RATES.** 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.

**RES 2022-13 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AMOUNTS AND RATES FOR THE VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION.** 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.

**RES 2022-14 A RESOLUTION APPROVING MERCER SAVINGS BANK AND ST HENRY BANK AS DEPOSITORIES FOR THE FUNDS OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY.** 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 2022-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING VILLAGE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BRIDGE INSPECTION PROGRAM SERVICES.** 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.

The Bank Reconciliation for August was presented for approval. Melvin Stein arrived

Erin: OPIOD Settlement has been set up with an account through the portal.

**Diller: Milligan Street:** They should start by mid-October. We will have a pre-construction meeting. Randy has talked with all neighbors; we are ready to go. They say it should be no more than two weeks. Knapke: Will sidewalks stay & will they need to shut down the park? Diller: No work on the sidewalks is planned and at night the street will not be closed, everyone should be able to get to their driveways as a rule.

**Diller: Utility:** They found three more hydrants that need to be repaired when they conducted the annual flushing a couple of weeks ago.

**Wastewater study:** The study has been finalized; we will submit to EPA as requested. We are working on sludge removal options and have talked to Melvin about another option. NPDES should have our draft back by next week. We want to have a pre-draft meeting and

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they want us to provide us with the information before the 30-day response period kicks in. A long-term monitoring control plan is nearly finished.

I put in drop box other information about Melvin Stein from Kainos Ag. Melvin contacted us in July. He said he has a process to potentially reduce sludge without having to remove it. He obtained samples and completed a pilot test. It showed the product would remove and clean up the sludge. This is a totally natural organic product, no chemicals and should have no impact on the lagoon from that standpoint. Melvin: What we have done is we have been working with a product in a greenhouse setting. This process will digest fish waste, the approach we take is new. No other option allows you to not have to change out the water. Nutrients do not digest sufficiently and it becomes toxic to fish. We change out water once a week by 30%. We developed a product that is organic, breaks it down and converts it to a biodegradable form. Bacteria in the system can convert, plant pulls it out and fish grow healthy. We are using yellow perch, in talking with individuals in environmental management, they were stunned to find out we were a zero-waste system. The nutrient density is so high, we help treat patients with cancer and other diseases. Other people came to the table and said it would work on this or that. We have done testing on other problems. What happens when you use the product on hog lagoons? The solids go away and a crust breaks up and becomes liquid. Teresa Dirksen did some testing on the Schwieterman farm, she said she couldn't recommend yet but the results on phosphorus show it is converted in the solids pumped on the fields. She feels it requires further soil studies. Also, on Grand Lake, we did a study with Ohio and Fed EPA which makes us believe we can reduce your sludge blanket in 30 days. We worked with other ponds, when tree leaves pile up it can create sludge, we were able to digest it. We are not a bio-augmentation product, we break down nutrient and make it bio-active. As plant photosynthesis produce lipids, fungi and bacteria in the soil is depleted. We are doing testing on the impact. Because we have done these things, if this is true then the proposed treatment should be true too.

You have aeration, third of volume, we set up a bucket test with different dosage not knowing what our sludge was. Within a week the black sludge was gone, we stirred it once a day. Within 10 days the second treatment caught up with it. I brought two buckets with me tonight. The other is a water sample from CW Egg to see what the impact is. It looks clear.

Everyone went outside to look at the treated samples that Melvin Stein brought with him and further discuss the process of the treatment.

Mayor: It is an interesting concept. Randy: His process thinks we can treat our lagoons in 60 days. Mayor: I think we need to try it. Randy: He said he thinks it will treat E. coli and phosphorus too. Mayor: Would it be such a thing, if put it in and if taken care of would we go to 1/2 of the sludge? Melvin: We will continue to evaluate from the waste stream going into the lagoon to see what that may be. Mayor: I think it would be silly to stop. Diller: Will our lagoons handle the loading? Will it effectively treat to limits EPA is going to give us? Once the sludge is gone the lagoons work differently, there will always be some sludge. Melvin: There will be a little. Diller: Little is a good thing. We need to wait to see what will happen. With Coopers planning some future expansion, where does that fit with our ability to operate. It may take care of first step to remove sludge, get smell under control, figure at what level we can handle the load and try to make a decision to see what is a long-term goal is for us. Will it take care of our future growth? Once all done then we can make a decision. Melvin wants us to partner with him, in doing some additional testing, pre and post with pharmaceuticals, there could be another market. Melvin: EPA does have a background level that continues to go up with drugs, skin products, caffeine. They have 4 different categories with a similar molecular structure that pass thru, looking for a solution for that, looking to be able to break molecules down and make it bio-destructible. A combination of things put the village way out in front. Diller: They lower the price from \$16,000 to \$13,000 per inch if we partner with them to do the tests. We would provide them with a 3rd party test so they have no hands in the process so they can use the results. If you add it all up, it could take \$330,000 if all 24 inches is removed. We only pay for results. Until we do the after process and we verify, if 12" we only pay for 12". We have never had that option before. That is a

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nice approach from our prospective. If it works it comes with a lot of advantages. Maybe we can avoid some smell issues. The other pluses, we don't have to take out the existing aeration, don't have to shut down a lagoon. We hope to continue to see tests that meet EPA standards and don't create any additional treatment. Mayor: If we give Melvin the green light, and we think there are 24", we achieve 12" removal now, would we continue the treatment in the spring? Diller: We need to know within 6-8 weeks, we need to know if it's working or not. Melvin: You can evaluate it in about a week. I think you are looking at 30 days, and then to maintain at a level. Based on the bucket tests I feel that would be adequate, With the temperatures we need to get started the sooner the better. There is no reason to put it in more than one lift station, it should be effective. You want to prevent an explosion and overwhelm the system. Mayor: We have put a lot of stuff in the last 12 months, will that hinder the results? Melvin: I do not believe it will. Diller: Should we shut off the hydrogen peroxide feed? Melvin: No, it will make it more effective, all the oxygen you are trying to inject into the system, we may as well maintain it.

