

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Mayor Steve Smith presided over the meeting. Pastor Jason Rissler led the prayer.

Members answering roll call were Kathy Burrier, Liz Dreher, Dustin Briggs, Don Wallick, Jeff Smith, and Martin Zehnder. Other's present were Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger, Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Sergeant Brandon Warman, Zoning Inspector Ted Foster, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Mike Rosenberry, Jerry Schultz, Don Gerber, Randy Zehnder, Brad Malcuit, Pastor Jason Rissler and Rev. Pastor Matthew Wald.

A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2023, council meeting. At roll call, all members voted approval.

The February financial statement, February Unified Bank Statement, February SSB Community Bank Worksheet, and the list of bills was presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to approve the February financial statement, February Unified Bank Statement, SSB Community Bank Worksheet, and the list of bills in the amount \$ 249,011.89. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Mayor Steve Smith reminded residents that spring clean-up is Tuesday, April 11, 2023, street sweeping is March 29 through 31, 2023, and progress has started at the green space with electric being installed along the fence and cement platforms for bands and the love Tusc sculpture. Mayor Smith reported that the drone guy was here and did some aerial photographs for the website. Mayor Smith reported that all of the village departments are now fully staffed.

Zoning Inspector Ted Foster read his report which included permits for a fence, a new roof over a front porch, a new shed in a rear yard, and a new mobile home at 241 Railroad Avenue that was denied because mobile homes are only permitted in R4 zoning and the property is zoned R3. Foster reported that the Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a hearing on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 5 pm for a variance for James Pietro for duplexes on lots at 1257 N Wooster Avenue.

Mayor Smith noted that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 6 pm and Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6 pm for the rezoning of 224 N Bodmer Avenue and the rezoning of an area of Wooster Avenue.

Mayor Steve Smith read the report from Fire Chief Steve Laskey which included 16 calls of service from 3/7 – 3/19; the gas meter at the department has been upgraded to facilitate the installation of the new generator; training for the month of March will focus on Incident Command and Hose Line Advancement; Paige Sugalski completed her year probation on the department and has proven to be a very valuable asset to the department; currently purchasing items with the remainder of the COVID Act funds which we were awarded; and letters for the inspections will continue to be delivered this week.

Finance – Chairman Jeff Smith reported that the finance committee held a discussion on the need for a radio system for the street department employees, utility department employees, and village hall. Smith noted that they have contacted Staley Technologies about a radio system for communications capabilities for the employees. Dustin Briggs reported a \$ 800.00 fee for the FCC license for ten years. Smith noted that the radios were requested by Street Superintendent Matt Miller because there is no easy way for the employees to communicate when out plowing snow. Smith noted that the estimate is \$ 15,965.00 for the equipment and installation in the vehicles and buildings. Smith asked council to review the information for a future discussion.

Street & Alley – Mayor Smith noted that council has discussed the need to implement a system to assist residents to replace deteriorating sidewalks in the village and asked the committee to meet in the near future to discuss implementing a system of levels of condition of the sidewalks and allocating a set amount each year for the project. Lambert suggested that level one would be new sidewalks, two would be faded and minor cracking, and level three would be the worse conditions. Lambert noted that some trees in the curb strips may need to be addressed first for some of the sidewalks. Lambert noted that currently the village employees will tear up and remove old sidewalks when a resident is going to replace their sidewalk. Lambert noted that with the new system we could negotiate the pricing with the contractors to maintain control on the cost of the replacement. Zehnder asked about properties that should have sidewalks and Lambert stated that would be another topic to look at. Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger noted that other municipalities do this by ordinance and asked Lambert to get some information from other towns as a starting point. Seeberger will look into Massillon and North Canton. Briggs noted that Dover has a program in place and will get that information. The Street & Alley Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 5 pm.

A brief discussion was held on cars speeding in the village and the safety of children on bicycles now that the weather is getting warmer. Ted Foster addressed council about a request from a resident for a crosswalk to be installed across 9<sup>th</sup> Street SW by the intersection of Weber Avenue.

Jeff Smith noted that area was discussed in the next phase of the Safe Routes to School Grant program and would help with the speeding on 9<sup>th</sup> Street SW and help with the safety of all residents.

Don Gerber, Randy Zehnder, and Brad Malcuit addressed council regarding information that they have heard about an issue between the village and the school and the garage that used to be the bus garage. Mayor Smith explained that the agreement between the school and the village began in 1977 when a grant was obtained to build the garage on village property and the school and the village each paid \$ 5,000.00. Mayor Smith noted that Attorney Richard Fox drew up a twenty-year lease agreement that was renewal for twenty years that ended in 2017. Mayor Smith noted that in 2012 there were meetings with the village, the school, and representatives from Schlumberger discussing the tax revenue that the school would receive from Schlumberger and Lincoln Manufacturing that could be used to build a bus garage and the decision was made and the busses were moved out of the building. Mayor Smith noted that the street department took over the building and a garage was built for the water department. Mayor Smith noted that the lease ended in 2017 and Jeff Smith noted that we were contacted in August of 2022 asking about the school obtaining space again in the garage. A discussion was held on the topic and Randy Zehnder asked why the school and the village cannot get along. Jeff Smith noted that he has been on council for over twelve years and that this is the first disagreement between the school and the village. Don Gerber noted that he drove bus for 12 years and it would be nice to have a place to house the busses for the drivers to do their checks out of the weather. Lambert asked Zehnder if he has talked to the school board, and he stated that he had contacted the school superintendent. Malcuit stated that he would like to see the issue resolved between the school and the village. Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger noted that council invited the school board members to a meeting to discuss the issue and that none of the school board members showed up for the meeting. Press Representative Barb Limbacher noted that she was at the 2012 meeting and that the school board members were Ed Yackey, Chris Hensel, Chris Beck, Susan Samsa and West Hostetler and they all supported the moving of the school busses out of the building. Briggs noted that it would not be fair to our taxpayers for the village to build a new garage for our street department. Fiscal Officer Mahoney noted that the school receives tax revenue from Schlumberger and Lincoln Manufacturing that was to be used for a bus garage. A discussion was held on the vehicles and equipment that are stored in that garage and other village buildings. Legal Counsel Terry Seeberger noted that he is currently in communication with the attorney of the school on the issue.

