

Village of Lowellville Regular Council Meeting

2/18/26 6:30PM

Meeting called to order by Don D'Onofrio

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Leslie Daniels, Joe Donatelli, Dave Durbin, Ryan McNicholas, Dom Piscitelli, Don D'Onofrio

Also in attendance: Mayor James Iudiciani, Joann Esenwein, Tina Strait

Motion to excuse solicitor James Lanzo moved by Donatelli 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – yes

Motion to approve minutes from 1/14/26, 2/11/26, 2/14/26 moved by Donatelli 2nd Piscitelli

Mayor finished interview and is now seated

Roll Call -yes

Solicitor arrived to meeting

Motion to send claims to claims committee for approval moved by D'Onofrio 2nd Durbin

Roll Call – yes

Motion once claims approved move to pay ordinance moved by D'Onofrio 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – yes

Motion to go out of regular order of business to hear from our engineer, public request, and fire chief moved by Donatelli 2nd Durbin

Roll Call – yes

Public Request – no one had any comments

MS Consultants Zach Village Engineer Report

- OEPA Findings and Orders – Status is pending advertisement. Current steps: meeting with OEPA, notice of violation will be issued for outstanding items, will need to prepare a response outlining approach to address outstanding items with revised schedule
- North Side Fire Station – Received cost today from Olympia but height is off. Does not match architectural designs, sent for revision. Working with utility to make sure complies with energy code.
- D'Onofrio and Mayor informed Zach to wait on fire station. They will be having discussion in executive session regarding fire station and will keep him informed.
- Riverfront Park and W Water Street – Update from Rudzik – will start again in March and finish end of March. Preparing change order documentation to transfer quantities associated with asphalt from Riverfront to W Water. Joann made correction-this is not a “transfer”-they will bill us.

- Parsons Ave – Contractor installing laterals between Wood and Walnut. To date laterals installed 15 out of 18 with 4 to be non-performed.
 - Mayor – getting lots of complaints from residents about 289/Wood St. Can they plate it again? Zach will speak with them in the morning and request they fix.
- OPWC Round 40 (FY27) – project has been shortlisted. Pending Small Governments Determination (March-April). Has been submitted on WorkWise. Proposed improvements: replace approx. 600 LF sanitary sewer along Watson from W Walnut to W Wood.
 - Comment: D’Onofrio-what did we learn regarding the local share? Joann-ARC is not open yet for applications. Opens in May.
- Mahoning County CDBG – Pending advertisement in April. Will work with Joann and schedule meeting. Approx. \$200,000.00 and Mayor will need to fill out surveys.
 - Mayor explaining to new council we have to do income survey-has to be 51% of area you target of low to moderate income to be eligible.
- Capital Improvement Grant – Pending project selection from Village. Mayor would like the bike trail (widening and paving) and southside park playground equipment but council will make selection.
 - Joann explained they do not ask about match but will need to provide where non state funding comes from

Fire Chief Dave Harris

- Would like to start a lock-box program. Will need ordinance from Solicitor. Would charge \$35-45 per box, sign a release form and fire dept would install. Once residence purchases the box it does belong to them.
- Was informed the Lowellville Park Apartments (High Rise) did not have a fire alarm system anymore. Received an email that they cancelled the subscription. Went there and see a brand-new panel that no permits from county were pulled for install. Reached out to manager and no one has returned my calls yet. Will call the county and will also pull alarm tomorrow to see if working.
- Mold at southside fire station-Outside needs done first. Have no quotes yet for this work.
 - Mayor spoke with Mt. Carmel Society – the shed they have has no draining system

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

Roll Call – yes

Mayor requested Fiscal Officer to read correspondence – was read by Fiscal Officer

Motion for village administrator to sign contract with ODOT to mow 289 within the village moved by D’Onofrio 2nd Piscitelli

Roll call – yes

Motion for village administrator to sign Release and Termination of Easement Agreement (Lowellville Baseball Complex) with the Lowellville Local School District Board of Education and Village of Lowellville moved by D’Onofrio 2nd Piscitelli

Roll Call – yes

Mayor requesting village administrator to sign for PUCO aggregate.

