

## LARUE VILLAGE COUNCIL MARCH 2020 MINUTES

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on March 2, 2020 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Maintenance Supervisor Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Melissa Shawver, Connie Kendall, David Stallsmith, Lance Roberts, and John Boyd.

Guests present: Mary Snyder, Diane Evans, Jeff Winslow, Richard Holcomb, Deb Fout, and Joseph Green.

Mayor Dustin Ford opened the Meeting with a pledge to the American flag.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved with a motion by David Stallsmith and a second by John Boyd, motion passed.

**The financial report** was presented and a motion was made Melissa Shawver to approve the bills with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

### **Mayor –**

Dustin Ford brought up that he received a quote from Richard Holcomb to repair the approach / drain in front of Red Roof Auto and the Market and Front Street storm drain. Mr. Holcomb stated he would cut around the area, install new grates, and install new catch basins. The quote from Richard Holcomb was \$5,400 to complete both the storm drain repairs with concrete. West and Front Street has a storm drain area that needs to be addressed also and it may have a tile that needs replaced. Tyler Howell presented that if they are repairing the other two drains then they should look at the West and Front Street drain and do them all at once. Council decided to have Richard Holcomb rework the quote to have all three areas repaired. Dave Albert mentioned about several areas around town that needs dirt moved so water does not lay on the road because it is ruining the road. Furthermore Dave Albert asked about who maintains the hydrants and it was expressed that The Board of Public Affairs handles the hydrants.

Dustin Ford presented that Larry Hesier will be on the ballot for judge so a new solicitor will need to be found if he is elected.

**BPA** – Still on track for the water tower project.

**Park & Pool** – The concession permit will not be renewed and the baseball for youth does not want it. Dustin Ford talked about filling the pool area with dirt from the sledding hill. The pool area will be filled with dirt and the concrete pad will remain. The concession stand by the ballpark has two bathrooms and the door frames are deteriorating and will need replaced this season. The bathrooms by the ballfields will still be available for shelters rental since the ones by the pool will be closed off.

Dustin Ford mentioned the park area behind the municipal building needs some attention and it would be beneficially since it is easily accessible to kids. Council mentioned about installing the new swing set that was purchased last season by the municipal building rather than the park outside of town.

**Sheriff** – No report

**Maintenance** – Two of the entrance signs coming into town have been replaced with all of Lions Club donation money and one more still needs to be fixed so Tyler Howell will approach Lion's Club again for more funding.

Cleanup day was discussed about including the townships with cleanup day this year. Tyler Howell mentioned that it would be beneficially if the townships would provide help because last year it was Tyler

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Howell in the tractor with the help of Bob Howell, Milton Lightfoot, David Stallsmith, and John Boyd. Lance Roberts mentioned he really questions if it is worth it to hold the cleanup day. John Boyd mentioned his concern with workers comp and the liability aspects. Council all agreed to not hold cleanup day this spring and they could always hold it later in the season if they change their minds.

Council would like mowing advertised for bids for the lagoons, park, and vacant lot with a deadline for April 3<sup>rd</sup> and they will be opened April 6<sup>th</sup>. The other remaining properties around town will be mowed by Village maintenance.

**Zoning** – No report

**Tree Commission** – No report

**Budget** – No report

**Street and Alley** – Tyler Howell reported he would like to hold off on repairing any more holes until they start making hot mix sometime in April.

**Fire & Safety** – Lance Roberts presented a spreadsheet about the runs in 2019 and they billed \$156,000 for EMS runs and collected \$51,000.

**Buildings & Grounds** – No report

**Regional Planning** – Dustin Ford reported he did not attend the meeting he had a scheduling conflict.

### **Old Business:**

John Boyd asked about how many letters have been sent out about junk cars and junk properties. Letters were sent to Demoris Brown and Cody Lowe for junk cars and they both have picked up the letters. Dustin Ford presented that if the car is on private property then you cannot walk on the property to check the tags. The property on Front Street (Demoris Brown) was sent a letter about junk cars and the 15 days have past so now the sheriff needs to be contacted. Dustin Ford will contact the sheriffs department regarding the cars. Council talked about making sure the ordinances can be enforceable and they have enough written in them so the Village can take action. Council talked about people driving over the sidewalk or curb, which is in the tree lawn and should not be allowed. When they repave St Rt 95 they talked about putting a curb all the way down and people would lose tree lawn parking.

Dustin Ford presented that test results at this point have all been clean for the vacant lot up town and they will continue to monitor it.

### **New Business:**

Connie Kendall stated the Orrang Bang will be June 12 & 13 and they would like the roads shut off at noon on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Albert mentioned that he just saw a 4-wheeler racing through the Village's parking lot. Dustin Ford mentioned that Saturday evening he was driving around and saw 4-wheelers around town.

Deb Fout was present to ask if the pool closing was a done deal because she would be interested in helping. She was concerned because she never saw it posted and Mary Price responded that the job was posted in the Marion Star for 6 days, online for several months, and around town for several months. Mrs. Fout stated her concern with what the kids were going to do around town and she hated to see the pool close. Council expressed finically the town cannot afford it, there is a lack of interest in managing the pool, and declining attendance are all the reasons it is not opening.

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Joseph Green was present and representing the science club that would like to collaborate with the Council on a project to build a prairie at the park. The science club could start in fall of 2020 to spray and kill off grass and the winter put in the seed. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> year it would be burnt and then it would start to look nice after that point. Low cost seed would be \$1,500 so the science club would need help with purchasing the seed and they would do all the work. Dustin Ford mentioned contacting local businesses like Richwood Bank, Lions Club, and other organizations to see about getting funds. Any projects the club does would need to be environmentally related. Levi Pasma is in charge of the science club. Joseph Green stated that Tom Ford mentioned a couple other possible projects like erosion control along the river by planting native plants and installing birdhouses. Connie Kendall mentioned she would talk with Scott's and see what they could do to help with the materials and she suggested setting up a booth at the Oorang Bang. Joseph Green asked about using the water areas around the park to collect data with animals. Council had no problem with the science club using the water areas for research.

A motion was made to go into executive session by Melissa Shawver to discuss personnel matter with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed at 8:58 pm.

A motion was made to exit executive session by Melissa Sawver with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed at 9:33pm.

A motion was made by John Boyd to approve Tyler Howell's 5% raise on annual salary starting next pay with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. Council all agreed to hold Tyler Howell's annual evaluation in February.

**Resolution 2020-2** was approved to increased Tyler Howell's pay 5% and will now be be \$52,500 with a motion by Melissa Shawver and a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

Tyler Howell asked for feedback on what he can improve and Council expressed following up on cleanup and making sure he is professional at all times with the community members. When water breaks happen the communication needs to be there with who will clean up the job sites the Village or Holcomb.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 6, 2020 in the Council Room (350 N High Street) at 7:00pm.

Motion to adjourn by Melissa Shawver with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed.

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Mayor

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Fiscal Officer