Brad Malcuit addressed council regarding future festivals, the high curb at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Wooster, the 25 mph speed limit on 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and his dissatisfaction of the police department parking in the dark to watch traffic. Mayor Smith noted that without enough volunteers and food vendors the festivals are not possible but noted that there is a group that is currently trying to have a corn fest in the future. Jeff Smith noted that the curbing could be addressed if the village receives grant funding for the downtown improvements. Mayor Smith noted that all village streets have a 25 mph speed limit or less except where there is 35 mph because it is a state route. Mayor Smith noted that the police reported only 6 citations and 106 warnings showing that the department is really trying to be fair when making traffic stops in the village. Mayor Smith noted that in May of 2020 the police department was contacted by former Fire Chief Andy Slemmer to investigate the misuse of funds in the fire department. Mayor Smith noted that the investigation was turned over to the Ohio State Auditor's office and BCI by the police department after Slemmer failed to cooperate with the investigation. Mayor Smith noted that there will be no more Ox Roasts, fish fry's, or any other fundraisers for the social side of the fire department until the investigation is completed. Malcuit noted that festivals help with the sense of community and Mayor Smith noted that we are working in the green space to create an area for bands and gatherings. A brief discussion was held the parking spaces for the downtown areas and the need to relocate the post office.

Martin Zehnder asked Mayor Smith if he had a meeting with the school superintendent about the bus garage and Mayor Smith noted that he did not. Zehnder asked Jeff Smith if he did and he stated yes that he did at the request of the school superintendent.

Jeff Smith noted that the village will celebrate a bicentennial in 2028 and that we need to start planning an event to celebrate and asked for the publics participation. Smith announced that the Police Department will hold a meet and greet on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6 pm at village hall and would like to answer questions that residents have regarding the police levy that will be on the ballot in May 2023.

Dustin Briggs thanked the fire department for providing the CPR class for a small group past Sunday and encouraged anyone to contact the fire department for the training.

A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Jeff Smith, to adjourn at 7:54 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

**STRASBURG VILLAGE CORPORATION  
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2023**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>CASH BALANCES ON 1-01-23</b>	<b>APPROPRIATION 2023</b>	<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE RECEIPTS</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES</b>
GENERAL					32,105.40			63,662.76
POLICE					42,212.64			86,369.67
FIRE					39,431.34			79,595.94
SERVICE					20,547.40			41,467.78
GENERAL BAL.	422,175.59	2,251,828.96	385,690.64	101,384.72	134,296.78	352,778.58	201,699.14	271,096.15
POLICE LEVY	5,818.47	57,818.47	3,807.44	4,040.95	5,931.68	1,916.71	4,040.95	7,942.71
FIRE LEVY	373,459.57	546,459.57	401,162.86	14,967.63	110,378.30	305,752.19	60,264.97	127,972.35
STREET	18.30	220,018.30	3,765.44	16,684.72	17,857.75	2,592.41	35,850.23	33,276.12
HIGHWAY	12,158.37	29,158.37	13,260.98	1,254.70	4,860.26	9,655.42	2,693.51	5,196.46
PARK	135,208.62	264,208.62	137,126.60	9,021.40	894.49	145,253.51	17,992.79	7,947.90
LAW ENFORCEMENT	251.50	251.50	251.50	0.00	0.00	251.50	0.00	0.00
JEDD	1,625,989.17	2,625,989.17	1,727,892.55	38,918.17	150.00	1,766,660.72	140,821.55	150.00
FIRE DEBT SERVICE	14.31	14.31	14.31	0.00	0.00	14.31	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL IMPR.	33,992.04	213,992.04	47,449.15	13,457.10	0.00	60,906.25	26,914.21	0.00
WATER FUND	121,436.27	552,436.27	123,070.28	34,582.20	44,345.73	113,306.75	72,579.08	80,708.60
SEWER FUND	292,231.93	1,012,231.93	311,883.36	58,396.40	52,427.61	317,852.15	120,638.13	95,017.91
SSI	381,235.83	417,235.83	384,220.13	2,912.44	0.00	387,132.57	5,896.74	0.00
SEWER RESERVE	72,804.13	72,804.13	72,804.13	0.00	0.00	72,804.13	0.00	0.00
WSI	1,153,365.90	1,398,365.90	1,168,480.27	14,691.62	0.00	1,183,171.89	29,805.99	0.00
WATER PLANT	6,634.29	6,634.29	6,634.29	0.00	0.00	6,634.29	0.00	0.00
SEWER PLANT	143,191.83	143,191.83	143,191.83	0.00	0.00	143,191.83	0.00	0.00
INCOME TAX	3,054.58	1,303,054.58	2,296.79	108,279.29	102,513.36	8,062.72	197,993.32	192,985.18
PARK IMP TRUST	5,366.30	5,366.30	5,366.30	0.00	0.00	5,366.30	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,788,407.00</b>	<b>11,121,060.37</b>	<b>4,938,368.85</b>	<b>418,591.34</b>	<b>473,655.96</b>	<b>4,883,304.23</b>	<b>917,190.61</b>	<b>822,293.38</b>

JANUARY 2023 CASH BALANCE \$ 4,788,407.00