

Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
of
Tuesday, July 2, 2019

Mayor Knack called the meeting to order on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by DeAnna Passmore and recited by all those present.

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Mr. Goch, Mrs. Allega, Mrs. Godwin, Mrs. Conroy. Council Members Absent: Mr. McDaniel and Mrs. Gensimore.

Others Present: Lewis Rash, Scott Rader, Don Brown, Robin Lauer, Mike Lauer, DeAnna Passmore, Matt Steiner, Dennis Browne, Tammy Woodcock, Tracy Hanus, Fred Bean, Kathi Czartoszewski, Liala Zimmerman, Bryon Czartoszewski, Frank Recco, Len Kaplinski, Kim Browne, Karin Kress-Recco, residents. Leah Weirick, fiscal officer; Mayor Al Knack.

Approval of Council Minutes: Mrs. Godwin motioned to accept the June 18, 2019 Council Meeting minutes as written with corrections that will be made, second by Mr. Goch.

Roll Call: Allega, Godwin, Conroy, Goch; Four Ayes. Motion passes.

Solicitor's Report: No report.

Police Report: No report.

Fire Chief's Report: No report.

Street Commissioner Report: No report.

Zoning Report: No report.

Fiscal Officer's Report: June reports are in the meeting packet.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Goch stated he received a call from Nate Kievman about the baseball field and if the Village would be willing to do the pre-installation inspection on the electric. In order to get the power turned on at the field because the meter has been off for so long this inspection is required. It is a cost of \$60. Mr. Goch feels at some point the Village may want to use this field for a community event and be able to have the lights on, so pay the inspection fee and then turn it over to them, Stark/Summit County Baseball league, to get the service started.

A motion was made by Mr. Goch to pay the inspection fee, seconded by Mrs. Allega. Roll call: All in favor, verbally said Aye. Four ayes, motion carried.

Mayor's Communications: Passed till later on in the meeting.

Council Communications: Nothing to report.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. Rash asked about the roads. The mayor indicated that the County indicated that the bid results on work on roads will be put together and will then get to Mayor Knack.

Mr. Rash asked about residential property junk issues. Solicitor Pitchford stated that zoning is working on the violations with the homeowners and the one not getting into compliance, 7644 N. Fourth Street, a rental property, and will be reissued a notice and proceed to court. Mr. Rash specifically stated, the end of Division street. He was not aware of the address number. Mr. Pitchford will follow up with the zoning inspector.

Scott Rader asked if there would be another meeting to address the flooding soon. Mayor Knack had not heard anything about that happening at this time. He had spoken with Summit County and the EMA at Luna Lake regarding the situation but has not heard anything back from them regarding a meeting.

Mr. Rader asked if Portage Lakes opened the gates all the way. Did ODNR do that? Mayor Knack responded that he did not see any gates wide open. He said he got a call at 4 o'clock in the morning on Sunday that they opened from 18" to 24". Mr. Rader said the council needs to come up with an emergency warning. We needed to know this was coming because we could have had U-Haul trucks in here to get our valuables and non-replaceables out. A 49-hour notice would have saved thousands and thousands of dollars. He also asked about funding and the mayor told him that had not heard anything more on that but did say he was going to meeting the governor a week from tomorrow along with other local mayors in Barberton. Mayor Knack told those present that whatever they want him to take to the meeting with the governor to please do so before that meeting.

Mrs. Passmore said that a street light is covered at Main and North - blocked by tree branches. Village Hall will call about this. She lives in a non-flood zone and got flooded. She would like to know what is going on and what will be done.

Mr. Steiner thanked Mayor and Bud McDaniel for their help and churches and residents giving money out of their pocket. It has been encouraging. Food was provided as well. Water levels was addressed. He has never seen water this high. He had 37" in his garage. Something was different this time. We need to find out what happened. The residents are devastated. Some homes are completely destroyed. Mayor Knack interjected that he got a couple dumpsters that the Village is paying for and to please use them. Mr. Steiner continued with explaining the devastation in the Luna Lake area. Most of the residents are uninsured – a big expense many can't afford. Clinton Council can't do anything but fight on Luna Lake's behalf. Maybe a grant to get the residents help. Any assistance will be appreciated.

Mayor Knack also stated that if Mr. Steiner wanted to designate himself or the President of Luna Lake or anyone else, they will be welcome to go with him to any meeting that has to do with water flow of any kind. This person would be the contact person/representative for the Luna Lake area to keep the residents in the loop.

Mr. Steiner said they have already spoke to the County about property tax relief which we should see next year. He added; we would be much better off if we had sewers. Mayor Knack said wells need to be chlorinated which many already knew.

Mayor reiterated, anything bought out of pocket on this to provide to him to take to the meeting with the governor.

Mr. Bean reported on his research on this flooding situation and water levels and he believes that activity has been down at the Lucern Lake dam and in December contacted ODNR. Lucern Lake is the outlet for Luna Lake. Lake Lucern is not in Summit County, per Mayor Knack. Bodies of water can be in different jurisdictions – whether the Muskingum Watershed, ODNR, or Army Corp. When you are dealing with the government, there is a lot of paperwork and red tape. Mayor Knack said we are tackling it. Mr. Bean continued about the dam and how it gets plugged up. The Tuscarawas river rose to a third record high – 14.7 feet. He would like an investigation in the policies and practices of the control of the dams. We need to know the guidelines that affects us. All municipalities affected need to push for an investigation for our public safety.

