

**Village of Waynesville  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

Present: Mayor Earl Isaacs  
Mr. Brian Blankenship  
Mr. Chris Colvin  
Ms. Joette Dedden  
Mr. Zack Gallagher  
Mr. Troy Lauffer  
Mrs. Connie Miller

Village Staff Present: Jeff Forbes, Law Director; Chief Gary Copeland, Village Manager and Safety Director; Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council

*CLERK’S NOTE- This is a summary of the Village Council Meeting held on Monday, October 18, 2021.*

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Mayor Isaacs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call – 7 present

**Mayor Acknowledgements**

Mayor Isaacs presented Council with a proclamation from Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, for the Federal 2020 Census. The official census for the Village of Waynesville is 2,669.

**Disposition of Previous Minutes**

Ms. Dedden made a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting on October 4, 2021 as corrected and Mr. Colvin seconded the motion.

Motion – Dedden

Second – Colvin

Roll Call – 7 yeas

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**Public Recognition/Visitor’s Comments**

Deputy Director of Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren & Clinton Counties, Tommy Koopman, addressed Council and asked for their support for the Mental Health levy renewal. He stated that it is a renewal and will not increase current property taxes. The levy will cost

homeowners approximately \$21.87 a year per 100K of house's value. Mr. Koopman further summarized the levy helps fund services to help keep families together by offering counseling and addiction recovery programs. About 1/3 of clients served are children. Mental Health Board provides a safety net for the community through several programs including a 24-hour crisis hotline. Funds are also used to form a Crisis Intervention Team to train law enforcement on how to handle crisis situations involving people with mental health issues. Mental health and addiction affects everyone in the community and with continued funding the Board can continue to meet the challenges facing the community. Mr. Koopman asked Council for support to vote for the renewal of the Mental Health levy to continue to provide these critical services to the community.

Mr. Gallagher asked if there were services to support veterans. Mr. Koopman responded that Mental Health Recovery Services has just partnered with the Dayton VA to create a suicide prevention coalition centered around veterans.

Mr. Lauffer asked approximately how many individuals are helped each year. Mr. Koopman responded that about 1,500 received services.

Mr. Colvin asked if the renewal is passed would Mental Health Recovery Services receive more funding because property values were recently increased by the County Auditor. Mr. Forbes explained that they would not receive more funding as the levy is a renewal and is based on the value of the home in 2002 when the levy first passed.

Chief Copeland wanted to stress the importance of CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) offered by the Mental Health Recovery Services free of cost to police officers.

Gus Edwards, Administrator of Wayne Township, addressed Council at Ms. Dedden's request in response to the email he sent Chief Copeland on the state of Wilkerson Lane.

Ms. Dedden went over committee meeting minutes from 2016 to present where it discussed the state of and repaving of Wilkerson. She summarized that Council is aware Wilkerson is in bad shape and needs to be repaired, however the road is minimally traveled and there are only three Village taxpayers that live along this road. In the past, the Village has reached out to the Township to see about a joint project to repave Wilkerson as more Township residents reside on this road, but the Village has not heard from the Township until recently. Ms. Dedden stated she felt Village taxpayer's money was better spent on frequently traveled roads so more taxpayers benefit from road improvements.

Mr. Edwards stated that the road belongs to the Village of Waynesville and is the Village's responsibility. He also said that there were five houses on Wilkerson that were within the Village corporate limits. Mr. Edwards indicated beside the street levy, the Village receives gas tax and motor vehicle license tax, these funds can be used to repave Wilkerson. He informed Council that he inspected Wilkerson and believes only a 500-foot section needs to be repaved. Mr. Edwards stated he thinks this section could be repaved for 5K to 10K versus around 72K for the entire road. He believes the rest of the road can be chip sealed. Mr. Edwards offered to add the road to be bid out when the Township receives bids to get a volume price.

Mr. Edwards added that there is a 250 ft section of Corwin Avenue that has been maintained by the Township that the Village is responsible for. The Township has tared, chipped, and striped this section without cost to the Village. He elaborated that Corwin Ave is 1.3 miles long and maintained by the Township. There are only 2 houses that reside in Wayne Township, the rest are part of the Village of Corwin and cemetery. He feels this is a similar situation to Wilkerson, that there are little tax dollars received but it is the Township's responsibility to upkeep the road. Ms. Dedden responded that she did not believe this was a fair comparison as Corwin Ave is a main thoroughfare and a well-traveled road and Wilkerson is not.

Mr. Lauffer recapped the history of Wilkerson Lane as he understands. He stated that in 1996, Mr. Harper, the Village Manager at the time, and Mr. Lemay, property owner, made an agreement that if a sewer line was extended up Wilkerson Lane to the Lemay property this property would be annexed into the Village. This was in hopes that the land would be commercially developed and bring income to the Village. Wilkerson Lane was annexed into the Village to connect the Lemay property to the Village. Mr. Lauffer stated that the Village owns the road and is responsible for upkeep. He also agreed with Mr. Edwards that only a few hundred feet really need attention.

Chief Copeland concurred that there was just the smaller section of the road at the base that needs attention. He also stated that the gas tax and license tax funds are set aside for a traffic light at Route 42 and North Street. Chief Copeland added that he would like to see more cooperative projects worked on together with the Township and is open to see about having that small section fixed.

