

Lowellville Council Meeting 9/10/25 6:30

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor called meeting to order

Roll Call: Joe Donatelli, Ryan McNicholas, Ron Rotunno, Bob Coppola, Don D'Onofrio

Motion to excuse Keith McCaughtry moved by D'Onofrio 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Mayor ask Council to go out of regular order of business to hear from Claims committee, Engineer, Zoning and Fire Chief Harris. Moved by Donatelli 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – Yes

Ron Rotunno Claims

- Olson McGill/Walnut – Claims committee will pay their claim, not sure if we will go through insurance or from Village funds. Committee is requesting time to resolve the matter-looking into insurance. Mayor – we looked over the plans, originally there just storm water and then did a change order to put sanitary in (when project was originally done). Sanitary on opposite side (East side of McGill)-not on original or revised. Change order #1 shows lateral coming in new sanitary. Appears when contractor did work, they missed tiring it in. Olsen's thanked the committee. (Matt & Mia Olson)

Zach – MS Consultants –

- Quotes received for EPA letter for WWTP. Waiting to hear from Mike and Al about electrical contractor, can the plant handle what we what to put in? Waiting to give final recommendations to EPA – cannot do until we find out if plant can handle what they want to do.
- OPWC due 9/11/25 for preapplication. Final due in December. Possible storm/sanitary separation project for EPA findings & orders to show progress. Looking at project on Watson St. – storm testing from Dukes 1 & 1 tracking study. 3-4 areas with issues on Watson (Walnut / Liberty). Project would be replacing sanitary sewer and making connections where they need to be. 600 linear ft – total cost \$420,000.00 Hoping to go with small government program-local share only at 15% and the rest by the program. Possibly higher than 15%, depends on where we would fall with the “point” system. Also looking at ARC Grant to cover the balance that would due for the project. Other options available if we don't get what's stated. WPCLF loan with low interest could be an option. Deadline is 9/11/25 – Joann will let him know.

Ryan – Did EPA say we need project? Zach – EPA wants preliminary study – we are going pass that since we had already done studies in the past (before MS Consultants) showing the areas that need work. Studies are not 100% complete yet. Data collected 2020-2021 was a good project to reduce 1 & 1. We want to show progress to the EPA that we are working on projects.

Joe – what is deadline tomorrow? Zach-the preapplication only. Joe – this means we are stating we have the 15% to cover the cost? Zach-yes. Joe-what if we don't qualify for the 15% and we don't want a

loan? Zach - Paperwork needs started to see where and if we would get 15% local share. It's only a preapplication. The final would be December.

Motion moved by Donatelli 2nd D'Onofrio to submit paperwork for OPWC preapplication Watson St. Project with the understating we can get out of

Roll Call – Yes

- Siphon project – received paperwork from Joann regarding the loan. Zach will help with paperwork and submission. Project speed depends on time getting info for the design from previous engineer. 10-20% still needs technical details of the design from other consultant.
- Youngstown-Lowellville Rd – project is done. Will get rid of OPWC & OWDA loan – close them.
- Riverfront Park – starts tomorrow. Will meet with them.
- Fire Station –sent to Hively and they are looking over. Should have cost estimate by end of next week. They are state contractors for the program.

Fire Chief Dave Harris –

- Resignation letter from Grace Ogden
- Letter of updated officer list, everyone should have a copy to look over
- Backwall at Station 31 needs fixed. Mold, had to toss lots of stuff due to water coming in.
- Computer is old and outdated – would like new one.
- R&M equipment fund – per mayor – can you use this for new computer? Dave will look over budget lines.
- Joann-we do plan on upgrading software once we receive cybersecurity grant.
- Dispatch meeting – will be having increases in increments.

Zoning Inspector – Nick Ruozzo

- Alley way between 1st & 2nd St. letters received from Terrance Escaro and Irene DeMato to take responsibility. Will need vacated. Per Bob – goes through council.
- Terrance has offered to take care of church property – that would be between them per council.
- Will need public hearing for vacating.
- Trash cans at apartments – 4 apts but only 1 trash can. Has requested in past for ordinance on this. Wanted to put with occupancy letters that will be mailed out soon. Wants each apt to have their own trash can.
- Mayor – yearly registration on rentals-who is responsible? Zoning or Tax Commissioner? Nick did collect the information and got papers put together (Thank you). For clarification it should be the tax commissioner who is responsible for this task per Bob. Should we send certified? Very costly. Lanzo-it can go regular mail, then if no response you can send certified.
- Solar company wants to install panels. Bob-asking if on a roof or structure? Nick-not sure but asking about permits and zoning permits along with county. Bob says they have to specify if they are talking structure or not. Ordinances will need reviewed.

