

VILLAGE OF MARBLEHEAD REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 14, 2023

Mayor Bird called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Answering roll call were Dean Dorko, Matt Kovach, Angie Kukay, Duane Myers, Maryann Sauvey, and John Starcher.

Also present were Fiscal Officer Rhonda Sowers, Solicitor Jim Barney, Village Administrator Jeff White, and Police Chief Kenn Thellmann.

Visitors in attendance were Dale Harwood, Karyn Harwood, Joe Gouker, Patty Gouker, Tom Breslin, Sally Moennich, Dave Reed, Al Mazzeo, and Katy Mazzeo.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 24, 2023 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Joe Gouker expressed his belief that the engineers designing the Johnson's Island waterline extension are delaying the project and asked the mayor what can be done to speed them up. Mayor Bird said the engineers will be participating in the public information meeting on June 24 and she will wait to hear what they say about the status of the project. Mr. White referenced a June 9 email he sent to members of the waterline task group with an update of the progress the engineers have made with the permit process. Matt Kovach stated he previously sent Mr. Gouker a link to information regarding the permitting process and disagreed with the assertion that the engineers are delaying the process.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor

Mayor Bird had nothing to report.

Solicitor

Mr. Barney had nothing to report.

Administrator

Mr. White reported the following:

- The Finance Committee met June 12 with representatives of the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) to review the draft water department capital improvement plan, how it will affect the budget and the impact it will have on water rates. Based on discussions at that meeting, RCAP will make revisions and return for a follow-up meeting with the Finance Committee on July 10 at 6 p.m.
- Johnson's Island waterline task group met May 17 and a June meeting date was set. The engineering and permitting process continues. The village plans to retain special counsel to assist with the assessment process for this project. A projects page has been added to the village website with additional information.
- Lions Club members Harry Blackmon, Jerry Rhodes, John Spencer and President Bill Tuttamore assisted in assembling the new picnic tables at James Park. The tables made from recycled milk jugs were purchased in part with a grant from the OSS Solid Waste District.

- Many volunteers participated in developing the James Park sensory garden which enhances the outdoor musical instruments purchased in part with a \$6,604 grant from the Park District of Ottawa County. Volunteers aiding the project were Dale Dubbert, Dave and Sandy Kimmel, Maryanne Laubner, Russ and Linda Merckens, Maryann and Blake Sauvey, Rhonda and Paul Sowers, Olga and Katya Trumpower, and Linda Twarek.
- Installation of playground surfacing in James Park is scheduled to begin June 20.
- Masonry Construction completed repairs to the James Park shelter house columns, fireplace, and chimney at a cost of \$2,430.
- Ed Burdue and Company is scheduled to replace the stone along the south side of Elliott Street west of Stone by the end of June.
- Broadband Ohio, an office of the Ohio Department of Development is seeking citizen input on key issues concerning internet accessibility. Bowling Green State University Center for Regional Development is facilitating the public input initiative. A link to the survey is available on the village website.

Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Sowers reported the following:

- Receipts from interest have already exceeded the \$10,000 budgeted for the year. Through May, the General Fund has received \$39,616 interest income.
- Morton Salt was awarded the ODOT road salt contract for Ottawa County this year. Salt price will be \$53.63 per ton which is the same as last winter.
- Proposal from Ohio Plan Risk Management for renewal of property and liability insurance is approximately \$5,000 higher this year due to a high loss ratio. Mrs. Sowers and Mr. White will meet with an agent to discuss the quote prior to the next council meeting.
- Search for legal counsel for the Johnson's Island waterline assessment project continues.

Mr. Gouker questioned whether there is anything that can be done during the current 30-day comment period to improve the scoring of the Johnson's Island waterline project so it will qualify for up to \$4 million in principal forgiveness on the WSRLA loan. Mrs. Sowers agreed to check into it further.

Police Chief

Chief Thellmann submitted a summary of recent activity and reported the following:

- Cleveland's Fox 8 television station ran a story earlier in the day about the theft of 8-10 boxes that were stolen from a front porch in the village following a FedEx delivery.
- Officer Christopher Suppelsa submitted his resignation from the department and the Chief would like to hire 2 part-time officers to temporarily fill the shortage. Council noted that hiring additional part-time officers would require legislation.
- Police Policies and Procedures were reviewed by the solicitor and a draft sent to all council members for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

Mrs. Kukay reported on the Coast Guard change of command ceremony held the previous week at the Lighthouse.

Zoning

Mr. Kovach had nothing to report.

Legislative

Mr. Myers was joined by Brian Shifflet as well as Paul and Rhonda Sowers to plant native pollinators around the flagpole at Radar Park last weekend.

Infrastructure

Mr. Dorko had nothing to report.

Parks, Cemetery, Trees

Mrs. Sauvey plans to call a committee meeting within the next week to continue discussion of projects.

Finance

Mr. Starcher had nothing to report.