Diller: Disadvantages are no proof this application will work, because we have no study to fall back on, only the bucket test and research. The other thing I voiced with Melvin, when we have stirred up the sludge in past it has been increased odors. A Concern we would need to look at. With the amount above the bid limit. I talked to Erin. This is a situation we have been working on, it doesn't fall under emergency, we may think so, but will the auditor see it that way? Erin: It is something we have been dealing with for a long time, if we want to pursue, it is not enough to forego the bidding requirement. I didn't find any other exceptions. Kaup: Is there another company that can do a similar process? Could it be only one company that can bid?

Diller: It is different, the idea you are feeding to help work better. You will get a bid, yes, we can but it may take 2-3 years. So that is a concern. Kaup: Can't we word it so the price per inch for sludge removal is in the bid? Diller: We can however, in this case we would be tailoring the bid for only one company. Wendel: What if we have 24" and we get a 3" reduction and we still have to dredge? Is there a sliding scale the more it is reduced? Diller: If we only remove 6" is that going to be offset if we have to remove sludge? Will we save \$80,000 and save that? Ryan brought that up last week. It is something we need to give thought to. Melvin: I need to run it past our team, provide some threshold. Diller: Are we interested enough? Wendel: Do we have cost of dredge? Diller: EPA is sending me what he considers pretty tough requirements. Everything is moving forward. If we are interested, we will put it out for bid, 2 weeks gets us to October, which is our window of opportunity. At a minimum, realistically at least 3 weeks. I will make a call to the auditor; but they always refer us to our legal counsel. Wendel: Do you provide SDS sheets for your product? Diller: It was not included in the email received. Melvin will send over. Is this the path we want to pursue? Councill agreed, it is a good option. Randy: I will get advertised ASAP. Neal: What is the cost to dredge? Diller: \$600-\$750.000 if taken to a land fill. That is based on size, not exact. Melvin: I would say we are anxious to get started, if there is a way to figure it out, Diller; I have a couple of ideas, possibly pay this year for a test treatment and bid out next year.

**TAP Grant Butler Street:** The traffic signal has been approved to be included in the TAP funding. We continue to have disagreements regarding right-of-way. I think they are figuring out that we are not going to back down.

**Systemic Funding:** Trail: Paperwork is ongoing. The next step is for them to give us a proposal to pick the design people. We figure it will be Choice One, but it could be another company.

**School Transportation Plan:** Should get final approval to move forward. ODOT needs to get money appropriated. We will need to form a local committee, someone from local government should be involved along with Randy, Jenn, Larry Brown, Chief. This would cover education people, local government and parents.

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**Rail Road:** I heard from PUCO; we meet next Wednesday at St Henry schools. We have one and Minster has one, so it is for two hearings. Next Wednesday, Randy, Chief, Larry Brown a rep from Wayne Oil, Cooper and J & M. It is a public meeting to hear comments on whether or not this is a good thing. I have not received feedback from Railroad, no one would call back.

**EV Charging Stations.** Nothing new. Waiting to hear from AES,

**Legislation:** Not in session since June HB 140 changes requirement for passing Village Tax Levies, change is in wording that just don't make any sense.

**Park: Tour Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.** Only thing left, is to try to get playground material delivered. When it shows up, they will be here to install it. Batting cage carpet did get installed. We will re-hook the cage netting up in the spring.

**Sewer Smoke Testing:** We did complete the smoke testing. We located every place it was showing up where it was not supposed to. We had 20+ down spouts connected to sanitary sewer line. A catch basin which had water going into sanitary which has been fixed. Two on Williams St, had a small amount getting into the storm. Other than that, just down spouts, real quick solution is to dump on ground until they can get hooked up. We found 50-60 clean out caps that were broken. Replaced ones on the property line. We will send those people a letter. It was a good experience for us. Learned how to do it and can do on our own in future. We still have the machine for another week or two. We had 5-6 times it showed up in houses and basements.

**Mayor:** I want to thank you Melvin for coming over to our meeting.

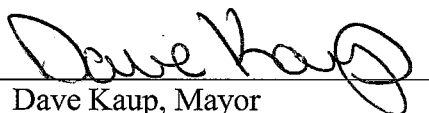
**Poll Council: Pearson:** Truck Route signs are still being abused throughout town. Milligan & Wayne St when going west/south – there is no sign at the intersection. Some wonder if they just continue straight. Laux: Doesn't say no trucks. Pearson: Could we place a sign at stop sign indicating the truck route this week. Could we put a sign on 49 truck route this way down Milligan? Diller: We can put up a lot of signs but don't seem to be effective. Jerry told me many go straight to Wiggs, turn left, then at highway turn back right. Only thing we think is if a truck is backed up on curve. Laux: Curve too sharp so go straight? Jerry thinks we could put 600 signs up and they still won't follow them.

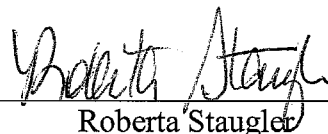
**Council reviewed invoices #31261 to #31334 including then and now certificates, inter-departmental transfers, expense adjustments and memo expense 220108 to 220126. Wendel made a motion to approve as presented, this was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.**

**Mayor: Do I have a motion to enter executive session to discuss employment in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code 121.22(G)(1). Pearson made a motion to enter executive session seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes by roll call vote.**

**Knapke Made a motion to exit executive session seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. No action taken.**

**Knapke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Schmitz. Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm.**

  
Dave Kaup, Mayor

  
Roberta Staugh