

**Village of Clinton
Council Meeting Minutes of
January 5, 2021**

Mayor Clarissa Allega called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan Smith and recited by those present.

Roll call of Council Members: Marissa Gensimore, Bud McDaniel, Lewis Rash, Kent Goch; Ellen Conroy and Jan Godwin all voted yes and are present.

Others Present: Fire Chief Conroy; Marshal Pitchford, Solicitor; New Franklin Police Officer; Diane Gunter and Susan Smith, residents, and Terry Siegenthaler, Street Commissioner.

Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2020

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to approve the minutes as written, second by Mr. Rash.

Roll Call: Rash, Gensimore, Godwin, Conroy, and Goch voted yes, Mr. McDaniel abstained. Motion passes.

Appointment of the President of Council

Mrs. Gensimore made the motion to nominate Bud McDaniel as the President of Council, seconded by Mr. Rash.

Roll Call: Gensimore, McDaniel, Godwin, Conroy, Goch and Rash voted yes. Motion passes.

Appointment of the Vice President of Council

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to nominate Mr. Goch as Vice President, second by Mrs. Gensimore. Roll Call: McDaniel, Godwin, Conroy, Goch, Rash and Gensimore, voted yes. Motion passes.

Appointment of the Street Commissioner – Mayor Allega appointed Mr. Siegenthaler as the Street Commissioner.

Appointment of the Solicitor – Mayor Allega indicated we approved the contract at the end of 2020, so this appointment is for the next two years.

Appointment of the Records Commission – It was stated that we have never found a citizen who was willing to serve on this Commission. This needs to happen and Mayor Allega will work on this. We will ask Sue Mayberry about being the secretary again on this Commission. Any citizen who would like to be on this Commission is welcome to serve on this Commission. Even those who are already serving on one of our other boards or commissions.

Solicitors Report: Mr. Pitchford said he has been very busy working on a number of projects and will defer to fill everyone in later.

Police Report: The report was read aloud to those present by a New Franklin police officer.

Fire Chief Report: Chief Conroy read his monthly report to those present. He then shared a Levy money form showing money coming in. He gave a breakdown of the money coming in versus going out. Council took this time to review the information he presented and the Chief explained the content to the questions that were asked. Chief Conroy indicated the future equipment needs; one is an ambulance. He explained what it would cost to run a fire department with two part time people, 24/7 @ \$18, and one full time employee 24.7, including healthcare, OP&F, etc. For us to run a department and put money away for other necessary incidentals we will need about \$550 to 600K per year. Payroll would take up about 70% of the budget. Thirty percent would be operating expenses. He shared different items that will need replaced/fixed in the near future. The engine is 25 years old and is in good shape, and does not need replaced right now. Mr. Pitchford asked the chief to further explain some of the numbers presented. From what was discussed, the total needed over the next 10 years will be approximately \$1.2 million. Mr. Pitchford stated that he has been working with the Chief on this. He advised Council that if the Village has any aspirations of running their own Fire Department, they will need \$1.2 million dollars in extra funds and an additional \$450,000 per year in operations. Mr. Pitchford said if things don't work out with the fire contract, and we have to fund our own fire department, from a planning perspective, we have to start working backwards. So, looking at funds for fire levies, one of those levies expires this year, collections end next year, 2022. We clearly have a shortfall of approximately \$100,000 a year for capital expenses at a minimum if nothing else changes, so how do we fill that gap? A traditional way of doing that is a property tax question on the ballot. If we want to do that before this levy expires, and give ourselves several chances at the ballot in case it doesn't work out the first time, we have to pass separate pieces of legislation and a filing deadline with the Board of Elections is February 3, 2021. So, we have to figure out what the shortfall would be if we do a 5-year, 10 year, or a permanent plan. There are pros and cons to all three plans based on how much money we would raise and whether it refreshes or not. He explained further to council the revenue for the three choices and what council feels the community would accept. He said if we want to do a property tax levy starting in 2022, we need to put this on the May 4th ballot and legislation is needed at the next meeting to start that process. He will talk to the County regarding what the millage should be to generate what is needed and decide at the Feb. 2, 2021 meeting so he can write it up. Should it be permanent? A five year? Or create a new levy entirely. Mayor Allega stated there is a Safety Committee meeting already scheduled on January 19 which is before the next Council Meeting. This will allow the committee to dig into what Marshal is sharing with us. Mrs. Gensimore asked Mr. Pitchford if it's prudent to schedule a meeting sooner than the 19th. Mr. Pitchford said the process is a two-step process and we have to pass a resolution asking the fiscal officer to certify and send back the value of any proposed amount of village and send back to us. Once the fiscal officer returns, we attach to the next resolution we pass and it goes to the board of elections before 4PM on the 3rd. We have to wait on the county on the first step. We can still pass the first one and if we don't do the second step, we are still Ok. We need to do both of those – we can always pull out. Mrs. Gensimore said there is a lot to digest and it may take more than one meeting.

