

Regular Council

May 3, 2021

Sugarcreek Village Council had a regular council meeting at Village Hall April 19, 2021, with Mayor Jeff Stutzman presiding.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors: Doug Frautschy, Police Chief Keven Kaser, Fire Chief Dr. Kevin Miller, Nick Neuenschwander, and Bob Design.

Roll Call: Matt Miller, Ron Atkinson, Sam Beachy, Mick Fanning, Jason Hamsher, and Josh Jarvis, all present.

An addendum to the minutes of April 19 was presented and a motion was made by Jason Hamsher and seconded Sam Beachy to accept the minutes with the addendum. At roll call all members voted approval.

Correction to minutes of April 19, 2021 council meeting: *Specht announced that he and Mayor Stutzman met with the developer of Pirates Cove and Mr. Brown. They want to move forward on the excavation on Boston Street from Ronson St. to Mr. Brown's property, then to Pirates Cove. All parties agree that they would rather use one contractor than piece the project together.*

Ron Atkinson made a motion to accept the expenditures for April. The motion was seconded by Matt Miller. At roll call all members voted approval.

Mayor Stutzman passed around a thank you card the Village received from the Alpine Hills Museum curator, Becky Detweiler. Stutzman announced the next meeting with Mr. Comstock regarding the Fire District project will be May 26th at 7:00 pm in council chambers. Mr. Comstock will join via zoom.

Stutzman made council aware of a jump in the Ohio Workers' Compensation premiums from 38k to 80k/ year due to a large claim.

Solicitor Doug Frautschy announced there is a resolution to be brought up later in the meeting regarding the 2 mil/5-year operating levy that will expire the end of this year.

Fire Chief Miller said prep work will start next week on the new Fire House doors. The gun raffle had a good turn-out but he does not have the final numbers.

Nick Neuenschwander, from Cherry Ridge Water (CRW) was at the meeting to start the dialogue regarding replacement of the 2" line that supplies water to approximately 30 families in Cherry Ridge. He said they are open for meetings with the Village. They are not asking for more water, just help in replacing the line that at this time is condemned. Mayor Stutzman told them the loan that the Village has applied for is only eligible for 50% loan forgiveness. Neuenschwander told council that they were under the impression it was a grant, so this was new information for them.

Stutzman asked where the other \$500,000.00 was going to come from. Mr. Neuenschwander said that was indeed an issue. Mayor Stutzman pointed out it would not be fair to the residents of the Village to use their tax dollars to supply the line and water to residents who do not wish to annex. Neuenschwander assured the Mayor annexation was not a possibility. Atkinson pointed out all the additional services the residents would receive with annexation. Neuenschwander said it is not 30 homes in a row, there are acres of property in between the homes that don't need or want water or sewer and that prevents the residents from annexing.

Atkinson pointed out it is the policy of Sugarcreek to not sell water outside the corporation. The Village would continue to support the 2" line agreement with CRW.

Sam Beachy thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting to get the discussion started.

Bob Design, of CRW said the bottom line is the 2" line is leaking with up to 50% loss and it needs fixed. He pointed out the county is not helping, and Holmes County is not willing to bring water from Walnut Creek.

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He agreed that CRW has fallen short by not putting money back for repairs over the past 60 years. The EPA has told them a new 2" line will not be sufficient without a booster station.

Solicitor Doug Frautschy in summarizing the conversation said there are 4 options the EPA gave the Village.

1. The Village obtains the loan, takes over the line and maintains the line.
2. CRW will continue to exist, they would upgrade the lines and the Village will continue to honor the existing agreement.
3. Holmes County will bring water from Walnut Creek.
4. Residents will drill individual wells.

Neuenschwander said they could only get 4 homes annexed before hitting an area that is not willing to annexed.

The Church would be left on its own and would have to start a testing facility, hire a class A operator and do all of the required paperwork.

Discussion about options were discussed and Mayor Stutzman told the representatives to please feel free to call if they have any other questions.

Hamsher inquired about the light at Main St. & Broadway and was told it is on a timer.

Sam Beachy said there is a section on Miller Avenue where water is laying and was told it is on the project list and will be corrected. He inquired about the intersection of St Rt. 93 & 39 and the need for the lines to be moved to allow trucks more room to make the turn. He also asked Chief Kaser about the rules covering speed limits and was informed the speed limits on St. Routes are set by ODOT.

Doug Frautchy told council they will need to decide whether they wanted to place the operating levy on the fall ballot as a renewal, or a replacement. After a brief discussion, the council decided to request renewal.

ORDINANCE 21-2307

ORDINANCE 21-2307 Titled: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY TO THE APPROPRIATE TAXING AUTHORITY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION, ETC., IN ACCORDANCE WITH R.C. SECTION 5705.03(B) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion was made by Sam Beachy to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings and it was seconded by Josh Jarvis. At roll call, all members voted approval. Ron Atkinson made a motion to pass the resolution as an emergency, and it was seconded by Mick Fanning. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Fiscal/Officer

Mayor