LEGISLATION

President Pro Tem Starcher read the following legislation by title only:

- A. **RESOLUTION NO. 9-2023** – A Resolution of Necessity Pursuant to Section 5705.03 of the Revised Code Requesting the Ottawa County Auditor to Certify to the Council of the Village of Marblehead, Ottawa County, Ohio, the total Current Tax Valuation of the Village of Marblehead, Ohio and the Dollar Amount of Revenue that would be Generated by the Replacement of a Two and Two Tenths (2.2) Mill Tax Levy for Current Operating Expenses and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to waive three readings on three separate occasions made by Mr. Dorko with second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to retain the emergency clause made by Mr. Myers with second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 9-2023 made by Mrs. Kukay with second by Mr. Starcher. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

- B. **RESOLUTION NO. 10-2023** – A Resolution Authorizing the Village Administrator to File an Application with the OSS Solid Waste District for a Competitive Funding Grant and Declaring an Emergency

Motion to waive three readings on three separate occasions made by Mr. Myers with second by Mr. Dorko. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to retain the emergency clause made by Mr. Dorko with second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 10-2023 made by Mr. Starcher with second by Mr. Kovach. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Johnson's Island waterline public information meeting** – Reminder that Village officials will host a public informational meeting regarding the Johnson's Island waterline extension at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 24 in the Johnson's Island clubhouse.
- B. **Public Hearing for Zoning Amendment** – Council will hold a public hearing at 5:45 pm on June 28. The applicant, Matthew Richmond, proposes to rezone 1.2 acres at 614 E. Main from Residential-1 to Business.
- C. **Question of alcohol consumption in Radar Park** – After researching the question further, Mr. Barney reported he can find no exceptions outside the provisions of Ohio law that would allow alcohol consumption in a public park and said it is in the best interest of the village not to allow it at Radar Park.
- D. **Status of Police Policy update** – Mr. Barney completed review of the revised Police Policy. Several changes were made, and a statement added that in any conflict between the Village Personnel Policies and the Police Policy the provisions of the Village Policies would prevail. The amended draft was submitted to officials for review prior to the next council meeting.
- E. **Bay Point waterline update** – Mr. White said the contractor has been actively working to complete the waterline loop which will connect the two dead end lines at Bay Point. The remaining work will be to complete installation of several pits and meters including the 6" meter to the campground.
- F. **Water rate analysis and capital improvement plan** – This subject was reported during the Administrator's report. He added that RCAP is willing to facilitate a public meeting to present proposed water rates after the finance committee presents information to council.
- G. **Clemons Street parking** – Mr. Dorko said committee members walked Clemons Street recently to view the areas of concern and determine how best to address the issue. The plan is to install no parking and speed limit signs. At the request of business owner Chris Redfern, the committee also looked at the possibility of re-striping the village parking lot adjacent to the Redfern Inn at Rocky Point Winery with angled spaces to create additional parking to keep cars from parking on neighboring streets. The committee is concerned that angled parking would require drivers to enter the lot via the private parking on the winery side to access spaces on the village's side. Mr. Barney said he did not feel this would be an issue if Mr. Redfern allows it. The committee also would like to have a streetlight pole removed from the parking lot.
- H. **Status of drainage at NW corner of Elliott and Stone** – Mr. Dorko said the committee viewed this intersection and noted that the new catch basin is still covered. Because there has been a prolonged period of no rain it is difficult to see how well the drains are working but once the mats are removed from the catch basin it will be helpful. Mr. White said he will consult with Ed Burdue to see if there is anything further that needs to be done with drainage at this intersection.
- I. **Church Street improvement project update** – Final plans with engineer's cost estimate in the amount of \$367,000 were received from CT Engineers. The original estimate of \$461,000 reviewed by the Finance Committee on June 12 contained a math error which

was subsequently corrected. Mr. White noted that even at \$367,000 the estimate far exceeds the amount appropriated for the project. Mr. White has contacted several asphalt companies to obtain quotes to mill and fill paving.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Accept resignation of Officer Chris Suppelsa and declare an opening to be filled per the hiring policy** – Mr. Dorko moved to accept the resignation of full-time police officer Christopher Suppelsa effective June 10 and authorize the Chief to fill the position per the hiring policy. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.
- B. **Disposition of old picnic tables** – Now that picnic tables at the James Park shelter house and Clemons Park have been replaced with new recycled plastic tables, council agreed to offer any of the 15 wooden tables that are still useable to Danbury Township and to dispose of those that are no longer in good repair.
- C. **Request for one-time forgiveness of large water bills due to leaks** – Mr. Starcher moved to authorize a one-time forgiveness of \$60.96 for large water usage due to a leak at 1005 Church Street and of \$274.32 for large water usage due to a leak at 10911 Bay Point Dr. #602. Second by Mr. Dorko. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.
- D. **Authorize charge-off for bad debt** – Mr. Myers moved to write-off unpaid water balances totaling \$219.70 for three accounts that cannot be collected or placed as liens against the property. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.


AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to authorize payment of bills totaling \$133,519.25 including May payroll was made by Mr. Starcher and seconded by Mr. Dorko. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mr. Myers-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Starcher-yes. Motion carried.

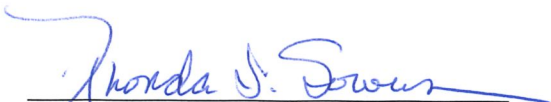
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Kukay and seconded by Mr. Starcher. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:09 pm.

APPROVED:


Jacqueline A. Bird, Mayor

Attest:


Rhonda I. Sowers, Fiscal Officer