Mr. Pitchford further explained that the Village has 4 fire levies right now. Three of them are permanent. They live on forever – will never expire. The fourth one expires the end of this year. It will be collected in 2022 because the collection always follows the following year. Technically, the Village has until the end of 2022 to pass a levy, but we are planning ahead in the event the voters reject and we have to pivot to find other resources. Mr. McDaniel said we have to put something on the ballot and it might be better if it's a renewal instead of an increase. Mr. Pitchford said if we let the 4th levy expire, or it fails, we lose roughly \$97K of income to the

Village. Mr. McDaniel asked what can we put on the ballot that is most likely to pass? Mayor Allega said we take a chance that it fails no matter what.

Mrs. Gensimore said if you look at the reasoning behind why all this hard work was done, it may be more palatable and understandable. Mr. Pitchford said we need to have a number, by the next meeting and it's almost double. Information would need to be circulated to the community about if your house is worth this much money, what it will now cost you.

Mr. Pitchford explained to Mr. Rash how revenue is generated in Ohio as Mr. Rash had a question relative to this issue.

There will be Safety Committee Meeting on January 12, 2021 @ 7:00 PM.

Mr. Pitchford stated that he would suggest the committee comes up with a general dollar amount that we can work backwards to prepare legislation for the following week. He will contact Summit County who will tell him how much we want to raise and he will be told the amount of millage to generate the money we need.

Street Commissioner Report: Mr. Siegenthaler got a backhoe rental after the Village's backhoe was picked up for repair. Should be done in 5 to 7 days.

He reported that a park ranger approached him and brought up boundary issues and alluded that according to a County map, Metro Parks owns the Street Department building. Mr. Siegenthaler said the Village had a survey done when that building was constructed and it is on Village property. We have the survey map. He also reported that the survey pins have been found. He asked the solicitor what will it take to get this corrected at the County. Mr. Pitchford said it can be a simple phone call to get this corrected. Metro Parks does own the park next to the Village property. If the surveys conflict, Metros and ours, then it would be an issue. Mr. Pitchford will look at the documentation on this.

Mrs. Gensimore said the Main Street bridge is looking bad. Mr. Siegenthaler said it's not our bridge and we are not allowed to do anything to it. Bridges do get inspected.

Mayor Allega said Summit County has drafted an MOU for service departments saying if during the next few months our service department crew cannot plow due to COVID, they will set up a pool of Summit County hired employees we can call to help us. They will send us somebody. Only if our staff has COVID. It is \$22/hour and they would use our equipment. We can get on the list and have the benefit of a backup and we are charged only if we use the help. Mayor Allega will forward the MOU to Council for the next meeting.

Mr. Rash asked about training someone when Mr. Siegenthaler retires. The mayor said that is something we need to talk about in HR committee.

Zoning Inspector Written Report: Our Zoning Inspector, Jeff Ferjutz, could not be here tonight so Mayor Allega read aloud his 6-month report he emailed her.

Mayor's Report of Village Affairs: Mayor Allega read aloud her 2020 Report of Village Affairs. (attached to official minutes record)

Fiscal Officer's Report: No report.

Unfinished Business – No report.

Mayor's Communications: Reported in Report of Village Affairs and information about the County MOU was already presented. The COVID vaccines are rolling out but the supply is limited. New school guidelines are coming.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports – Mr. Rash thanked everyone for what they did this year for helping him out and wished everyone a good New Years to come and the citizens of our Village. He enjoyed the first year, the good and bad, but I made it through the first one.

Mr. McDaniel said he will help train anyone on the new system of live streaming the meetings at the Village. It is very well set up and is not hard to do.

Mrs. Conroy stated that we tried to bring a little normalcy back – Lewis dressed up like Santa and she said she could not have asked for a better Santa. So many in the Village were so appreciative of this happening bringing holiday cheer.

Citizen Comments – Susan Smith commented about selling her house and issues with the septic. Is there any sewer update? Mayor Allega said they are waiting for Summit County and Stark County to conclude negotiations.

Resolutions and Ordinances (No First, Second or Third Readings)

New Business – Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to change the 2021 Council and Committee Meetings scheduled on Tuesday, May 4th to Thursday, May 6th and the meetings scheduled on Tuesday, November 2nd to Thursday, November 4th due to the Elections be held at Village Hall on those dates, second by Mr. Rash.

Roll call: Conroy, Godwin, Gensimore, McDaniel, Rash, and Goch, all voted yes. Motion passes.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adopt the Standard Committee Meeting Schedule for 2021, second by Mr. Rash.

Roll Call: Rash, Gensimore, Goch, McDaniel, Godwin, and Conroy, all voted yes. Motion passes.

Council General Discussion: Everyone was very happy with Lewis being Santa this year.

Mrs. Gensimore said in looking at our agenda in comparison to what came out and what is in our ordinances, how the agenda should look it seems we are going to have to do some revisions.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the purchase orders and bills, second by Mr. Rash.

Roll call: Goch, Rash, Conroy, Godwin, Gensimore and McDaniel, all voted yes. Motion passes.

Motion was made by Mrs. Godwin to adjourn, second by Mr. Rash. The meeting was adjourned.



Leah Weirick, Village Fiscal Officer



Mayor Clarissa Allega



Bud McDaniel, President of Council