

LARUE VILLAGE COUNCIL
October 22, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

The LaRue Village Council met in special session on October 22, 2019 in the Village Council Room. Present was Mayor Milton Lightfoot, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members John Howard, Connie Kendall, Lisa Howard, and David Stallsmith.

Guests: See attached sing in

Special meeting called to discuss the Village Ohio EPA Loan agreement, Village's Ford Ranger, and the pool.

Resolution 2019-6 was read to approve the Village to enter a loan agreement with Ohio EPA with a motion to approve by John Howard and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed with 5 ayes and 1 abstain.

Discussion was opened about the pool with the following points and comments made by Council and Residents:

- Melissa Shawver stated the main concern she feels is finding a quality manager to run the pool.
- Connie Kendall asked if anyone in the audience was willing to help support the pool and the main thing that Council wants is for the pool to support itself. In order for the pool to support it self then rates and fees may need to be raised.
- Resident asked how far previously Council has sent information out about needing help and staff at the pool. Clerk Mary Price stated that notices are places around town, emails sent out, notice on the website, and ad in the newspaper.
- Resident stated that she feels the manager should be a certified lifeguard.
- Resident stated that she was at the pool a previous year volunteering her time painting and fixing things up along with a full time job. The issue in 2018 was that lifeguards would just quit and at one point they had to hire a lifeguard from another pool. The manager's job is a full time job 7 days a week and it's not easy. The pool needs to be a community effort it can't just be the manager and lifeguards doing everything. Tyler has to be called constantly because this needed fixed and he was always right there. People from Marion would come to the pool because the prices of admission and concession were so reasonable however they probably should be raised. The manager's job is a tough one and is a lot of hard work.
- Resident spoke about if money was an issue then how much is needed and what needs to be done or raised to open it?
- Resident stated that if you raise the rates too much then the pool in Marion will look more appealing.
- Resident mentioned they went to Prospect and it cost her family of 3 - \$15 and they don't have a concession stand just vending machines.
- Melissa Shawver stated that Council can have all the money to support the pool but without the needed help then the pool can't open. She felt the first step in the process was to find a manager.
- Tyler Howell reported that at the pool there is a newer chlorine pump, newer complete pump system, sand filter is about 6 yrs old, some new plumbing, and newer diving board. The issues at the pool are the liner which is beyond its life expectancy and a leak underneath the building.

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- Resident reported that before the pool opened Tyler and the pool staff would have to pull nasty debris from the deep end and she doesn't feel like that was safe or healthy. Also the staff didn't get paid enough to perform that kind of work.
- Resident asked what the pool brought in and all the financials were discussed. The pool was closed last season because of financial reasons because every year the pool runs a deficit.
- Resident stated that the park levy money is getting eaten all up by the pool and being the park is being neglected.
- Resident stated that \$8,000 for a season and the amount of time that is required at the pool it is not worth much when broken down for a manager.
- Connie Kendall contacted surrounding pools and our pool is cheap compared to others.
- Connie Kendall went over numbers for the park and pool operation and basically it costs the general fund \$10,000 of operating money to support the park and pool.
- Resident asked what he thinks the cost of the passes and memberships should be. Connie went over some numbers that she felt the passes could be raised to and also a discount when passes are purchased before the season.
- Council all agreed that posting the job for manager and lifeguards around town and seeing what interest happens and going from there since that's the first step. Lifeguards will need to start signing up for classes soon.
- Resident mentioned that prospect charges a reduced amount after a certain time of day so that is something the pool could look into.
- Resident asked why Ric Patterson is mowing the park and it was stated that the Village has to bid out jobs because we have too many properties to maintain on our own.
- The pool is always open to an organization or group taking over and running it.
- Resident asked about if the pool was opened again and ran a deficit what Council would decide at that point.
- John Howard expressed that he doesn't feel the pool should be open because financially it costs too much when looking over the numbers it shouldn't be open. It's a great benefit for the youth by not financially smart.
- If the liner goes then that would be \$60,000-\$70,000 expense that only a grant could fix because there are no funds to complete that repair. Tyler Howell reported that he pulls the plugs in the deep end and the ground water fills up to hold the liner down because the liner is no longer attached to the walls.
- Resident asked what happens if the pool doesn't open again what will be done with it and Council said they aren't sure but maybe one more year of filling it then it is abandoned.

The Ford Ranger was discussed lastly and it is currently leaking oil and has transmission issues. Not knowing the cost for repair Council would like it taken up to Red Roof to have a quote done for repair. The concern is Council has the expense of a new dump truck bed and a new truck is not doable as well. The truck is a 2003 with 130,000 miles.

Resident from Market Street that lives in Boles old property wanted to talk with Council because they will be lifting the house and they will be living in a camper for 6 weeks. They will be installing a temporary electric pool and Council had no problem with that. They will have to temporarily disconnect all utilities and during construction they will need water usage so Tyler Howell will assist with that.

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Mayor

Clerk