VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

May 6, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Elaine Fagan – Moore Joe Ferryman

Terry Brentlinger - absent Dave Scott

Sandra Knott Heather Kegg List of signed in guests following

Mel Rotroff Gary Bias

Amby Wallace - absent 2 Deputies

Pat Parish Lynnette Dinkler

Randy Kaehler Josh Oakley

Pat Parish made a motion to excuse Terry Brentlinger and Amby Wallace, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Minutes from last meeting stand as is. Mel Rotroff made a motion to accept the minutes from April 15, 2024, Pat Parish seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Sandra Knott made a motion to pay the bills (4/16-5/6/2024), Mel Rotroff seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Pat Parish made a motion to accept the bank reconcile from February 2024, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Gary Bias told Council that he had received 350 calls and issued 20 permits since March 4, 2024. He updated Council that Connor was finishing up the annexation. Gary Bias confirmed with Council that we would not be doing large scale weed and litter inspections this summer due to the tornado, Council confirmed. He noted that the Planning Commission would need to meet soon in regards to the annexation. He also noted that there would be a LUC training meeting for all Zoning Appeals Board members.

Village Solicitor Lynnette Dinkler addressed the gathering. She wanted to let everyone know that the Village has been working hard. She encouraged positive communication for recovery and rebuilding. She noted that good faith disagreements are important, but need to be handled in a productive way for the wellbeing of the community. She told the attendees that FEMA help was coming, and with the Governor and President providing aid, we will build back even better. She stressed that this is why the Village released a press release about the issues surrounding the Fire Department, to address, not to cause harm. She then told the Council and guests that in summary, the former Mayor received complaints and began an investigation. It continued into the new Mayor’s election. However, the Village put all investigations, etc. on hold when the tornado struck. She assured everyone that the Assistant Chiefs Josh Oakley and Joe Ferryman are trained, certified, and very qualified.

Assistant Fire Chief Josh Oakley presented Council with 3 new applications to the department, 2 of which are already certified. He also noted that we should already have the gear needed for these applicants. He also stated that they were expecting several additional applications to be turned in shortly. He told everyone that the mood at the Fire Department was good. He also noted that the Crisis Team had been in to help with tornado recovery. Finally, he told Council that one of the new applicants was Jerry Davis, former chief at Jackson Center with 20+ years of experience, and that he was going to assist in training.

Assistant Fire Chief Joe Ferryman wanted to thank everyone for their hard work and support. He said that the SOPs were in the process of being completed. He ended by saying that the Lakeview Fire Department is moving forward and will continue to serve and protect.

Pat Parish made a motion to approve the new firefighter applications pending any necessary physicals and background checks, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Dave Scott told Council that our insurance had approved the lowest bid for demolition of the municipal building, library and garages. That bid was Reichert at $22,000, dependent on them being able to dump at the park site. Mel Rotroff made a motion to proceed accept Reichert’s bid and proceed with demolition, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Dave Scott told Council that he had a quote for a new wireless alarm system at our temporary office. The cost would be $1695.00, plus $40 monthly. He noted that we would be able to move it to our permanent offices when they are built. Mel Rotroff made a motion to approve the new alarm system, Sandra Knott seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Dave Scott asked if Council was okay with him cancelling the sealcoating of the library parking lot since the library was destroyed. They approved. He updated everyone that the library would be moving into the building next to Osgood Bank. He asked for a motion to approve the continuation of not charging utilities to the library. Pat Parish made a motion to provide utility services free of charge to the library, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Dave Scott said that he had received an inquiry as to if we would sell the field behind the water plant. Pat Parish said that we couldn’t as the land was needed for wellhead protection. Dave Scott said that he agreed, they needed 300 feet isolation for the plant to meet requirements.

Next, Dave Scott provided Council with a quote for repairs on the hydro-vac for $17,802.26. He noted that this will be covered by insurance as it was damaged by the tornado. Mel Rotroff made a motion to approve the quote and proceed with repairs, Sandra Knott seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Dave Scott updated the attendees that the tornado siren was going to be replaced and that it would be in the same location. He stated that it was on backorder. Council asked Dave Scott to see if he could find any way to expedite the lead time.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore introduced Debbie McDonnell. She told everyone that Debbie had contacted the United Way to offer her help after the tornado. She has a background in dealing with disaster recovery. Debbie is a native of the Indian Lake area and is offering her services at no charge to the Village of Lakeview.

