

La Rue Village Council Meeting April 4, 2022

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on April 4, 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, Barb & Ed Stofcheck, Diane Evans & Doug Shawver (BPA Representatives), Josh Harper, Craig Mescher, and Tim Studer.

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 John Howard and a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

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

Mayor – None

BPA – Craig Mescher represented a timeline for the water plant improvements and the possible financing options (reports attached). A general report would need to be completed for the EPA funding and Access can assist with that report. The timeline with funding has extended the project out further into 2023 or 2024 due to the funding options and the unknown of what the Commissioners are willing to contribute. Mr. Mescher suggested adding additional items to the project like water lines that need replaced with the chance of getting more funding since the timeline has extended. The board may need to figure out a way to purchase another set of membranes since the project is being extended out further and Craig stated he may be able to purchase them with some of the funding monies. John Howard asked for an update from the County Commissioners and Diane Evans reported they have mentioned providing funds for the engineering costs. The Commissioners would like the BPA to explore options with tying in with Aqua Water. The BPA is meeting with Aqua Water this week to discuss options. A virtual meeting will be held with funding agencies this week and the BPA is going to present the project.

Maintenance – Tyler Howell reported the tile on the southwest corner of Chestnut & Vine street was jettted and is now flowing, but the lid needs rebuilt. Holcomb jettted some tiles around town and got several areas to start flowing. There is tile beside 467 High Street that is blocked and a rough estimate of \$1,000 to dig up the tile to locate the blockage. A motion was made by Melissa Shawver for up to \$1,500 for catch basin lid repair and tile blockage between High & Front Street with a second by John Howard, motion passed.

John Howard presented the idea to hire Holcomb to dig out 4 catch basins along Vine Street. The average cost is \$250 per basin for clean out. A motion was made by Connie Kendall to approve a budget of \$1,000 for catch basin cleanout on Vine St with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed.

The board approved the purchase of a pole saw for tree trimming to be purchased out of the tool money that was already approved.

More dirt is needed for the dike area on South Street. Council did not have a problem if dirt became available that Tyler Howell had permission to use Richard Holcomb to haul dirt up to a maximum of \$500.

Park & Pool – Tyler Howell reported they have completed grading at the park. The path at the park needs to have the stone replaced and the cost was estimated at \$300. The parking posts that prevent people from parking in the stone need to be replaced because they are deteriorating. John Howard made a motion for up to \$500 for stone and replacement posts with a second by Connie Kendall, motion passed.

Sheriff – 2022 Sheriff contract was presented with no changes. Connie Kendall made a motion to approve the 2022 sheriffs' contract with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Zoning – X

Tree Commission – X

Budget – X

Street and Alley – X

Fire & Safety – X

Buildings & Grounds – X

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

Craig Mescher was present to discuss the State Route 95 project. The township has backed out of funding the project for the tile work and backflow device. Council still thought the tile work and backflow device was important so they would like to keep it included if possible. The Board is going to review the plans and find ways to cut the project to lower the financial responsibility of the Village. A couple cuts could be the paving of some of the side streets and sidewalks on the south side of the street. Council agreed to schedule an additional meeting to go over the plans more in depth on Thursday 4/7 @2:30pm.

A motion was made by Connie Kendall to approve Dirt Dawg Excavating LLC for the St Rt 95 project with a second by John Howard, motion passed.

New Business:

Barb Stofcheck was present representing the LCA and had a couple matters she wanted to discuss with council: leasing the modular building from the Village, applying for a grant for a bike trail from Kiwanis, and using the new Village building to display auction items during the Oorang Bang. Council all agreed that LCA could use the new Village Building during the Oorang Bang this year. On the matter of the old modular buildings Mrs. Stofcheck reported the Council on Aging has agreed to give the LCA \$3,000 towards the utilities at the old modular buildings and the library may be willing to offer some funds. The lease of the modular building will be temporary by the LCA to see how things would work out. Council stated they would need to have the solicitor draft a lease agreed outlining everything. Lastly a grant application was presented for a bike and walking trail for a connection from Kiwanis Village to where the new park will be located (350 High St) and its due April 15th. The application will need to be submitted by the Village. Mrs. Stofcheck stated she has gotten a couple verbal agreements from the land owners for easement. Craig Mescher added to the discussion that ODNR requires 10 ft paths along with 10 ft of green spaces on each side. Additionally, all the easements would need to be available when submitting the application so with it being due April 15th that would be very difficult. Another option would be Clean Ohio Grant funding for this project and it would be a 75/25 match. The project would need to match the project requirements and it would be best to start now for next year (2023). ODNR or OPWC could be used for the funding match but that would not be guaranteed. The LCA is going explore the project further with the new information that was presented and get a new scope for the project to seek out funding for 2023.

Josh Harper presented that he would like written permission from the Village for the Fire Department to use the streets for the beer garden for the Oorang Bang.

Tim Studer was present to ask if residents are required to have their trash picked up because he beliefs someone is putting personal trash in his dumpster. Mayor Ford stated Mr. Studer would need to contact the sheriff regarding the matter.

Tyler Howell presented pictures of properties that need cleaned up and Council all agreed to send certified letters to the following properties:

Lowry – 861 Section Street

Holloway – 83 Section Street

Lumber yard – 172 E Vine Street

Pendleton – 61 Chestnut Street

Andrea Williams - 148 Chestnut Street

Bradshaw – 44 High Street

Cody Lowe – 285 High Street
Brown – 61 Vine Street
Potts – 41 S Front Street
Patterson – 193 School Street

Resolution 2022-2 was read to approve the board to apply for funding through OWDA for the water plant improvements with a motion by John Howard and a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed.

Connie Kendall asked if the Lion's club had permission to put a couple benches up town in front of the family dollar store and council did not have a problem. Tyler Howell will get a count of flags that need replaced to Connie Kendall.

A motion to adjourn by Connie Kendall with a second by Melissa Shawver, motion passed. Next meeting will be May 2, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer