

Minutes
Public Facilities and Safety Committee
Village Office, Three South Main Street
Thornville, Ohio
February 6, 2023

Attendee List:

Committee Members:

Ashley Moore- Chair
Lynne Snider- Vice Chair
Erica O'Neill

Village Officials:

Gina Kaetzel- Mayor
Traci Sturgill- Village Administrator/ Clerk
Kelly Beem- Fiscal Officer
Dan Williams- Chief of Police

Guests:

Sterling Krout
Kim Billman
Tasia Savage

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Ashley Moore called the Public Facilities and Safety Committee Meeting to order on February 6, 2023 @ 7:51 p.m.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken with Committee Chair Ashley Moore, Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider and Committee member Erica O'Neill present.

Review/Approval of the Public Facilities and Safety Committee Agenda for February 6, 2023:

Committee Chair Ashley Moore asked for a **motion** to approve the business agenda for February 6, 2023. **Motion** made by Committee member Erica O'Neill and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Ashley Moore- aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Motion passed 3-0

Review/Approval of the Public Facilities and Safety Committee minutes from January 3, 2023:

Committee Chair Ashley Moore asked for a **motion** to approve the Public Facilities and Safety Committee minutes from January 3, 2023. **Motion** made by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider and was seconded by Committee Chair Ashley Moore. A roll call vote was taken with two committee members voting aye and one abstain due to absence.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider-aye
Ashley Moore- aye
Erica O'Neill- abstain
Motion passed 2-1

Old Business-

- **Environmental Design Group-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill introduced Jeff Carr to those council members who have never met him. Jeff discussed his hand-out and went into a detailed explanation of it. He is here to try and help decide where the Village wants to go with providing sewer and water to Northern Perry Water with the growth coming in the future. At this point, our sewer plant is at max

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capacity. He explained we have 3 options the Perry County Commissioners have given:

1. The Village upgrades the sewer plant and covers the full cost.
2. The County builds their own sewer plant outside the Village and we lose that income and future growth income.
3. The County will look at pumping the sewer to Licking County and again we lose the income of what we sell to them now and with the future growth of development.

Jeff had put together a rough estimate of doubling our current plant back in 2021 and it was approximately \$6.5 mill. Of course prices have increased so he would need to look at the numbers again. We would be re-negotiating new water & sewer contracts with the county, reviewing rates of both water & sewer, capacity fee income, monthly debt service charge fee required from the Northern Perry customers to help cover the debt of the new plant.

We will also apply for grants, loan forgiveness and low interest rates loans. Our current water & sewer rates for the Village residents are very low. We do need to review those. All grants & loans will look at what we are charging for the utility when making a decision for a grant/loan award.

Council's next step moving forward is to request a PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) be prepared. We will need a PER for all funding we apply for. We also need to keep in mind that our current plant is going on 20+ years old and will soon need repairs & upgrades even if we decide to only service the Village.

Council needs to decide if they want to move forward being the provider or just stay small and service the Village residents.

Committee member Sterling asked if there was any chance of negotiating a split of the cost with the Commissioners? Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised the commissioners told her they do not feel they should have to pay for something they don't own. We can still continue negotiating once we have a decision on what our future plan is.

Committee Chair Ashley Moore made a **motion** to move to council a vote on upgrading the sewer plant. **Motion** seconded by Committee member Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Engineer Jeff Carr was thanked for presenting such great information.

Roll Call:

Ashley Moore- aye

Lynne Snider- aye

Erica O'Neill- aye

Motion passed 3-0.

- **Utility rates-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised she was asked to put the discussion of the current water & sewer rates in the Village back on the agenda. She put together a spreadsheet of surrounding Villages rates for comparison. We have very low rates and like Jeff said, this does really hurt us on being rewarded grants. Engineer Jeff Carr advised your water rates should 1.5% of your MHI (median household income) and sewer should also be 1.5% of MHI or a lot of

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fundings will not fund us because they look at that and say we aren't even doing anything to pay for it ourselves. The Village of Thornville's MHI for 2021 is \$89,732. Traci explained to council that in the past council has created an ordinance with a 5-year tear of increases. The last increase was \$.25 per 1000 gallons in June 2022. I brought this to the attention of council in 2022 and it was decided to table it at the time.

Committee Chair Ashley Moore made a **motion** to move the discussion of the water and sewer rates to council. **Motion** seconded by Council member Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Erica O'Neill- aye
Ashley Moore- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Motion passed 3-0

New Business:

- **RESOLUTION #23-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO EXECUTE AN ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill explained this is the contract we discussed at our last meeting and council directed her to prepare the resolution for committee.

Motion made by Council Chair Ashley Moore to move Resolution #23-02 to council and was seconded by Council member Erica O'Neill. A roll vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider- aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Ashley Moore- aye
Motion passed 3-0

- **Refuse Contract-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill discussed the trash contract and advised it is up for renewal this year. The contract does state if we want to continue with the provider we have we can do so. She would like to know how council would like her to move forward. Traci advised she has had no complaints in the 2 years we have had them. There has been no trash left around the Village either. Mayor Kaetzel advised she would like to add recycling. Traci said she had already checked into this and you have to require 100% of the residents to pay for recycling or they can't provide it. Committee member Erica O'Neill feels we should add it and everyone has no choice whether they pay for it or not. This is how some other Villages do it. Traci advised it is up to council but she does feel we will have a lot of Village residents upset with forcing them to pay for this without a choice. Discussion held. It was decided to have Traci get the price on recycling so we know what it would increase all the residents trash billing.

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Motion made by Committee Chair Ashley Moore to move to council a vote on adding recycling and keeping our current provider, Waste Innovations. **Motion** seconded by Committee member Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Ashley Moore- aye

Erica O'Neill- aye

Lynne Snider- aye

Motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Committee Chair Ashley Moore asked for a **motion** to adjourn the Public Facilities and Safety meeting. **Motion** made by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider and seconded by Committee member Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Ashley Moore- aye

Erica O'Neill- aye

Lynne Snider- aye

Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



~~Ashley Moore, Committee Chair~~
Lynne Snider - Vice Chair



Traci Sturgill, Clerk of Council