Debbie McDonnell addressed Council and the public emotionally. She said that she had felt a calling to help and wants to help everyone including the Village and the residents. She stated that it is important to have a strategic plan, and that plan must be shared. She said that now that the Village was getting its temporary office running, she would be that Project Manager. She continued that she will help with communication. She said that an outreach program will be critical and that long-term efforts will include not only recovery, but also beautification of the community. She told everyone that she will manage community input and related meetings.

Pat Parish made a motion to welcome Debbie McDonnell and except her assistance, Mel Rotroff seconded. Council approved unanimously and thanked Debbie McDonnell for her generous offer.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore then provided initial readings of the following Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 2024-15

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING’S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2024 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKEVIEW, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE 2024-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW, STATE OF OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE 2024-17

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN KEN CONAWAY LLC AND THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW, OHIO, AND MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR DESIGNEE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE 2024-18

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING AN INTERIM FIRE CHIEF FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW UNDER R.C. 737.22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE 2024-19

AN ORDIANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LOGAN COUNTY AFG REGIONAL GRANT APPLICATION 2023 BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW, OHIO ON BHALF OF THE LAKEVIEW VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND HOST BOKESCREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Lynnette Dinkler told everyone that we would be going into executive session, and that we would take action on these ordinances upon returning to regular session.

At 6:42pm, Mel Rotroff made a motion to go into executive session, pursuant to ORC 121.22, section G1, to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee or official, and to include Josh Oakley, Joe Ferryman, Heather Kegg, Dave Scott, Lynette Dinkler, Gary Bias, and Ken Conaway, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Council returned to regular session at 7:31pm.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore then provided readings of the following Ordinances.

ORDINANCE 2024-15

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING’S OHIO BASIC CODE, 2024 EDITION, AS THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKEVIEW, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Pat Parish made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Ordinance 2024-15 to pass as an emergency, Mel Rotroff seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Sandra Knott made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-15 as an emergency, Mel Rotroff seconded. Council approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-16

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AMENDING PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW, STATE OF OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Pat Parish made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Ordinance 2024-16 to pass as an emergency, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mel Rotroff made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-16 as an emergency, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-17

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN KEN CONAWAY LLC AND THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW, OHIO, AND MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR DESIGNEE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Pat Parish made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Ordinance 2024-17 to pass as an emergency, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mel Rotroff made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-17 as an emergency, Sandra Knott seconded. Council approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-18

AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING AN INTERIM FIRE CHIEF FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW UNDER R.C. 737.22, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Pat Parish made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Ordinance 2024-18 to pass as an emergency, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mel Rotroff made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-18 as an emergency, Sandra Knott seconded. Council approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024-19

AN ORDIANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE LOGAN COUNTY AFG REGIONAL GRANT APPLICATION 2023 BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW, OHIO ON BHALF OF THE LAKEVIEW VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND HOST BOKESCREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Pat Parish made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Ordinance 2024-19 to pass as an emergency, Randy Kaehler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mel Rotroff made a motion to pass Ordinance 2024-19 as an emergency, Sandra Knott seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Pat Parish told everyone that State Funding for tornado relief was opening up in the area.

Sandra Knott told Council that she has received a few questions from the public that she’d like to start this part of the meeting with, as she thought it could prove helpful.

Her first question was to ask what was being done with Zoning to aid in temporary housing. Pat Parish replied that we had passed a temporary amendment to our Zoning Rules and Regulations to allow RV, trailers, etc. while residents rebuild.

Secondly, she asked what was going to happen with electric and water billing, and how long people would have to pay. Pat Parish answered that no one will have to pay at once. The Utility Commission would be meeting to determine the exact time to be allowed, and that we would be working with any residents who needed additional time. Dave Scott added that they were planning to do a test reading the following day to see if the system was working, and that billing should occur in the next could of weeks.

Sandra Knott asked about the parks. She asked where debris and branches should go. She was answered that branches and general debris could still go to Emil Davis Park, and that house/construction debris was still going at the Old School Park.

Sandra Knott asked if all the damage the Village sustained would be covered by insurance. The answer was that a lot was covered, but that there are areas where insurance won’t be enough.