At this time, Mr. Edwards and Council discussed the necessity of working together through OPWC grants or bidding roads together to get a volume discount. Mr. Edwards stated he believed that after the 500 feet of Wilkerson is repaved and leveled out, the rest of the road could be chip sealed. He offered to add Wilkerson to the list of roads to be chipped sealed when the Township gets bids, so the Village can take advantage of a volume discount.

Mr. Colvin asked Mr. Edwards if this offer to assist the Village on bidding out Wilkerson is new, or had it been offered before? He stated that he felt part of the criticism of Council is that no action has been taken on Wilkerson Road. Mr. Edwards stated that Wilkerson is the Village's road and the Village is ultimately responsible for its maintenance. Mr. Colvin said he appreciates Mr. Edwards coming tonight and believes the option presented by Mr. Edwards is a good solution but feels this offer should have been made in 2016. Mr. Edwards stated that in 2016 the road was not as bad as it currently is.

Chief Copeland said he feels repaving the 500-foot bad section of Wilkerson and then chip sealing the rest is a good solution and will not be as expensive as repaving the whole road. He would like to take advantage of the offer of bidding the chip seal project with the Township and will get with Mr. Edwards to iron out the details.

Mr. Isaacs asked Mr. Edwards opinion on the different size fire hydrant connections. Chief Copeland stated that the Village is slowly getting all the hydrants standardized through the OPWC Grants. Mr. Edwards explained that fire money has to be spent on fire and road funds

must be spent on roads. The Township has only once turned down cooperation with the Village on an OPWC Grant and that was when the firehouse was being built and fire funds were low. Mr. Edwards stated the Township only receives so much funding and they try to make it go as far as they can, but ultimately the fire hydrants are part of the Village's water system and the Village's responsibility. Ms. Morley stated the Township just received funds from the American Rescue Plan and could possibly be used for a match in a future OPWC Grant.

Council thanked Mr. Edwards for coming and Chief Copeland stated he would be in contact with Mr. Edwards.

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**Old Business**

None

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**Reports**

**Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet this Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the small conference room at the Government Center. The meeting will include several topics such as looking into the installation of an electronic message board, funding for the light at Route 42 and North Street, and water rates for 2022. The Committee will go into executive session to go over employee evaluations.

**Public Works Report**

Public Works will meet on November 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Review of ongoing and future projects will be on the agenda. The public is encouraged to attend.

**Special Committee Reports**

Personnel Committee met this evening. The Committee approved past meeting minutes and went over Council's yearly reviews of the Village Manager and Finance Director. Plan to take the recommendations to the Finance Committee. Also, requesting an executive session at the next Council meeting to go over the reviews with Ms. Crockett and Chief Copeland.

**Village Manager Report**

- Brown Paving did a great job on Adamsmoor and Mill Street. Ellis is currently on the list for next spring and possibly 500 feet on Wilkerson. Would like to accept the offer to get bids with the Township for chip and sealing the rest of Wilkerson. Third

and Fourth Streets should be repaved as part of the OPWC Grant. Do not want to repave Dayton Road until the school is done with construction projects. They are getting ready to start the planning for the fourth phase of the project.

- Provided property tax information from the County Auditor. Mr. Forbes will talk about seeking exemptions for these properties in his report.
- Warren County Mental Health Recovery Services were here tonight to talk about their levy renewal. This entity offers crisis intervention training for police officers free of charge.
- Sauerkraut Festival went well with no issues. The Command Vehicle worked great and was clearly marked and visible to all those needing assistance.
- 100 tons of salt has been delivered.
- Additional lighting, ceiling fans, and outlets have been installed in the cold barn. These updates are a great benefit and helps to preserve the life of Village equipment.
- Census certification from the State Auditor has been received.
- Trick-or-Treat is scheduled in the Village on October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## **Police Report**

- Dispatch calls for service and September Mayor's Court report have been provided.
- Several code enforcement citations are being served today for code violations.
- Thank you to Chief Terrill of Clearcreek Township for use of the two speed trailers during the Sauerkraut Festival.
- Thank you to the Grubb family for delivering Cookies for Cops.
- Drug Interdiction Officer, Lt. Bledsoe made a felony arrest for 400 grams of marijuana and tools for distribution.
- Ashley and I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new County jail and Sheriff's office. Prisoners should start being moved over to the new jail next week. The new jail will be able to accommodate 530 prisoners, which is double the current amount.

## **Financial Director Report**

None

## **Law Report**

- The Village received a tax bill for a couple Village owned properties. Mr. Forbes explained that properties qualify for tax exemption if used exclusively for a public purpose. The

Bowman property does not qualify for exemption because it is leased out as farmland. However, the land on Creekview is a retention pond and should fall under the requirements. Mr. Forbes stated his firm will research more and file with the County if the other two properties qualify for exemption.

**New Business**

None

**Legislation**

**First Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Second Reading of Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Tabled Ordinances and Resolutions**

None

**Executive Session**

None

All were in favor to adjourn at 8:07 pm.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jamie Morley, Clerk of Council