

LARUE VILLAGE COUNCIL
March 27, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

The LaRue Village Council met in special session on March 27, 2020 in the Village Council Room. Present was Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members John Boyd, Lance Roberts, Connie Kendall, David Stallsmith, and Melissa Shawver. Board of Public Affairs members present Diane Evans, Dave Albert, and Doug Shawver. Guest: None

Special meeting called to discuss the water tower and raising the water rate.

Currently the Village is looking at getting \$500,000 in CDBG grant and \$250,000 Ohio EPA grant along with \$250,000 0% EPA loan to cover the 1,000,000 water tower cost. Originally RCAP had expressed that the Village could use \$500,000 in CDBG grant funding and \$500,000 Ohio EPA grant with no cost to the Village. The village was recently notified by RCAP that what they originally stated was not accurate with the EPA funding and the Village would be required to obtain \$250,000 in loan. The Ohio EPA requires 50% grant and 50% loan for the monies obtained from them.

Diane Evans reported that based off of her figures for 290 customers with a raise of \$3 on the base it would generate enough for the \$8,600 yearly loan payment and \$1,800 surplus to put away for tower maintenance.

John Boyd stated that he was not happy and wanted to know who dropped the ball on this loan and grant misunderstanding. Mr. Boyd doesn't think the rates should just be raised to cover all this misunderstanding. Lance Roberts stated he agreed with John and if it wasn't for the \$80,000 design loan he would like to just scrap the project and if the tower failed then EPA could come in. It was stated that John Boyd and other Council members were all present when RCAP has come in and presented this information. The Board would still be liable for the \$80,000 design loan that was already obtained from OWDA. Tyler Howell reported that the water plant is currently running on a conditional usage license due to the water tower situation. The EPA is not going to come in and rescue the Village because the Village is fully aware that the water tower needs to be replaced. Tyler Howell was asked if the pumps at the plant could keep up if the tower completely failed and he stated they could but the electric bill would increase drastically.

A letter will be sent out with the next two bills fully explaining the situation to the residents so they understand what is going on. Diane Evans read the proposed letter that would be mailed with utility bills in April, May, June then the increase would take effect in the July water bill.

Doug Shawver made a motion for resolution 2020-7 to propose the increase to the Village Council with a second by Dave Albert, motion passed.

Ordinance 2020-4 was read to increase the water base rate \$3 per month. A motion was made by Connie Kendall to suspend the three readings rule with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed. A motion was made by David Stallsmith to pass the ordinance as written with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed with 4 ayes and 1 nay - Melissa Shawver yes, David Stallsmith Yes, Lance Roberts Yes, and Connie Kendall Yes, and John Boyd No.

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Mayor

Clerk