

## **La Rue Village Council Meeting January 5, 2022**

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on January 5, 2022 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, John Howard, David Stallsmith, Melissa Shawver, Lance Roberts, and John Boyd.

**Guests present:** Diane Evans & Doug Shawver (Representing BPA). Steve Dashner

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved with a motion by Connie Kendall and a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

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

Mayor Dustin Ford swore John Howard, Melissa Shawver, Connie Kendal, John Boyd to Village Council with a term end date 12/31/2025. Mayor Dustin Ford swore in Doug Shawver as Board of Public Affairs position term ending 12/31/25.

A motion was made by John Howard to nominate Connie Kendall as Board President with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Melissa Shawver made a motion to appoint Tyler Howell as the street commissioner with a second by John Howard, motion passed.

**Ordinance 2022-1** was read to approve the 2022 yearly permanent appropriations. A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to suspend the rules with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed. A motion was made by Connie Kendall to approve Ordinance 2022-1 for the yearly appropriations with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed.

**Resolution 2022-1** was read for the 2022 blanket purchase orders. A motion was made by John Howard to approve the blanket purchase orders with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

**Mayor** – X

**BPA** – Doug Shawver and Diane Evans reported the foundation at the old site should be coming out next week and Caldwell has proposed to install a stand pipe/equalizer to help eliminate the water in the dry vault. Council discussed with BPA about Caldwell being delinquent on the tower completion date and at some point, the solicitor may need to get involved to discuss the fines that are listed in the contract.

Tyler Howell reported that the Board has had conversations with the Engineering firm about the current makeup of the plant and retro fitting the plant with grant money. Our plant is missing a set of sand filters before the water goes into the membranes that would help filter out more iron. There are 27 plants in Ohio like ours and we are the only plant that does not filter the water before it enters the membranes. The plumbing is in the plant to filter the water before the membranes, but for some reason it was never built that way. Residents are currently experiencing higher levels of iron. Typically, iron levels are at 0.3 parts per million and currently we are seeing 1.1 parts per million. There is no maximum on the iron levels because it's not a health violation its just a violation from the EPA because of taste and color. The Board had an outside company come and clean the membranes which seemed to help temporarily. The current actions to resolve the iron issues the Board is taking is that they have ordered new membranes for one of the ROs which will be buy sometime until retro fitting the plant can hopefully be completed. The Board is working with the engineering firm to figure out a solution to retro and change the way the plant filters water and grant money is being explored.

Tyler Howell reported a service line break by Ric Patterson's house on Section and School St was repaired on 11/5/22.

**Maintenance** – The building uptown still needs flooring and a wall was built to block off a space for the Clerk’s office.

Christmas lights were taken down with Richard Holcomb Jr. assistance because Brad Albert has left the part time position. Council discussed how to move forward with hiring someone part time to assist Tyler around town. The current part time position pays \$10 per hour so it was discussed if using salary would be appealing or just raising the rate. John Howard expressed that he doesn’t think salary would be the best route to go for a part time employee. The part time employee does not receive any benefits so raising the rate would be the best route. A motion was made by John Howard to leave the part time employee terms the same and increase the starting rate to \$15 per hour with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed. The pay raise will now apply to Bob Howell as current part time employee.

Tyler Howell reported that the BPA received grant money for 2 i-pads. It was proposed to purchase a projector to use at meetings to display maps and other things that are being discussed at meetings and the ipads can be used with the projector. Connie Kendall made a motion to purchase a projector with a budget of \$250 and a second by John Howard, motion passed.

**Park & Pool** – Tyler Howell reported cameras were installed at the park and cellar service was purchased for the camera just incase someone steals the camera we still have the picture.

Council wants Tyler to get clarification on the scope of the work for the door repairs at the park concession by James Doss.

**Sheriff** – Dustin Ford said he was going to invite the sheriff to the next meeting to discuss the properties was have in town since nothing is being done.

**Zoning** – X

**Tree Commission** – X

**Budget** – X

**Street and Alley** – Connie Kendall made a motion to roll over the 2022 permissive tax money with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed.

**Fire & Safety** – Lance Roberts reported that a notice was sent out for a new fire chief and interviews will be held here soon. David Stallsmith reported an old fire truck that the department no longer utilizes is possible going to be donated to a fire department in Kentucky.

**Buildings & Grounds** – X

**Regional Planning** – Tyler Howell reported on the old hardware store uptown. The property was offered to the Village back in the fall by letterhead but no response was received from the Village according to Marion County. The property has already gone through sheriff sale and will be going through an Auditor’s sale in the near future. The Village was made aware that the neighbor (Fields) may be interested in purchasing the property to repair. Council discussed the options available and they would like the Landbank to move forward with acquiring the property to tear down the structure and then the Village will obtain the vacant property.

**Old Business:**

Council discussed the old lumber mill and it needs a letter because it’s a nuisance just like the other properties in town.

**New Business:**

Steve Dashner was present to discuss his property at 414 N High Street because he built up around the house with dirt and installed a new driveway on the north side of the house. The new drive he installed is now encroaching on the Village’s property at 430 N High Street by 16 feet. Council asked if Mr. Dashner

would be interested in a lease deal for \$1 to use the property at 430 N High and maintain the lot. Mr. Dashner was not necessarily interested in a lease deal because his insurance company said he would need to carry an additional policy. The property can be leased and can be used for green space along with a driveway. Council discussed that Mr. Dashner could either lease the property or move anything that is over the property line. Council was concerned if they let the driveway remain then other residents may think they can just use Village lots without leasing them and it may become a problem with liability. Council all agreed that the driveway can remain until a survey is completed by Mr. Dashner and he decides.

Lance Roberts reported that Clarence Greer raised a concern about the Dollar Store retainment pond and the effects it will have on the residents nearby. The retainment pond the Dollar Store has built behind the new structure when it overflows will negatively affect the houses nearby. Discussion was held of different ways to redirect the overflow water with tiles and catch basins. A meeting was held at the location and Dick Holcomb initially quoted \$6,000-\$8,000 to repair the issue. Further investigation after the last rain it was discussed that the initial project scope by Mr. Holcomb could be scaled back. A motion was made by John Howard to approve \$6,000 to remove, replace, and repair the drainage with the catch basin at Vine and Chestnut St when the weather permits with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed. Tyler Howell mentioned having Mr. Lee the property owner come to a Council meeting before the building is completed. Lastly the retainment pond could have a quick fix if the construction crew has the proper digging equipment to move a little more dirt to one side.

A motion to adjourn by Melissa Shawver with a second by John Howard, motion passed. Next meeting will be February 7, 2022 at 7:00pm.

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Mayor

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Fiscal Officer