

VILLAGE OF LAKE ODESSA

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 16, 2018
PAGE MEMORIAL BUILDING

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President Banks.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Council present: Janet Thomas, Karen Banks, Mike Brighton, Mel McCloud, Charles Jaquays, Brandy Walkington

Absent: Mike Rudisill

Staff present: Pearl Goodemoot, Brenton Listerman, Jesse Trout, Jim Valentine, Bryan Rader, Mike Shapley, Tom Goggins

Visitors present: Daryl Hartzler, Phil and Janet Welch, Dale Bud, Patsy Cole, Larry and Anne Adams, Cody Dreysee, Patti Caudill, Gary Mattson, Greg and Kris Deatsman, Joanne Gerke, Michael Dillon, Gina Wilkes, Erin Gerke, Brandon Gerke, Craig Neeb, Shana Griffin, Brian and Deborah Moras, Carrie Johnson, Art and Anita Villanueva, John and Julie Salman, Beth Barrone, Nancy Mattson, Lynda Cobb, Bill Rogers, Walter Wing, Ken Tidd, Nick Rischow, Lois Peacock, Tom Peacock, Corinna LaRoche, Nick LaRoche, Jason Roth, Dale Miller, Charlie Noll

Motion by McCloud, support by Jaquays approve the absence of Mike Rudisill. Motion carried.

Motion by McCloud, support by Thomas to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Banks informed those present that an open forum would be allowed later for the police department agenda item.

MINUTES

Motion by Walkington, support by Thomas to approve minutes of March 19, 2018 and April 2, 2018. Motion carried.

BILLS

Motion by Thomas, support by Jaquays to approve expenditures equal to or less than \$3,000.00 for the period 3/1/2018 thru 3/31/2018. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas, support by Walkington to approve payment of invoices in excess of \$3,000.00 items as follows:

- a) Homeworks - \$3,127.00 – Iron Removal Plant (*paid*)
- b) DJ McQuestion - \$192,837.07 – 2016 Capital Improvement Project (*paid*)
- c) Dixon Engineering - \$74,235.00 – Water Tower Maintenance

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Thomas, support by Brighton to approve the consent agenda, as follows:

- a) Zoning Administrator Report for February and March 2018
- b) Lake Odessa Library Meeting minutes for February 28, 2018
- c) Arts Commission minutes for March 12, 2018

STAFF REPORTS

Police Report: Listerman reported that the police department worked with other police departments to apprehend the vandals

DPW Report: Trout reported that water flushing will be moved to next week due to the weather.

Finance Report: Goodemoot had no update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel/Finance Committee: There was no update.

Recreation/Special Projects Committee: There was no update.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Trout reported that the highest bidder was Michael Estes in the amount of \$4,350.00.

Motion by McCloud, support by Jaquays to approve the sale of the International Tractor to Michael Estes in the amount of \$4,350.00. Motion carried.

Motion by McCloud, support by Thomas to approve the purchase of a John Deere Z960M Commercial Z-Trak from Bader in the amount of \$10,245.49. Motion carried.

President Banks tabled the MEDC ICE Grant Project Budget.

Banks asked council if they would like to pursue a negotiation agreement with Village Manager applicant, Julie Salman.

Motion by Jaquays, support by Brighton to begin negotiations with Julie Salman for the Village Manager position. Motion carried.

Motion by McCloud, support by Brighton to ratify President Banks appointment of Scott Beglin to the Jordan Lake Improvement Board for a term to expire December 31, 2018.

President Banks asked Jim Valentine to explain how the Police Department proposal came about.

Jim Valentine explained that it was his idea to pursue contracting with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department. Valentine cited reasons he thought it was best to contract with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department including: training expenses, employee turn-over and current department law enforcement experience.

Valentine introduced Ionia County Sheriff Dale Miller and Undersheriff Charles Noll. Dale Miller thanked council and residents for the opportunity to discuss contracting. Miller discussed the services provided by the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Valentine read a press release from the Ionia County Sheriff's Department regarding the recent vandalism.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Moras asked those in attendance to raise their hands if they supported the local police department.

Gary Mattson asked if an emergency incident occurred in the county would it impact the county officer's availability that was assigned to the village. Mattson also expressed several concerns with contracting with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department. Mattson questioned the quality of service provided by the Ionia County Sheriff's Department and cited an experience when he waited several hours for assistance from an Ionia County Deputy.

Sharon Dahms stated she had interaction with area law enforcement who advised her to make sure the county is hired and understands they would be working for the village. Dahms also inquired about where the savings would be spent and expressed her support for contracting with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Mattson expressed that village tax dollars would be used to fund county programs instead of village resources if contracting with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Beth Barrone introduced herself and stated that the village should consider the proposal from the county. Barrone stated that her experience with government has given her a different perspective on police services and recommended contracting with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Patti Caudill expressed appreciation for Valentine's proposal and expressed support for the Ionia County Sheriff's proposal and for the opportunities it would bring to the full-time officers.

Larry Adams shared his positive experiences with other county sheriff departments providing police services for other townships and stated he was underwhelmed with some village police officers. Larry and Anne Adams stated their support for the county proposal.

Craig Neeb expressed concern for officers using the Lake Odessa Police Department as a stepping stone and inquired about the length of the contract.