Sandra Knott asked if there would be people to help the residents with FEMA. The answer was that yes, they will be setting up a station with live help. Sandra Knott said that she would like to see more information posted. Dave Scott replied that he will be sure the information is posted once we receive the details.

Sandra Knott asked to be told when normal billing would resume so that she could get a newsletter out.

The meeting was then opened for guest comments. (Some comments and discussions could not be captured due to people speaking over each other, speaking out of turn, etc. As much information as possible was recorded.)

Guest Jami Ferguson wanted to thank all the first responders for their help during the tornado and recovery. She told Council that she wanted transparency and honesty and would have liked there to have been a statement from the Mayor. She told Council the Mayor doesn’t talk to everyone when she is out in the Village. She asked is there was a plan for the Fire Department, and if we had enough people. She said she thought the Village Solicitor’s statement to the press was an attack and it was inconsistent. She asked if Council knew about the press release. She also asked why our previous Solicitor resigned.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore addressed the gathering. She said that she doesn’t know everyone in the Village, and apologizes that she didn’t speak to someone if they wanted to speak to her. She stated that anyone was welcome to approach and talk to her. She noted that she was out helping with the tornado damage, and that she herself was personally impacted by the disaster. She emotionally stated that every day she is reminded of this disaster and it affects her greatly. To put rumors to rest, she stated that she only makes around $3000 a year and that she is doing this job because she loves Lakeview and the Indian Lake area. She stated that she is trying to do everything the best she can. She asked them to remember that she was newly appointed with no mayoral experience. She stated that she has the desire to do the best job possible and that she is excited to see Lakeview recover and become even better. She also reminded everyone that the Council are the decision makers, and that she only votes if there is a tie.

Jami Ferguson said that she appreciated her answer.

Mel Rotroff told guests that he was not a supporter of the new Mayor originally, but that she has earned his respect. He wanted them to know that she really is trying hard to do the best job she can.

Assistant Fire Chief Josh Oakley addressed the concerns about the Fire Department. He stated that their number one priority was to serve and protect. Their number two priority is fire fighter retention. He stated that they mutual aid with many neighboring communities, and that they had reached out to Russells Point Fire Department, and that they would be notified immediately on any of our calls so that there would be no delays in response. He told everyone that change is never easy, but the department is recovering and moving forward. He asked that anyone interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter reach out to him.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore stated that the meeting in April at the Fire Department was an Employee Meeting, not a public meeting. She stated that she didn’t feel she should address the people gathered outside as it was a private employee meeting, and that she also did not want to address a crowd where she heard people yelling obscenities.

Guest Patty Cook stated that there were good people out there too who just wanted her to give them hope. She said they felt ignored and dismissed and that is where all the animosity came from.

One resident stated that there was only 1 person yelling obscenities.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore apologized that she had felt that way as it was not her intention. She stated that she is thankful for everyone who has been supportive. She reminded them that she does not have all the answers, nor does she know how to be the perfect mayor.

Another guest said they rented and did not pay utilities and that there needed to be a way for them to get the newsletters as well. Fiscal Officer Heather Kegg noted that the newsletters are also posted on the website and that copies were available in the bank and utility office as well. She told him that they would also try to post them on Facebook when published.

Guest Crystal Hornblower said that the Mayor needed to give respect to earn it. She said that it was unacceptable for them to have been blown off outside the employee meeting. She wanted to know why the Mayor didn’t offer to help everyone with their claims since she used to work in insurance. She said she also heard that the Mayor left after the tornado and stayed at her other house in Columbus and if she left the community she was not a leader. She also discussed a video of the Mayor taken before she was elected where she did not approve of her actions. She said that the resigned firefighters all respected Former Chief Norm Springs and asked if they left because they didn’t respect her.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore stated again that she did not intentionally blow people off. She noted that she does not have a residence in Columbus and did not leave the area after the tornado. She defended her actions in a video from before she was elected. Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore assured everyone that the Fire Department is fine.

Assistant Chief Josh Oakley assured everyone that the Fire Department was not leaving, or being absorbed by Russells Point, they were just working together/cooperating. He said that they had 3 new members already and were rabidly rebuilding. He said that he hated to see good people leave, but they had to move forward.

