

PRESIDING OFFICER, THOMAS J. GARDNER, MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joe Bourne, Ed Steffek, Brandie Bourne, John Little, Nate Penrod, Steve Adams

ABSENT: N/A

OTHER ATTENDEES: Rick Swiger, DJ Meek

VISITORS: Nancy Bourne

PLEDGE

The meeting was opened with The Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Gardner.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Brandie Bourne and seconded by Ed Steffek to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes from regular meeting held June 20, 2023. All council members present were in favor.

VISITORS

*No Reporting

PAY BILLS

***Motion made by Brandie Bourne** and seconded by Nate Penrod to pay bills from respective funds. Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Ed Steffek yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Nate Penrod yay, Steve Adams yay.

FISCAL OFFICER

*F.O. Lute discussed the proposed levies that will be on the November 7th election ballot. The 1.0 mill replacement cemetery levy will be replacing the two 0.6 mill cemetery levies. If passed, the 1.0 mill cemetery will generate approximately \$9000. A home owner (\$100,000 valued) would pay \$35 per year for the 1.0 cemetery levy. This will be a continuing levy with no expiration date. The village will also be renewing a 3.8 mill current expense levy that expires 12-31-23. The current expense levy generates approximately \$27,000 annually. A home owner (\$100,000 valued) would pay \$99 per year for the 3.8 current expense levy. This will be a renewal levy with a 4 year expiration date. Lute indicated that if both levies pass – a home owner would pay a total of \$134 per year or \$11.17 per month for the cemetery and current expense levies. All other old levies will expire and be void. The village will only have one cemetery levy and one current expense levy. Lute stated “ \$11.17 per month would give a resident a lot for their money..... street plowing in winter, street paving and maintenance in summer, part time police dept., fire dept for fire protection, cemetery maintenance, etc.”

TREASURER’S REPORT

* **Motion made by Brandie Bourne** and seconded by Ed Steffek to accept the June Treasurer’s report with the following: \$523,065.89 General Fund, \$31,145.22 Street Construction, \$2,225.24 State Highway, \$2.38 Cemetery Fund, \$4,572.58 Permissive Vehicle Tax, \$3,012.63 Capital Project, \$0 Mayor’s Court, 2,207.28Local Fiscal Recovery/ARPA Fund. With a total of all funds \$566,231.22. Reports included the Bank Reconciliation Report, bank statements, payment listing, receipt detail report, fund status report, appropriation status report. All council members present were in favor.

POLICE

*No Reporting - Absent

STREET

*Heard that due to recent heavy rain, six sunken graves at the cemetery will need to be filled in.

*Duties of mowing, asphalt patching and mulching have been completed.

ZONING/MAYOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

*Heard that one permit was issued for a room addition.

COCHRAN-SOLICITOR

*Cochran reported that he will not be renewing his village solicitor contract – which will expire on Dec. 31, 2023. Cochran has served the village for 46 years as the village solicitor. Mayor Gardner and council expressed gratitude for his service.

*Cochran recommended Attorney Mark Perlaky from Dover; as his replacement. Perlaky is currently representing Port Washington as the village prosecutor. Perlaky is also contracted for solicitor duties with the Village of Newcomerstown. The recommendation was taken under consideration – but no action was taken. Councilmembers; Nate Penrod and Brandie Bourne would like to meet Perlaky prior to making a final decision.

INCOME TAX ADMINISTRATOR

*No Reporting-Absent

MAYOR

*Mayor Tom Gardner reported that Harold Weber graciously donated \$500 to the Union Cemetery for maintenance purposes. Weber is a past resident of Port Washington but currently resides in Georgia. Weber stated that he takes pride in being from Port Washington. Weber has made numerous donations over the years to different Port Washington's organizations and departments. Gratitude was expressed for the support of Weber has shown to the village.

JOE BOURNE

*Bourne distributed the June Delaware Fire Dept. Report. Four calls were reported for June.

*Bourne thanked council member Ed Steffek for the "For Sale" sign that Steffek constructed for the village property that is currently for sale - located at 113 N High. Sealed bids will be taken until Aug 1st with a minimum bid of \$5,000 for the 113 N. High property.

STEVE ADAMS

*No Reporting

NATE PENROD

*No Reporting

BRANDIE BOURNE

*Bourne indicated that she has received a revised quote from Lute’s Tree Service for a tree removal on the corner of High and Main Street. Previous quote was \$3000 for take down, stump removal and complete clean up with the exception of the stump grinding chips. The revised quote is \$2300 for take down, stump removal and brush clean up. Removal of stump grinding chips and wood pieces would be the responsibility of the village.

Mayor Gardner had contacted two other tree service companies for quotes – but no return response for quotes were received.

Nate Penrod inquired as to why the village would violate the village ordinance in cutting down a tree that is the responsibility of the homeowner. Bourne indicated that the tree is currently in bad shape and safety issues are a concern. The tree is in the “devil strip” which is the homeowner’s responsibility. Mayor Gardner and Solicitor Cochran briefly reviewed the shade tree ordinance in which the village would need to go through the process of the shade tree committee process before any removal could be made. If there is a safety issue; the village would notify the home owner to have the tree removed at the property owner’s expense. If the property owner did not remove the unsafe tree; the village could remove the tree and assess the property owner’s real estate taxes.

Council took no action to proceed with the tree removal. Mayor Gardner will contact the property owner on council’s decision.

JOHN LITTLE

*No Reporting

ED STEFFEK

*Heard that the Tusc Art Love Project will be revealing half of the projects in September that have been fully funded to date. Each community entity needs approximately \$6900 to complete the art sculpture for their community. Port Washington’s sculpture has been fully funded through donations.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting will be July 18, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Thomas J. Gardner, Mayor

Date

Darissa R. Lute, Fiscal Officer

Date

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

Motion moved by Joe Bourne and seconded by Steve Adams to declare it necessary to proceed to levy a replacement tax for 1.0 mill for the maintaining of Union Cemetery Levy as stated on an emergency basis. This resolution will be submitted to the county election board. **(RESOLUTION 14-2023)** Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Nate Penrod yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay, Steve Adams yay.

Motion made by Joe Bourne and seconded by Brandie Bourne to pass and enact said **RESOLUTION 14-2023**. Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Nate Penrod yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay, Steve Adams yay.

Motion moved by Brandie Bourne and seconded by Ed Steffek to declare it necessary to proceed to levy a renewal for 3.8 mill for the current operating expenses as stated on an emergency basis. This resolution will be submitted to the county election board. **(RESOLUTION 15-2023)** Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Nate Penrod yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay, Steve Adams yay.

Motion made by Joe Bourne and seconded by Steve Adams to pass and enact said **RESOLUTION 15-2023**. Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Nate Penrod yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay, Steve Adams yay.