VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

January 6, 2025

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mike Best - absent Elaine Fagan – Moore

Sandy Knott Heather Kegg Chief Thompson/Deputy

Mel Rotroff Gary Bias List of signed in guests following

Amby Wallace Dave Scott

Randy Kaehler Josh Oakley

Pat Parish Joe Ferryman

Mel Rotroff made a motion to excuse Mike Best, Amby Wallace seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore asked for nominations for 2025 Council President. Mike Best was the only nominee. Mel Rotroff made a motion for Mike Best to be Council President 2025, Pat Parish seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore asked Council for a volunteer to be the LUC rep. After discussion, Mel Rotroff volunteered.

Minutes from last meeting stand as is. Amby Wallace made a motion to accept the minutes from 12/16/2024, Mel Rotroff seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Pat Parish made a motion to pay the bills (12/17/2024-1/6/2025), Sandy Knott seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Sandy Knott made a motion to accept the utility adjustments 11/19-12/16/2024, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Chief Thompson told Council that Washington Township would be providing Council and the Village a report each month on their activity in the Village. He said that the department was currently doing a lot of business checks and getting to know the area and people. He noted that Travis found 2 businesses completely open and unlocked after hours. They will be getting contact information from all the businesses for such incidents. Chief Thompson stated that they will also be performing business risk assessments for local businesses to improve safety/security. Chief Thompson told Council that the department would be going through active shooter training, and then they would be able to train others. Chief Thompson said they were going to work with the Village/Council to get to know the geography of the Village. He also suggested that the Village consider some road only annexations for jurisdictional purposes only, to make the jurisdiction of the roads contiguous.

Amby Wallace noted that she had already had people tell her how impressed they are with Washington Township’s presence in the Village.

Gary Bias said that he had 105 calls and had issued 7 permits since December 2. He told Council that he sent out voluntary demolition forms to 16 properties which owners could fill out and he could get on file in case the landbank had demo funding in 2025. Gary Bias also told Council that all signatures were complete on the annexation plats. Heather Kegg noted that the Ordinances to finalize the annexations should be ready for the next meeting. Gary Bias also said that he had turned in a property to the Logan County Prosecutor for foreclosure where the back taxes far exceeded the value of the property.

Pat Parish asked when the properties accepted by the landbank last year for demolition would be torn down.

Guest Steve Terrill, Trustee, noted that there was a 15-18 month turn around time with the State. He noted that the best thing residents could do would be to talk to neighbors and try to get property owners to sign as needed, and to keep Zoning informed of properties in need of demolition. He said they are waiting to hear from the State on the money they can spend on demolition grants. Steve Terrill also noted that he was impressed with how many voluntary demolition forms Gary has been able to get signed.

Josh Oakley told Council that the Fire Department had been fairly quiet so far this year. He noted that they had several quotes to present to insurance for a possible replacement truck. Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore will follow up and let them know when that meeting will be. Josh Oakley then asked Council to approve the purchase of software from Fire Programs. He told them it would help them streamline the department, and allow them to have all of their information in one place. Pat Parish made the motion to have the Fire Department proceed with the purchase and installation of Fire Programs, Amby Wallace seconded. Council approved unanimously. Josh Oakley also updated Council that they were still gathering quotes for the replacement tires for the grass truck.

Joe Ferryman told Council that they had a new applicant who had been approved by their committee who they would like Council to approve as a new volunteer firefighter. Ella Buhlman has a level 2 fire license and is an EMT. Amby Wallace made a motion to bring Ella Buhlman aboard as a new firefighter, Randy Kaehler seconded. Mel Rotroff abstained (relation to applicant), all other Council members approved.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore asked how many firefighters there were now, they replied 16.

Josh Oakley asked Council to approve purchasing fire gear for Ella Buhlman from Fire Safety. Randy Kaehler made a motion to approve the purchase of fire gear for Ella Buhlman, Amby Wallace seconded. Council approved unanimously. Heather Kegg asked that they provide her with the total before purchasing.

Dave Scott told Council that he would be calling committee meetings this month starting with Utility Commission in the next week or two.