Motion for administrator to sign PUCO on electric aggregate moved by Daniels 2nd Durbin

Roll Call - yes

Dave Ferro from Optics will speak with us. Will need a special meeting for this.

Special meeting set for 2/26/26 for aggregate. Daniels will let me know for sure.

Village Administrator requesting passage of resolution to adopt the solid waste management plan for the Mahoning County solid waste management district. Motion to sign moved by Donatelli 2nd Daniels

Roll Call – yes

Motion to pass an ordinance repealing prior ordinance no. 4121 and establishing the salary and benefits for the village fiscal officer of the Village of Lowellville (3rd reading) moved by Donatelli 2nd Daniels

Roll Call – yes

Motion to pass salary ordinance – An ordinance amending ordinance no. 4156 and repealing all ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance, for the purpose of non-elected officers and appointees in the village Of Lowellville and providing for vacations, holiday pay and overtime for some herewith and any ordinance dealing with the subject matter of salaries and providing for an emergency (3rd reading)

Fiscal Officer requesting effective date be later than effective tonight. D’Onofrio suggest March 1st.

Moved by D’Onofrio 2nd Daniels for effective date 3/1/26

Moved for passage of pay ordinance by McNicholas 2nd Durbin

Comments – Dave Harris-to clarify Jan and Feb pay for fire dept will be old ordinance and Mar will be new? A: correct

Roll Call – yes

Duck Derby – email received from Bill and Terry McCaughtry requesting permission to run a Duck Derby on the River on Aug 1. Would also like to utilize the pavilion for a basket raffle and possibly vendors.

Mayor requesting itinerary. Do you need road/bridge closed? What hours do you need closure for traffic? Will have to work with our police dept. Council can approve event but not road closure tonight.

Motion to approve event on Aug 1 approved by D’Onofrio 2nd Durbin

Roll Call – yes

Mayor requesting permission for Village Administrator to sign Docu-Sign for opioid settlement moved by D’Onofrio 2nd Durbin

Roll Call – yes

Mayor – John Docherty is requesting permission to close E Wood from 3rd to 4th St. on July 18th

Mayor does not think we close can close a state route. This would be ODOT and would require detour. Not sure trucks could do the detour. Joann will contact ODOT.

Mayor – Diane Palumbo is asking if we would consider hosting a pickle ball league

Mayor – more information is required. Yes, we have interest but not enough details at this time. Joann will request more information.

Friends of the Mahoning River Riverfest – to be held in June and requesting for event to be held in Lowellville. More information is needed but definitely interested.

Solicitor suggest that ordinance committee put together an ordinance of all fees within the village. Conversation stating last year that this was put in the claims committee. Who should it be?

Motion to put fee schedule in the claims committee moved by D’Onofrio 2nd McNicholas

Roll call – yes

Mayor – Street crew pay increases. Mayor feels it should be all employees. Per McNicholas this is in the finance committee and being discussed.

Mayor – city hall roof repair update. It is in the finance committee, received quote of \$5,000.00 for material estimate. It was sent by email, mayor wants official quote from Sky Roofing.

Mayor – questionnaire from auditors. Fiscal Officer-can someone please contact previous council and let them know this is needed and could everyone please get to me ASAP. This is for audit years 2022-2023.

Mayor – if we don’t get previous council please print and mayor will deliver to them.

Committee Reports:

Improvements Committee: Joe Donatelli

Nothing to report at this time

Finance Committee: Ryan McNicholas

Sent everyone an update from the finance meeting

Tuesday we also did the final budget and you will be given a copy to look over soon to review. This will need passage at March meeting

Looking over capital projects and we need to be cautious of finance

Looking at 3% raises for non-elected personnel. Roughly \$15,000.00 – still looking over

Looking at police salaries and comparing to surrounding areas.