Sheriff Miller discussed the options and length of the contract to be determined by the two entities. Miller explained that all Ionia County agreements have a 120-day notice if either party wants to withdraw from the contract. Miller also explained the 2% yearly increase that is in place for the Boston Township contract that is also dependent upon actual costs incurred, whichever is lower.

McCloud inquired if the Ionia County Sheriff's Deputy raises were determined by cost-of-living.

Sheriff Miller explained that there are multiple factors in determining an officer's raises.

Sharon Dahms stated that there would be a better opportunity to retain an officer for a long period of time by contracting with a bigger department.

Mike Dillon stated that he supported the Lake Odessa Police Department and stated he had the utmost respect for the Ionia County Sheriff's department and expressed multiple concerns about losing the police department. Dillon asked if resources were available to the Dillon inquired about the budget numbers for the police department.

Goodmoot explained that staff presented to council a budget for a full-time police chief and three full-time officers in an effort to address officer turn-over and new-hire training costs.

Mike Dillon stated that the sheriff's department's proposal was not able to be compared financially to the village budget due to the amount of dollars of running an entire police department versus the amount of dollars for a police officer for x number of hours.

Deb Moras read a prepared statement in support of the Lake Odessa Police Department and against contracting with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Miller explained that closing the police department was not the goal and that there would be just a change in color of uniforms.

Jaquays inquired if the current village officers could be dedicated exclusively to the Lake Odessa village.

Sheriff Miller stated he thought so.

Deb Moras expressed further concerns with contracting with Ionia County.

Bonnie Mattson inquired about the years of experience the county deputy assigned to Saranac had.

Sheriff Miller explained that two officers were servicing the Boston Township and Saranac area. Miller stated that the officers had been with the department for approximately two years.

Carrie Johnson expressed concern for a safety presence and services that would be provided with the Jordan Lake Trail coming into the community.

Banks inquired about police coverage for special events. Sheriff Miller stated that nothing would change with coverage.

Gary Mattson stated that contracting with the county would add a layer of bureaucracy to our community with the Sheriff reporting directly to Ionia County and not the village.

Brighton expressed the same concerns as Mattson and shared concerns that inquired about the viability of starting a police department once it is contracted outside the village.

Art Villanueva expressed support for the Lake Odessa Police Department and stated there is a comfort knowing there is a local police officer on duty.

Banks explained that an Ionia County Sheriff's deputy would be stationed at the Page Building and on duty here in the village.

Deb Moras inquired about the seniority and rank of current village officers and if their seniority would be transferred to the county.

Sheriff Miller stated that seniority and supervisory experience would not be transferred and explained that the presence of an officer would not change and only the color of the uniform would change.

Mike Shapley expressed concerns with obtaining an officer that has a small-town mentality if the police department is contracted through Ionia County Sheriff's Department. Shapely asked whether the deputy officer would be voluntary or assigned.

Sherriff Miller stated that he thought the position

Shawna Griffin expressed support for the Lake Odessa Police department and also expressed concerns over the recent vandalism. Griffin inquired if an officer on duty could have prevented the vandalism.

Brian Moras inquired about the Lake Odessa Police Department Officers' feelings about the proposal and stated that the council needed to listen to the village residents and determine if the people were willing to contract with the Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Mike Dillon asked if the village was unhappy with the current situation and if so what was being done to rectify that situation. Dillon also stated that there is a vested interest with pride in having a small-town police department.

Mike Shapley inquired about the cost of an actual working chief and if the village's budget could be looked at.

Joann Gerke stated that the possible officer turn-over was due to the previous Chief Mark Bender.

Brian Moras stated that the officer turn-over seemed to be Banks' concern.

Karen Banks responded that she was concerned over the liability of unseasoned officers in the department.

Janet Thomas discussed officer training and stated that it would be selfish for the community to expect an officer to remain in our community instead of pursuing other training and growing opportunities.

Patsy Cole inquired how long ago the vandalism occurred downtown and stated that the community is much safer since then and applauded the Lake Odessa Police Department.

Banks expressed her appreciation for the Lake Odessa Police Department and thanked Sergeant Listerman and former Sergeant Wally Wing for their service.

Cody Dreyse inquired about a training partnership with Ionia County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Miller stated that all county training is available for the Lake Odessa Police Department.

Linda Cobb stated that she missed former Sergeant Wally Wing and stated that the residents knew Wing and Wing knew the residents.

Deb Moras inquired about when the Ionia County Sheriff's Department proposal would be voted on.

Banks explained that the Sheriff's Department proposal was just being reviewed at this time and a date has not been set for a vote on the matter.

Daryl Hartzler expressed concern over making a quick decision and asked council to take a step back to look at the unique situation of Lake Odessa.

Nick Rishow inquired about the possibility bringing in a seasoned Police Chief that would be able to be hands-on with the department and officers.

Craig Neeb stated that his concern was for the village and is willing to listen to all options.

Banks agreed that council was concerned for the village and that was why the Ionia County Sheriff's Department proposal was being considered at this time.

Banks asked if there was any additional public comment.

There was no additional public comment.

Sheriff Miller thanked village council for the opportunity to present his proposal.

Valentine suggested to council to take time to consider the sheriff's proposal, publish meeting notifications and communicate with the residents. Valentine advised village council to make the decision as transparent as possible.

Motion by McCloud, support by Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pearl Goodemoot
Village Clerk / Treasurer