Guest Crystal Hornblower said that the Mayor said when she was Mayor, there would be changes and that doesn’t look good. She asked why we won’t tell everyone why Connor (former Village Solicitor) resigned. Another guest stated that we knew but couldn’t say. Crystal Hornblower was upset that more information hadn’t been put out to the public.

Mayor Elaine Fagen-Moore noted that she was no longer a licensed insurance agent and so was not permitted to give instruction. Solicitor Lynnette Dinkler confirmed that the Mayor could not provide advice to the public on insurance matters.

Guest Steve Fields introduced himself as a member of the Bokescreek Fire Department. He asked if Council had the Grant Agreement that needed to be signed. He was answered yes, the contract was attached to the Ordinance that was just passed and he could get the signature pages as soon as the meeting was over.

Guest Traci Gentis-Snyder said that there was no transparency from the Council and Mayor and that a better job could be done. She also complained about being outside at the employee meeting in April and not being addressed. She wanted to know if Council knew about that meeting.

Pat Parish answered that the meeting had been an Employer/Employee meeting only. It was not public, there was no quorum.

Solicitor Lynnette Dinkler added that the meeting was never public and never a press conference, but a private staff meeting. Crystal Hornblower asked why a pastor was allowed inside. Lynette Dinkler stated that the employer can invite anyone they like to join the meeting. She stated that this was a healing meeting and HIPPA laws were violated by someone recording it. A guest stated that it should have been better publicly announced. Lynnette Dinkler noted that we do not have to provide public notice for staff meetings. She also assured the group that everyone is working hard and doing their best.

Guest Traci Gentis stated that Norm Spring retired not resigned. Solicitor Lynnette Dinkler answered that Norm Spring voluntarily resigned his employment. He was not forced to resign. She continued that the new Mayor only looked into the old investigation when new complaints were lodged. The requirements given from the previous investigation had not been met. However, the Village dropped all investigation work when the tornado hit to focus on recovery, rebuilding and supporting the community. She assured everyone that we did hear their concerns. However, instead of could’ve, should’ve, would’ve, everyone should give each other grace.

Guest Traci Gentis-Snyder asked if we accepted Norm Spring’s resignation then why did we wait several days to remove him from the Fire Department. Mel Rotroff wanted to clarify that his resignation had been immediate, even if the letter requested a later date. Solicitor Lynnette Dinkler confirmed that it was effective immediately, and that all gear should have been turned in immediately and was not.

Guest Traci Gentis-Snyder asked where the funds donated to the Village for tornado relief were and what we were going to do with them. Fiscal Officer Heather Kegg answered that all funds received for tornado relief were in a separate account at Osgood Bank. She stated that it was around $10,000 if she remembered correctly. She told her that Council would have to vote on how the money would be used. Guest Traci Gentis-Snyder suggested we used the money to pay utilities for those most affected by the tornado.

Guest Traci Gentis-Snyder said that she tries to respect everyone but that she was so disappointed in the mayor for yelling at Norm Spring during an argument. She said that respect is earned not given. She also stated that she was hoping all of Council was present so that she could have the Mayor removed from office. She also wanted to know why Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore didn’t reach out to the former Mayor for help.

Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore stated that the previous Mayor, Ryan Shoffstall helped her a lot before she took office. She assured everyone that she will do her best and that is all she can do.

There was discussion about supplies and the misconception that there was a fight between the Mayor and former Fire Chief about the location of supplies.

Guest Patty Cook said Russells Point wouldn’t provide people from Lakeview with any supplies. She said they checked ID and turned people away. Multiple other people noted that they had been able to get supplies from Russells Point with no issue.

Guest Ella Shoffstall told everyone that she thought the press release made her Dad sound bad and that he didn’t deserve that after all he has done for Lakeview. Solicitor Lynnette Dinkler answered that nothing negative was said about the former Mayor, and that no one has voiced any concerns about him. She said that she was sorry she viewed the press release as an attack as it was meant only to be factual.

Multiple guests were unhappy that privileged information cannot be discussed in public.

There was a question about why the Village Solicitor doesn’t live in Lakeview. Guests were told that only the elected officials – Council and the Mayor have to reside in the Village.

Mel Rotroff made a motion to adjourn, Pat Parish seconded. Council approved unanimously.

The next council meeting will be **Monday**, May 20, 2024.