

La Rue Village Council Meeting March 8 2023

The La Rue Village Council met in regular session on March 8, 2023 in the Village Council Room. Present were Mayor Dustin Ford, Clerk Mary Price, Tyler Howell, and Council Members: David Stallsmith, John Howard, Melissa Shawver, John Boyd, Lance Roberts, and Connie Kendall.

Guests present: Mary Snyder, Judy Cobb, and Diane Evans (BPA Representative).

Opening: Mayor 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 David Stallsmith, motion passed.

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

Mayor –

Mayor Ford presented that Greg Fields has offered \$500 for the old water tower lot. Council all agreed to accept a bid of \$500 for the property plus any fees incurred for the sale of the property (Closing fees, filing fees, and potentially surveying fees). Mayor Ford is going to get Mr. Field's approval to include selling fees in the sale and see if he is still interested.

Columbia Gas had a gas leak at the intersection at McCormick Street and High Street. The road was dug up so Columbia Gas will be back to repair the road when the weather permits.

Mayor Ford presented that he received complaints that high-water signs were not put up during the past high water. Tyler Howell reported that he has a shortage of signs. A motion was made by John Howard to purchase 3 new flip high-water signs with a second by Lance Roberts, motion passed. Tyler Howell presented some information for the high water that gathers near South Street and the alley by the dike. An option to move the water is installing a valve and Tyler also suggested that the dike in the area could be another foot higher. Tyler Howell is going to do some further research regarding the valves and bring something to the next meeting.

BPA – Tyler Howell reported there was a large water break along section Street this past month.

Diane Evans presented that the paperwork was presented to the PUCO for the water plant sale. The PUCO wants LaRue to have their own tariffs for 3 years. When the 3 years is up then LaRue would fall under the Marion area tariff. Due to everything that has been completed the sale could be expedited and Aqua is looking at having public meetings in April to meet with the public.

Diane Evans presented to Council the urgent issues that is occurring at the St Rt 95 pump station. The valve inside the pump station is not working so it needs to be replaced in order to pull the pump and figure out what repairs the pump needs with a quote of \$36,000. A request was made to utilize some of the ARPA money to help with the pump station situation. The urgency with the situation is that St Rt 95 is an important pump station and the Village runs the risk of sewer backing up into homes if the station would go down. Additionally, the Board is going to have a new expense coming in the near future for a product that is going to be used to help with cleaning out the lagoons. So, the current budget does not allow for these repairs to be completed. Park Enterprises presented a quote for installation of a backflow valve, stem valve, and excavating charges for \$36,000. The unknown is the condition of the pump because they won't

know until it is pulled to have it evaluated. Connie Kendall requested that a subcommittee should meet at a later time to discuss the sewer situation and evaluate raising the rates. John Boyd brought up his concern that no committees have ever been made for Council by the Mayor.

A motion was made by Melissa Shawver that Council contributes 50% of the expenses for the Park Enterprise quote from the APRA fund with a second by David Stallsmith, motion passed.

Maintenance – Tyler Howell reported that he got a list of 4 contractors for the demolition of 25 S High Street and 2 contractors responded they will be giving estimates. An asbestos inspection needs to be completed so H & H Contracting is going to be contacted. John Boyd brought up that he didn't feel it was right to spend tax payer's money to tear down the property because it could open the Village to future problems. Mayor Ford presented that he talked with Regional Planning about getting the property torn down with Landbank money instead of the old Hardware Store. It shouldn't be a problem acquiring the Hendricks property because they can take it in lieu of taxes but Tom Oates building could be an issue with who the owner is. Tom Oates property is the issue because its unknown who the owner is and if there was a deed or if it will go to probate. Judy Cobb expressed her frustration because she can't do anything with her building until the burnt property is torn down. Additionally, she would like to be kept in the loop with what is going on. Council expressed that nothing is going to be quick and a lot of this situation is out of their control with how quickly this process will proceed.

Tyler Howell reported that he completed the mosquito and weed spraying certification that will be good for 3 more years.

Tyler Howell presented a picture to council of a concrete bench he completed and placed uptown.

Tyler Howell reported that the new generators were installed on the pump stations at St Rt 97 and St Rt 37. There is a generator in the Village's garage that is no longer needed so Tyler asked what council wants to do with it.

Park – X

Sheriff – X

Zoning – X

Tree Commission – X

Budget – X

Street and Alley – Tyler Howell presented he graded allies and put some stone down.

Fire & Safety – X

Buildings & Grounds – X

Regional Planning – X

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Connie Kendall presented that for safety reasons the festival would be held down at the modulars. Water is needed at the modulars to supply all the vendors for the event and additionally Tyler Howell would like to have a water source at that property. Tyler Howell felt it would cost around \$1 per foot for a one-inch line with a trencher rental so roughly around \$1,500. A motion was made by Melissa Shawver to approve up to \$2,000 to run a water line at 350 High Street with a second by John Boyd, motion passed.

A motion to adjourn by Connie Kendall and a second by Melissa Shawver motion passed. Next meeting will be April 12, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer