

VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Robert Wright called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Cathi Fritz	X		
Lindsey Light	X		
Bob Parr	X		
Doit Roberts	X		
Robert Wright	X		

Mayor Wright asked for a motion to approve the sale of the Public Works Department truck.

Bob Parr motioned to sell the Public Works truck for \$600.99.

Seconded by Doit Roberts.

	Cathi Fritz	Lindsey Light	Bob Parr	Doit Roberts	Robert Wright
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
Nays					
Abstained					

Motion Carried

Mayor Wright started by saying he has been working on a few infrastructure projects, and he feels there needs to be more done. He has Jason, the IT consultant, do a complete review of where the village is and where it needs to be. Emails have been created for each individual working for the village and all board members.

Mayor Wright also explained that this session was for board members to provide wishes and wants, and there was no debate. Exploration of topics will be done in study sessions.

C. Fritz stated she would like to see the board get a better handle on the budget regarding what is reviewed each month etc. L. Light has been working closely with the office to see if there is a need for a budget administrator or additional help within the village office. She feels the budget committee the board has established is great for now until templates can be developed when sharing line items etc. Once L. Light has her recommendations, she will share them with the board. C. Fritz and L. Light will continue to work on the budget schedule.

Mayor Wright stated from his observation LOCIS is a training issue. Additional training is needed before jumping to another software system because of all the history the current system holds. He also stated that Janet Hambricht would like to combine accounts such as Comcast for all departments.

The review of how the village communicates needs to be evaluated—such as the website and Watchfire sign, along with communication through social media to residents. There might need to be a communication position that would also help in the office. Mayor Wright has also got Microsoft 365 set up for better communications between departments etc.

There was discussion on the sale or leasing of the old village hall. It was asked if the village had any connection with a relator to help with this process. There were questions regarding the laws etc. Mayor Wright will check with attorney Mudd. B. Parr stated that the board needed to get Steve Miller back as the attorney representative. Parr doesn't feel Mudd knows municipal law and the history like Miller has.

The old Pit Stop has new owners, and there was a discussion on the TIF request that has been submitted. They are working with the TIF attorneys, and B. Wright has asked for the attorney to write the plans for the site.

There was a discussion on how TIF 1 is closing and if the county can take the unspent amount and distribute it to others within the county or if it can be rolled over to TIF 2. This money also can't be used for excavating but for rehabilitation. The village can develop a business district to continue to get TIF money flowing in, but the board would have to levy a tax.

The TIF attorneys have sent information to The Liquor Box, but a more detailed plan needs to be submitted before talks can start.

There was discussion on the positive aspects of zoning as, right now, ordinances only cover within the village limits, which doesn't help with issues that have occurred with businesses coming to the area.

The Southern Tire Mart project has been put on hold as they are now adding additional bays for the service of residents in the surrounding area. New plans must be submitted before any can move forward. D. Henderson will be trying to contact them to see the status of this project.

Ron Soderstrom and the Oakwood superintendent have been discussing a School Resource Officer still needed for the district. The police department has been having issues with applicants' interest because the village doesn't participate in IMRF. C. Fritz stated her concerns about participating in IMRF as this would put a long-term tax on the people of the town. This will be an item for discussion at a study session.

Mayor Wright stated eight contractors have been in contact with advertising the village hall concrete projects on the Farnsworth site. He says there have been questions about whether the project could be extended until spring due to the time limit this year. L. Light has if there was a more cost and time-effective way to use just one engineer for all projects. There is also a need for someone to design and oversee all the work on projects.

There was a discussion on an extended range plan to replace sidewalks. D. Henderson has come up with what needs to be replaced, but that will also need to be tied into the budget.

D. Roberts stated he would like to see the concession stand floors resurfaced and the basketball court stripped. This was added to the list for future discussion.

L. Light stated he would like to see the village board build a closer relationship with the school board. She said we were all coming together for the same goal, and we could help each other and have a better partnership.

C. Fritz states she would like to see the village build a relationship with a realtor so as properties are listed, the board is notified as this could be a possible expansion in many ways.

B. Parr was put as the board liaison for the sidewalks and park. There was discussion on needing to expand the 4th of July celebration once again. B. Parr was added to this committee because of his history with what has been completed in past years.

B. Parr stated he would like to see more discussions on getting the Public Works Department help.

C. Fritz stated she would like to see a beautification committee that could be made up of residents to help with beautification around the village.

Wayne Bugaj was in attendance and told the board he appreciated all the discussion that occurred today and stated the board is here to serve the community. One big thing he sees is the accuracy of the information given to the residents. If more residents came to meetings, they would be able to hear firsthand all that is being accomplished. He also voiced his thoughts on having more green space around the village hall instead of it all being concrete.

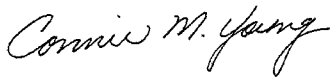
W. Bugaj also asked if the village or board had a mission statement with core values. This item was added to the list for future development.

Mike Watson was in attendance and voiced concerns about the sidewalks in front of his property. He has been in contact with the public works department, and there are no storm drains at 203 E. Longstreth.

C. Fritz stated she would like to see downtown development added to the list when there are existing properties that could be utilized in this development.

The board adjourned at 10:41 am.

Submitted by,



Connie Young
Village Clerk

Approved 11/21/22