Mel Rotroff noted that the guys got called out for electric mutual aid with Waynesfield. Dave Scott added that we will be sending an invoice.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore brought up the bed tax that had been discussed in the first quarter of 2024, but had not gone further due to the tornado. She asked Council to review the information so that there could be discussion and a decision.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore then provided the reading of the following Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO: 2025-01

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THAT VILLAGE COUNCIL SHALL MEET ONCE PER MONTH ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Randy Kaehler made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Ordinance No: 2025-01 to pass as an emergency, Mel Rotroff seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mel Rotroff made a motion pass Ordinance No: 2025-01 as an emergency, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore noted that she will be attending Mayor’s Court Training in January.

Aubrey Snapp addressed Council on behalf of the Indian Lake Advocacy Group, speaking out against the potential solar project by Grange Solar. She told Council that they had hired an attorney for the community and that he had told them to get letters of opposition from all local governing bodies. She noted that all county governments including Logan County had already turned in letters of opposition. She said that Miami County had a project from Grange Solar in their area, and have had issues with them, and the project was sold to a foreign country. She came to Council to request that they sign and return the letter of opposition that they had created.

Trustee Steve Terrill added that their business model is to build it and then sell it to foreign interests.

Aubrey Snapp added that another issue was that certain tax levies would no longer collect because of rezoning. As the land is no longer considered agricultural, the neighbors and other residents have to pay more.

Council asked if they could have our Solicitor review before signing. Aubrey Snapp replied yes, but she would like to have a copy returned to her and sent to the Ohio Power Sitting Board by Friday.

Trustee Steve Terrill told Council that he knows what the Village has been through and he feels good about how Council and the Village have stuck together during the tough times. He appreciates it and to keep up the good fight.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore added that 2025 would be a year for rebirth and repair.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore opened up the floor to guests.

Guest Traci Gentis asked if we had more information on the volunteer hours discussed at the last meeting. Heather Kegg replied that she had looked through all the notes and documentation for the State Funding and FEMA and had found no mention of money for volunteers. She said that she would email Helen Norris with the EMA. Traci Gentis-Snyder said she knew someone she would follow up with as well. She said that Firefighter volunteers would have money going to the fire department and that other volunteers would give bring money to the Village. Council and Village Fiscal Officer and Administrator confirmed that they had not heard this and had no information on it.

Jason Smith addressed Council on behalf of Grange Solar. He asked that Council not sign the petition. He added that they have been working hard to be a part of the community. He told Council that their project would bring job opportunities to the area. He also said that Council should not sign without talking to all the residents and getting their input.

Mel Rotroff asked if the panels used in this area would have hazardous materials in them since only 1 of the 3 types contained known hazardous materials. Jason Smith replied that they could add conditions to the project that only the panels without hazardous materials would be used. Sandy Knott said that it was not guaranteed to be accepted.

Guest Traci Snyder-Gentis told everyone that AMP Ohio had brought reps in for solar when she had been on Council and that she had done a lot of research on the subject, and all solar projects had been turned down. She noted that wildlife would be the first to be affected. Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore added that the Indian Lake area is in a migratory path.

Pat Parish asked if this project would be sold to another country once completed as the one in Quincy had been. He also wanted to know who was funding the project. Jason Smith said that Venture Capitalists from CA provided the funding and that they only received federal funds if the project was approved, and that would be a one-time tax credit.

Former area teacher Dave Corwin started by telling Council that he had lived in the area for 50 years and taught a number of the people at the meeting in school. He said that the solar company was great at propaganda but was not right for the area. He said that that project would decimate 2600 acres and it would not be usable again. Traci Snyder-Gentis agreed. He added that they are making huge donations around the area to gain favor.

Jason Smith replied that they did not provide bribes, but to provide a positive impact on the area. He said that early on some of the solar companies were bad guys, but that had changed and now there is more regulation.

Traci Snyder-Gentis told Council to look at the overseas solar projects. She stated that they had all been demolished and that there reports of sickness, cancer, death and sterilization in the areas of the projects.

Back and forth between Jason Smith and the Council members and guests continued for some time.

Mel Rotroff made a motion to adjourn, Amby Wallace seconded. Council approved unanimously.

The next council meeting will be Monday, February 3rd, 2024.