Looking to have another finance meeting soon

Safety Committee: Dave Durbin

No report at this time but have questions:

2 issues would like clarify – electric scooters/bikes & golf carts. Mayor to police chief-we would like to have the golf cart ordinance enforced; stickers, applications, inspections. Do they need registered with BMV, plates? Solicitor suggest the ordinance be reviewed again since a lot has changed since it's original passing. D'Onofrio, Durbin and police chief will work together. Chief Alli will contact surrounding communities to see what they do.

Electric scooters – Durbin several different kinds and different regulations. Mayor suggest he go to BMV and get information and have safety meeting. Solicitor-there are already state laws that exist for scooters and should be enforced. The Village may not need an ordinance since state law exist. If you have ordinance and state law changes you have to remember to update your legislation. Mayor-Chief can you please get current law on scooters and enforce them. Chief-will need pursuit policy. Solicitor-put together pursuit policy and bring to council.

Ordinance Committee: Don D'Onofrio

Advances from county auditor legislation was passed at a special meeting held on 2/14

Utility Committee: Leslie Daniels

Wants to have utility committee meeting – 2/26/26 – will have meeting with claims committee

Joann reminding committee to get legislation together for utility tax liens.

Mayor to solicitor – we have a residence that bought property, house is now torn down, and we have lien his property. We were not putting liens on at the time of transfer. Do we need to go back on these? Solicitor - Was assessment on property at the time? If so, will have to research.

We have also learned that in some cases that when the water was shut off Aqua did not shut off sewer. Mayor-residents will have to provide proof that they shut off water.

Joann to solicitor - We have some issues with bankruptcies. We did assessments/lien in November, bankruptcy filed in December. Should that be taken off? A: it would clear the outstanding bill but not the lien on the property.

These will all need handled by case-by-case

Claims Committee: Dom Piscitelli

Workers' comp, any update? A: Yes, will discuss in executive session

Have received some calls about damage from snow removal. Will look into once weather breaks.

Solicitor Report:

Will address in executive session

Mayor Report:

Will address in executive session

Old Business and New Business:

Joann – CyberSecurity Grant – got 2. One is for .gov the other for security programs. If over \$11,000.00 have to get 3 bids. If we have one consultant it's over that but if we have 2 it's not. Would prefer to deal with one consultant. This is FEMA money. Will put out the bid to get started but Homeland Security is shut down right now.

Would like to have task order for IT so when we have a problem, we could call someone in and help us with IT issues/questions.

Durbin-Called IRS and got form. Joann will look over and submit. Hoping to get forgiveness since we did not know to file bi-weekly, we were filing monthly.

Daycare center being run in village. Called Board of Health then Ohio Child Services Youth Dept. Provided website to see what is needed. She is not licensed and does not have to be if under 6 children and no more than 3 kids under 2. Checking to see if she has reported income tax.

Sat in online meeting today in regards to data centers.

Mayor – D'Onofrio is now member of LCIC and had meeting last night. Meetings are quarterly and minutes will be provided for transparency.

Vicky Davanzo Mahoning County Peddle and Paddle will be starting in March, will need set up with zoning.

No Lowellville Day – it is held every other year.

July 16 there will be Mahoning County River Mayor Event in Lowellville

Police Chief will meet with fiscal officer to discuss uniform and vacation pay outs.

Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, acquisition of property, litigation moved Donatelli 2nd Daniels

Invite: Fiscal Officer, Solicitor, Village Administrator, Fire Chief

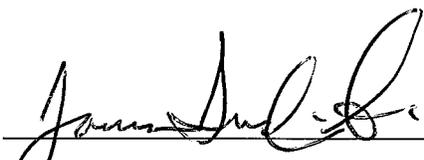
Roll Call – yes

Motion to go out of executive session and return to regular meeting moved by Donatelli 2nd Daniels

Roll Call – yes

Motion for adjournment moved by Donatelli 2nd Daniels

Roll Call – yes



Mayor James Ludiciani, Sr.



Fiscal Officer Tina Strait