Motion to return to regular order of business moved by D'Onofrio 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – Yes

Motion to go out of regular order of business to hear any public request by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Public Request –

Terrance Esarco – Notice sidewalks not being maintained, tripping hazard. Also, isn't there an ordinance with trash cans/trash having a time to be left out and returned? Home on 2nd St. left furniture out and so did the apartments on Wood St. Per Bob-Nick is aware of this and letters will be getting sent and penalties will be getting enforced for trash cans left out. Terrance suggested contacting the Sheriff office to get people who need to do community service to come and clean up the village. Mayor – we have used Struthers in the past. We will have to look into this again. Also, property owners are responsible for sidewalk.

Motion made to return to regular order of business moved by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Mayor request executive session to discuss personnel, insurance claim, and potential litigation Invited Joann, Lanzo, Tina, Mayor, and Chief. Moved by Donatelli 2nd Coppola

Roll Call – Yes

Motion to return to regular order of business moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Motion to suspend the reading of the previous months meeting moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Motion for the claims be sent to the claims committee for approval moved by D'Onofrio 2nd Coppola

Roll Call – Yes

Motion that once claims are approved place them to the pay ordinance moved by D'Onofrio 2nd Coppola

Roll Call – Yes

Solicitor Lanzo will look into getting Cybersecurity Policy

Fiscal Officer read the correspondence

Trick or Treat – City Hall received a call from Poland asking if we knew when we would be doing. Halloween falls on a Friday and there will also be playoff football games that night.

- Concerns – traffic, people won't be home, parents can't take kids trick and treat and go to older kid's games. Council decided to wait till October 8 meeting to make a decision. Will know who made playoffs.

Mayor is asking Council if they have been looking over the sewer bills/reports. If you know someone has passed, please let Joann know. Inactive and owes money – Solicitor says you can collect from current owner and/or previous contract owner. Water/Sewer travels with land. Credits on account should go to

unclaimed funds, since Aqua collects and has the money (Village does not collect money) they should be filing unclaimed funds with the county. We don't know if Aqua is doing this us. Past dues need to be sent to county auditor office for lien on property. Bob says ordinance exist about past dues going on tax lien after a certain amount. Each time it reaches that amount it needs to placed on lien. Joann will contact Manni for procedure on starting putting liens on property.

Improvements Committee – Ryan McNicholas

- Working on Village Newsletter and requesting if you want something put in it, please let Ryan know.
- Mayor received text from Cunningham, they donated to build the current gazebo. They are asking if it is repairable.

Finance Committee – Keith McCaughtry (absent)

- Will be having meeting soon. Also, need to start budget

Safety Committee – Joe Donatelli

- Nothing to report

Utility Committee – Don D'Onofrio

- Need to pass Aqua rates (discussed at previous meeting) and pass ordinance

Ordinance Committee – Bob Coppola

- Solar panels, solicitor sent some examples and they are fine with them. Will do resolution at next meeting.
- Looking into garbage cans, per unit, commercial
- BOCA Mahoning Co. – We are going to repeal and go under International Building Code Mahoning Co for building laws. Village handles zoning part and once they get permit Mahoning Co is responsible if someone is building. Will be updating ordinance.

Claims Committee – Ron Rotunno

- Ron asking village administrator if sending to insurance. She will call and explain situation to see what they say and go from there.

Solicitor report – James Lanzo

- Nothing to report

Mayor report – James Iudiciani, Sr

Fire Dept appointments of officers how is this handled since already on dept? And how is pay handled if more money? And are these positions listed in the salary ordinance? Has Chief & Asst Chief. Fiscal officer pulled the salary ordinance and read it to council and informed them this was not how they are paid. Remembers formal Chief Boggia had updated salary for fire dept. and council remembers that as well. Fiscal cannot pay fire dept since it's not the same as salary ordinance. Per council, do not pay fire dept until this is resolved. Council needs to look at pay ordinance and see what it says about officers

and pay structure. The ordinance is reading per hour and should be per unit. Mayor request ordinance committee to have meeting before October meeting to resolve this.

Mayor asked about step-raises, fiscal officer informed him I do not automatically do that. I requested the manager of that dept to provide me with an email and what pay will be.

Administrator, Joann Esenwein, explained she provides this information by email for her employee's but the police dept does not provide. The fiscal officer cannot go by step program if their current salary does not match the ordinance steps. This is why the leader of the dept needs to inform fiscal officer what they want the pay to be and if they have an increase in vacation. Fiscal explained we do raises and vacation according to anniversary date and not calendar year. The system does not show anniversary dates when processing payroll. Per Solicitor we can change to calendar year, the first transition year would be trying but after that it would be easier.

Mayor wonders if we should sub out payroll and if they would use UAN. Fiscal officer thinks this would be very expensive for the village. Mayor wants to know where would the sub company get the information from. Explained we would provide to them.