Mayor Knack talked about Louis Rash's efforts regarding our flooding problem which has brought grief and good results. He reiterated about the meeting at the OVMP, reported at the last meeting, and the investigative process and monitoring that would be performed, but as reported previously, would not happen overnight. It's about a 5 to 10-year process. Thanks to Louis for all the phone calls he has made over a period of time and will continue to do.

Mr. Bean said, flood maps show me ranges of flooding and there is a level of how much accuracy you need in order to protect the people in this zone. The Tuscarawas River should not come up higher than 11 or 12 feet – that's not a ten-year study. Mayor Knack asked he get this information to him for future meetings.

Mrs. Czartoszewski spoke and said she appreciates all being done, but we can't wait for a study – lives were at risk and watermarks were above people's beds. She asked if she should wait to rebuild her home and investment homes because this could happen again without better emergency protocol. We should have evacuated our south side of Luna Lake on Sunday. According to postings on Facebook, ODNR knew three feet of water was coming and we were forgotten and not notified. If this would have happened in the middle of the night, people would have drowned. Should I rebuild my homes or not? She cannot understand the confusion of who gets the call and forwards it to the community. We deserve better.

A comment was made, not only on Facebook, but on the actual news ODNR opened up the dams. Mayor Knack said they opened the dams 18 to 24 inches. Someone responded it was 3 feet because it was stated as such on the news and it was wide open on Tuesday. Mayor Knack said he was contacted on Sunday.

At this point, people were talking and sharing Facebook postings. Mayor Knack wants to know who they talked to specifically at ODNR. I need names – who and when they were spoken to.

A member of the visitors said that according to what is being said, Portage Lakes floods Clinton on a regular basis – so why can't Portage Lake lower something and prevent this? Mayor Knack said that's why we are meeting with the Governor.

Mayor Knack stated that one approach to resolution has been said to create a place twice the size of the Nimisila Reservoir – make it 80 feet deep and use only for flood control. Another, dig out the Tusc. Problem there, do you want the soil that is contaminated from many years ago?

He was told you have to lower the surface level.

Another gentleman stated the Portage Lakes, which is recreational, if it's just recreational, why do they have dams if it's not for flood control? Why not build a wall and if the water goes over, oh well. They do what they do to protect the boats.

It was stated this was an issue of safety. Mrs. Czartoszewski said the fire department should have been knocking on our doors telling us to evacuate. If someone would have notified them and said 3+ feet of water is coming to the other side of Luna Lake, I believe we would have taken it seriously.

It was stated an alert would be great, but getting someone to stop the release of that amount of water needs to happen. We don't want this devastation to happen again when we start to rebuild. Luna Lake residents need to be able to have a life.

Solicitor Marshal Pitchford suggested a director from ODNR to come here – it must be an orderly meeting.

Mr. Steiner said if you Google the 1913 flood, the reason it flooded. It was heavy snows, spring thaw, etc. We don't know the reason as to why we got 3 to 4 additional feet of water. We need an answer to that and we don't have that yet. Was this a perfect storm? Based on that answer we can get protocol to eliminate this from happening in the future.

Mr. Pitchford asked is this the first time the dams ODNR runs were opened? He was told they rebuilt them and opened them according to the news article. Mayor Knack said ODNR told him the three dams that are there are no bigger than the five they used to have. It was said, you open the dams up here, you have to open them up down stream of us. We have criteria in our community knowing how high the Tusc was now, compared to the times before.

Mayor Knack added we are sitting on the Continental Divide. Whatever water goes this way, it has to go that way.

Mr. Steiner said, I said this before, when Clinton floods, Luna Lake floods two days later. This time was different. It was also said, when Clinton floods 4 to 5 times a year, who would be alarmed? Mayor Knack agreed.

Mr. Bean said that Kepler Road has to 30" culverts under it. When the water is coming up it has to come through those culverts and when it leaves, it has to go out those culverts. That's a major restriction in the amount of water that can go through – it's a slow process. Once the water gets high enough and it crests Kepler Road, those 30" are no longer keeping a slow feed and a whole tidal wave can come across the road. The mechanisms are there to learn more and protect ourselves better – and not wait on the Federal Government to spend 5- or 10-year study. The owner does not clean the chain link fence and collects debris which blocks the flow of water. Who allowed the private owner to change that dam? We can manage this if we work together.

Mayor Knack said it's a shame ODNR, Muskingum Watershed and Army Corp can't work together on this and I will be working on this.

Mrs. Recco stated that her brother lives on the West Reservoir of Portage Lakes. They knew days in advance, of the water release. Someone has to look at the cause an effect of what happens when you open these gates.

No Third Readings.

Second Reading:

Resolution No. R-19-20

A Resolution Authorizing the Approval and Adoption of the Summit County Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Executive's Department of Law, Insurance and Risk Management – Division of Public Safety Management Agency, and Declaring an Emergency.

No First Readings.

New Business: Nothing to report.

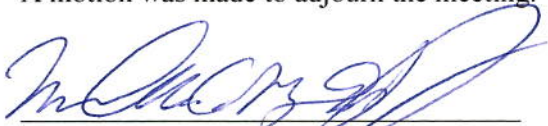
General Discussion: Nothing to report.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval:

Mrs. Conroy motion to approve purchase orders and pay bills, seconded by Mrs. Allega.

Roll Call: Goch, Allega, Godwin, Conroy; Fours Ayes. Motion passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.



Bud McDaniel, Council President



Mayor Allen Knack



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer