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# Village of Cedarville

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## Minutes of Cedarville Council Held September 25th, 2023

Council met in regular session on September 25th, 2023, with Mayor John Cody, Jr. presiding. Council members present were Mr. Brooks, Mr. Combs, Ms. Jones, and Mr. Ruth. Ms. Becknell was excused from the meeting and Mr. Dawes was excused to be late for the start of the meeting. The Fiscal Officer recorded the minutes.

Mr. Combs led the invocation to open the meeting.

Council Meeting opened at 7:00pm and the Minutes of the September 11th, 2023, regular meeting was approved as presented.

Mayor Cody:

- Mayor Cody invited two Greene County representatives to attend the city council meeting and discuss the 911 dispatch service agreement being offered to the village. The representatives discussed past cost assigned to the village for the 911 service, the county's perceived discounting of cost passed to the village, the impact of leaving the county 911 service agreement would have on Cedarville and county, as well as what the operational and contract terms would look like with the county over the next three years. The county expressed that the current contract pricing offer to Cedarville is fair, and that pricing internally discussed for Cedarville was to initially be 100k per year instead of the roughly 65k per year ultimately being offered. The representatives identified that a new employee will be hired in the future to spearhead dispatch efficiency and operations across the county in hopes to improve the future success of the program. As a follow-up to some of the statements made by the county representatives, our council members asked questions on most all topics related to the service, including the request for an additional 4<sup>th</sup> year option in the contract if we were to sign. No answer was given, but consideration will be made for the request. The village council expressed continued concerns for representation and a voice in how the program would be run, as well as the opportunity to evaluate pricing based on future need inside of the community. The county representatives expressed a desire to develop a council of sorts to give each participating member of the 911 dispatch agreement a voice in how the program is operated.
- A small celebration was held at 4:00 on September 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and reflect on the signing of our United States Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1787.
- We are partnering with federal work study and the university to have a few individuals assist us in the village with projects.

Police Chief Smith:

- 126 calls in the last two weeks.
- The village is currently down one full-time officer but is continuing to look for a replacement.

- Identified a few areas of theft and vandalism occurring in town since the last meeting including a local citizen's camper.

Village Administrator Kannedy:

- All projects continue to move forward, and each project is showing positive progress.
- A representative for the Senior Olympics bike ride visited the village and was pleased with the community in anticipation for their upcoming event.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Resolution 2023-12 was presented to the council. The resolution was presented to certify the county property tax rates budgeted in the village 2024 property tax budget. The impacts of keeping, or altering, the property tax rates, and budget were discussed among council members. Mr. Brooks moved and Mr. Combs seconded to accept Resolution 2023-12. The resolution passed with all aye's.

Warrants: \$37,611.75 were submitted for approval.

Ms. Jones moved to accept the warrants and Mr. Ruth seconded. Motion passed with all ayes.

Committee Reports:

- Community Relations: Did not meet.
- Finance/Utilities: Did not meet.
- Fiscal Officer: Discussed the 2024 tax budget as presented in association with Resolution 2023-12.
- Solicitor: Excused from meeting attendance.

Comments:

- Council:
  - Mr. Combs discussed concerns related to biker safety at the 72 and bike path intersection. Mr. Combs identified that the village has a few areas that would benefit from continued discussion around crossing safety. Discussion was held in the room as it pertains to biker safety inside the village.
- Guests:
  - Mr. Ray DeVite - Discussed the challenge of moving the caboos that he had purchased. He came to the meeting personally to identify that the caboos are being moved on October 3rd. Mr. DeVite apologized for continued challenges and is appreciative of the village for working with him in getting them moved.
  - Mr. Paul Cope - Camper was stolen as discussed previously in the meeting and was appreciative of getting the camper returned. Mr. Cope said that he had also

had a truck stolen from his property in the past and used for a separate crime. Mr. Cope had some general concerns to express related to the urgency surrounding the police reports, eyewitness reports, etc., in following up on known activity. Mr. Cope expressed respect for the job that the officers are doing in town and understands the staffing challenges within the village. He formally recommended an exploration into a community watch program and feels we could improve our diligence in action towards known concerns.

- Mr. Paul Cope also brought forth concerns about parking violations and general safety surrounding the parking spaces at Beans and Cream. Chief Smith identified that he is indeed evaluating parking spaces and that there are staffing issues that prevent as much follow-through as the village would generally like. General discussion was held around next steps around a community watch group and where it needs to start within the local government structure. The topic will be discussed at the next Community Relations committee.
- Mr. Nathan Fox - Identified that the handicap spots in front of the community center were incorrectly lined during the summer paving projects and should be evaluated for correction. The village will evaluate the spots and correct as needed but the work may need completed by ODOT. Mr. Fox also suggested that the village evaluate angled curbside parking instead of north south parking to gain additional spaces in town.
- Mr. Jacob Garrison - Formally apologized for the dumpster on Main Street not having proper permitting as necessary. Mr. Garrison inquired as to whether the village required permits to fix items that had already been completed under a previous permit. Council identified that NIC should be contacted directly as they are assisting with zoning administration.
- Mr. Jacob Garrison requested that if we receive increased property taxes that council evaluate increasing monetary allocation for our village police force. General conversation around compensation of officers was had in the room and the challenges the village experiences as a result.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17.