Village Administrator – Joann Esenwein

- Received call about bike trail requesting comments be provided by Sept 16 so they can provide punch list
- Mayor – Dan Morgan walked it and has some concerns with grading issues making it difficult for grass cutting between mayor's house and apartments.

Legislation –

Motion to suspend the rules for the pay ordinance moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Motion on passage moved by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Roll Call – Yes

Fiscal Officer read Aqua ordinance-An ordinance establishing the rates at which Aqua Ohio, Inc. shall furnish water to the Village Of Lowellville and its inhabitants thereof for and during the term commencing Jan 1, 2026 and extending through Dec 31, 2029 (ORINDNANCE #4162)

Motion to suspend the rules moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

Motion to move on passage by Coppola 2nd Donatelli

Comments – Coppola-be sure to send copy of ordinance to Aqua

Roll Call – Yes

Budget from county – Mayor wants to know if close to last year. Fiscal officer, yes, a little more.

2025 GF \$100,119 & 97,990 2026 \$103,071 & \$102,629

2025 Health \$9,534 2026 \$9,817

2025 Note \$9,534 2026 \$9,817

Motion to suspend the rules for resolution accepting the amounts by County Auditor by D'Onofrio 2nd Coppola

Roll Call - Yes

Move on passage by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio (RESOLUTION #4163)

Roll Call – Yes

Fiscal Officer asking if cybersecurity is legislation or something we put together? Lanzo will send us ordinances tomorrow or Friday.

Fiscal Officer asking opioid money appropriations. Council needs to let me know how they want to use so I can create an appropriation account in UAN. McNicholas suggest training for EMS/Fire and Police. Just add to their training line. Fiscal explained I cannot do that. I must create new fund line for opioid training.

Fiscal provided a copy of the estimate certificate of resources for 2026. Explained this is the estimated revenue and we need to start the budget for 2026. Appropriations cannot exceed revenue. Just informing council we are starting the 2026 budget.

Fiscal also requested help from council since audit has officially started. Auditors have sent questioner and I am unable to answer since they about procedures before my arrival. Ryan as offered help and fiscal is requesting if council can set up a date with me to go over and help with answers. I did email council already and you have with your packet tonight. It would help if you could reply with anything you may be able to answer. Mayor says he will fill out.

Old Business – nothing

New Business –

Coppola – who is responsible for stripping on 289? Can we strip where the turn is by Conti's? Too many people are pulling out of Copper thinking on coming traffic is stopping.

Rotunno – manhole sunk too deep on River Rd. Mayor – the project isn't complete; they will raise those.

Note – Donatelli – left meeting at 9:10 PM

D'Onofrio – reason why AA meetings cannot be done at city hall? Someone says we can't do those anymore. Was stopped during covid and when asked about starting again someone told him no. No one knows anything about this. Joann - all that needs done is they contact us to put on the calendar.

D'Onofrio ask guys when they park truck to chuck the wheel, even on flat surface.

D'Onofrio – lay down area – steel container and truck parked there. They need to clean up grass and stones when done. Mayor – that will get put on punch list for the bike trail.

D'Onofrio – what are the hours of the restrooms down on Riverfront? Admin-police are to open and close.

D'Onofrio – decorations for downtown, Ryan did you want to address? Village donated \$50-100 in the past for cornstalks. Will address at next meeting.

D'Onofrio – what happened with the truck brake issue? Admin – truck has been repaired.

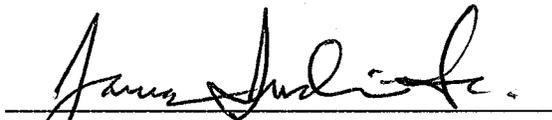
D'Onofrio – what about the WWTP truck? What happened with that? Why spend \$2,000.00 on repairs? Mayor and Admin explained they need a truck for going to sites and can't afford to purchase new truck.

D'Onofrio – Struthers doing Trick or Treat on Halloween 5-7

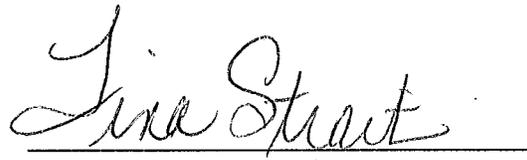
Mayor - When guard rail installed, we are signatory to oops. When installed, we own sanitary/storm sewer, in the plans it said they were to come to us but Lake Erie is saying no, they are fighting it. They drove the guard rail post they put through the sanitary line. It's now going through state and they deem it wasn't Lake Erie fault we will have to pay for out of our loan money. D'Onofrio – how can it not be there fault? Mayor – got ORC and gave to ODOT showing they were to notify us.

Motion for adjournment moved by Coppola 2nd Rotunno

Roll Call – Yes



Mayor James Iudiciani, Sr.



Fiscal Officer Tina Strait

