

La Rue Village Council Meeting March 7, 2022

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on March 7, 2022 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: Connie Kendall, David Stallsmith, John Howard, Melissa Shawver, Lance Roberts, and John Boyd.

Guests present: Mary Snyder, Jeff Winslow, Craig Mescher from Access Engineering, and Diane Evans (BPA Representative).

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 David Stallsmith and a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

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

Mayor – Mayor Ford updated on the Redd property and apparently the property has sold but the Village has not heard anything from the new owner and his intentions. The old Catholic Church property (Cody Lowe) has no new update and Mayor Ford stated he gave the sheriff everything he wanted but hasn't heard anything back so he will follow-up. Another property that needs to be addressed are the two properties beside Jeff Winslow that both need cleaned up.

BPA – Diane Evans updated council on the retrofitting of the water plant with the lack of filtration that should have been installed from the beginning. The Board had Access Engineering and Artisan Pioneering come in to look over the plant and present a quote for the retrofitting/ filtration correction. The quote presented was for the correction of the filtration system and also to bring the system up to where it needs to be with other components that don't work properly at a cost of \$720,000. The EPA approved all the original plans for the plant which should never had been allowed because it does not function correctly. Craig Mescher recommended presenting this to the commissioners to get ARPA money from them to get the project funded quicker and possible completed this year. The application has been sent to EPA for funding but that money would not be available until next year. The Board is going to get with Evie at Regional Planning and the county commissioners to present the quote and project outline.

Maintenance – Tyler Howell presented that the modular building parking lot needs to be recoated at some point. The brick wall on the Village building uptown needs to be inspected/repared because it is leaning so a quote is going to be obtained. Street patching was completed around town and Front Street will need asphalt patching done this summer to repair it properly. Chestnut Street repairs should be included in the St Rt 95 project. The alley beside the fire department will need to be addressed because it is getting in rough shape. Tyler reported to Council that he was concerned with purchasing a cheaper projector because it may be difficult to see in the day light in the Council room. Council all agreed to purchase a projector for around \$250 and they can just shut the blinds and lights off.

It was reported that Jimmy Doss is interested in the modular buildings to move them to a vacant lot he owns on South Street. Council was not thrilled with the idea of having the modular moved to another location in town and that may not even fall in line with zoning code. Additionally, LCA has been talking about leasing the modular and offering enough to cover the utilities each month. Mayor Ford stated that if anyone takes over the modular they will be responsible for all repairs and maintenance. If no one takes over the modular than they will be demolished. Council discussed if the masonic lodge could utilize the American Legion Area space in the Village building if the modular is removed.

Park & Pool – Potential projects at the park area are the dock on the pond, treating the pond to keep it blue colored, and assisting baseball with materials for the fields. The pond chemicals are around \$1300 roughly for the year. A motion was made by John Howard to approve the treatment of the pond for this year with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. Tyler is going to get some more information on the dock because council was split on moving forward with installing a dock. A motion was made by

Melissa Shawver to approve donating dirt to the baseball for youth with a second by John Howard, motion passed.

Sheriff – Brian Thomas was hired as the new fire chief.

Zoning – X

Tree Commission – X

Budget – X

Street and Alley – The salt shed needs to be addressed behind the Village building so Council needs to figure out if they want to replace or repair the shed.

Fire & Safety – X

Buildings & Grounds – X

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

Craig Mescher was present from Access Engineering to discuss the bid opening for St Rt 95 project. The project had five contractors request bid documents and only one bid submitted by Dirt Dawg Excavating, LLC. The engineering estimate for the project was 1.7 million and Dirt Dawg bid was 1.696 million. Funding breakdown is attached. Discussion previously held was that Montgomery Township would contribute towards the tile work that is included in the project. The OPWC loan would be 30 years at 0% interest. A meeting needs to be set up with the township to see what all they are willing to contribute. Craig is going to get a cost for the tile portion of the project so that can be presented to the township. The Village and Township's ARAP money will help offset the cost of the project. Council will get a meeting set up with the Township and then decide how they will move forward with this project.

No new update on Steve Dashner's property and if he ever got a survey completed for clerk Mary Price is going to contact him to find out the status.

New Business:

A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to enter into executive session @8:57 to discuss personnel matters with a second by John Howard, motion passed.

A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to exit executive session @9:12pm with a second by Connie Kendal, motion passed.

A motion was made by John Howard to increase Tyler Howell's pay based on last year's meeting minutes for a federal cost of living increasing that was 5.9% with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to split Tyler's pay between the funds as follows: 25% general, 25% street, 25% water, and 25% sewer with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passes. Pay increase will retro to February 1st, 2022.

A motion was made by John Howard that moving forward with the receipt of a positive performance review each year Tyler Howell will be considered for a pay increase based on the financial position of the Village and Board of Public Affairs and the cost of living adjustment no longer withstanding with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

A motion to adjourn by John Howard with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. Next meeting will be April 4, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer