

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

Attendee List:

Committee Members:

Lynne Snider- Vice Chair
Erica O'Neill

Village Officials:

Gina Kaetzel- Mayor
Traci Sturgill- Village Administrator/ Clerk
Dan Williams- Chief of Police

Guests:

Kim Billman, Tasia Savage, Dale Brussee, Amanda Lackey

Call to Order:

Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider called the Public Facilities and Safety Committee Meeting to order on September 6, 2023 @ 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken with Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider, Committee and Committee member Erica O'Neill present. Committee Chair Ashley Moore notified Mayor Kaetzel she would be absent tonight.

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

Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider asked for a **motion** to approve the business agenda for September 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:

Lynne Snider – aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Motion passed 2-0

Review/Approval of the Public Facilities and Safety Committee minutes from February 6, 2023:

Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider asked for a **motion** to approve the Public Facilities and Safety Committee minutes from February 6, 2023. **Motion** made by Committee member Erica O'Neill and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider A roll all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Erica O'Neill- aye
Lynne Snider-aye
Motion passed 2-0

Old Business-

- **Rate Study & Utility Rates-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised the committee she prepared an excel spreadsheet showing the results of the rate study that RCAP recommends. The total increase for in-town customers over the next 5 years is \$32.30 based on a 2000-thousand-gallon usage. If we follow our 110% current rates for out-of-town customers, it is making their bills much too high in Traci's opinion with these recommended increases. Committee members agreed. Discussion held: Committee members feel the rates increase is needed and should have been kept up with prior to the past 5-year increases of \$0.25 (cents) usage rate. We need to also qualify for grants and low interest loans which this does effect.

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After much discussion it was decided to accept the rate increase suggested from the rate study but only raise the out-of-town customers the same amount monthly as the in-town customers.

A **motion** was made by Council member Erica O’Neill to send to council the increase of in-town water & sewer rates as recommended by the rate study and increase the out-of-town water & sewer rates the same amount as the in-town customers are increasing. This increase will be \$32.30 over the 5-year fee schedule. **Motion** was seconded by Committee member Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye

Erica O’Neill- aye

Motion passed 2-0

➤ **Wastewater Treatment Plant-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill updated council on where we currently are with the County and the wastewater treatment plant upgrades. The County did send an email with a couple questions regarding the PER we presented to them prepared by Engineer Jeff Carr. A copy of the letter was in all council members folders tonight. The commissioners responded that they were shocked by the cost of the plant PER and felt compelled to tell us the rate will not be sustainable for the county, and they would have to look at other alternatives. Traci reminded everyone that the rate study completed by RCAP was based on the Village being stand alone with no county sales for this reason and possible future situations. After much discussion the committee decided the Village is self-sustainable on its own and feels we need to be the ones setting the utility rates for the next contracts and not the county as it has been in the past. Traci feels the Village has had “We’re going to go elsewhere” held over their heads for long enough. It’s time we take a stand on this situation. The county’s debt problems have nothing to do with the Village.

➤ **NPW Contracts-** Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised the water contract is up for renewal in 2025. We should be working on our renewal rates for the County in early 2024 with an effective date of January 1, 2025. The current sewer contract renewal is up in 2028 so those renewal rates should be worked on in early 2027 for a January 1, 2028, effective date, if the village remains the utility supplier for the County. The contracts were negotiated for over a year on the last renewals. This shouldn’t be permitted to happen when a contract is up for renewal. She also feels we should not write a contract for longer than 5 years.

Mayor Kaetzel recognized citizen Dale Brussee. Dale advised the NPW water rates are so high to their customers due to the debt the county has down in southern Perry County. They are using the income from Northern Perry County to pay for Southern Perry County that they can’t get the money out of. This has been an argument in the past with the commissioners.

➤ **TrueBlue Speed Enforcement/ School Zone-** Chief Williams spoke about the TrueBlue speed enforcement program for only school zones and only during school hours. They are speed cameras installed to help enforce speeders and keep the school children safe. The program is at no cost to the Village. The company takes care of all administrative costs. Chief is not for speed enforcement cameras all over the Village but does believe the children are the most precious commodity and we need to do everything we can to protect them. The Chief will review all tickets prior to them being issued.

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Mayor Kaetzel recognized citizen Amanda Lackey. Amanda advised her husband works nightshift and comes thru around 6:30 am and notices the school lights are flashing at this time when the middle and high school kids are walking to get to the bus stop to ride to Sheridan. She asked Chief Williams who oversees setting those flashing lights. Chief Williams advised the school oversees those. Amanda will get in contact with the school regarding those times.

Motion made by Committee member Erica O'Neill to send the TrueBlue Speed Enforcement/ School Zone program to council for approval and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all committee member's voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye

Erica O'Neill- aye

Motion passed 2-0

- **Vehicle Impounding-** Chief Williams explained the use of the Ohio Basic Code that we adopt yearly in Council. The enforcement of impounding brings a different need to a Village than the larger cities regarding situations like snow removal, vehicles in the roadway, expired tags etc. He would like to pass an ordinance to allow us to deal with some of the regular problems he is encountering on a daily basis but can't enforce.

Motion made by Committee member Erica O'Neill to direct Village Administrator Traci Sturgill to create an impound ordinance and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye

Erica O'Neill- aye

Motion passed 2-0

New Business:

- **RESOLUTION #23-11 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE BID OF AND EXECUTE WITH, WIN WASTE INNOVATIONS OF HEATH INC. FOR THE WEEKLY CURBSIDE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF RESIDENTIAL TRASH, REFUSE AND YARD WASTE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE**

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill explained to the committee that this resolution is to accept the bid for Win Waste Innovations of Heath Inc. for our next 3-year trash removal.

Motion made by Committee member Erica O'Neill to move Resolution #23-11 to council and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all committee members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Erica O'Neill- aye

Lynne Snider- aye

Motion passed 2-0

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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:

Lynne Snider- aye

Erica O'Neill- aye

Motion passed 2-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Lynne Snider, Committee Vice Chair



Traci Sturgill, Clerk of Council