

**Village of Clinton**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shawn Braman and recited by those present.

Council Members present: Matt Steiner, Ellen Conroy, Marissa Gensimore, and Rita Joseph. Ross Blankenship and Janice Godwin were absent.

Others Present: Shawn Braman, Northwest Schools Superintendent; Deborah Clark, Northwest Schools Curriculum Director; Stef Fakelis, Northwest Schools Treasurer; Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; and Diane Gunter, resident.

**Presentation** – Northwest Schools Levy Renewal

Mr. Shawn Braman introduced Deborah Clark and Stef Fakelis. He then addressed council about the upcoming 1% earned-income levy renewal and wanted to let everyone know it's on March 19. The renewal levy is to expand student programming, attract and retain the best teachers they can find as they have lost many teachers for more money. Facility improvements are the third item they want to be able to accomplish with this renewal. He provided handouts with all they have done over the past years and reminded everyone that their website also provides a question-and-answer section and graphs on their finances to be transparent.

Mr. Steiner asked about the renewal and that median income has increased in Canal Fulton and Clinton. He questioned what is being done with those extra dollars. Mr. Braman said we have had very lean times and have done a lot of belt tightening. We continue to be very careful with our money. Today, combining that with that and some of the Federal Money from COVID, we have a lot of carryover to maintain our facilities. Also, at the high school are looking at adding a greenhouse for the science curriculum and a weight room. There are also plans for the property that was just purchased. This 1% is really to maintain what we have. Mr. Steiner said our income tax in Clinton has gone up 33% in the last 6/7 years. That's a big difference of money coming into the schools. Mr. Braman said since COVID, the price of things has gone up as well. Mr. Steiner said Canal Fulton has seen a 45% increase in household median income and ours is single digit.

Mrs. Fakelis added that Canal Fulton has had a lot of families move in and seniors have shifted to other types of housing. Both parents are working too. Mr. Braman said that shows we are doing the right thing – people want to move here.

Mr. Steiner added that as a community, we went from no income tax, to a 1% in Clinton and 1% to the schools – from 0 to 2%. We don't have our own police department and our fire department is a constant effort, and in the future, it puts us in a bad spot if we need another half or one percent when we are at 2% now. We don't have sewer or water either. We have to be careful with our taxing situation.

Mrs. Gensimore stated this is an investment in our future. Mr. Steiner said that Northwest is number one in academics. Some brochures were left at Village Hall for the public to pick up if they want.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2024 as written, second by Mr. Steiner.

Roll Call: Joseph, Gensimore, Steiner, and Conroy voted yes. Motion passes.

**Solicitor Monthly Report** – Not in attendance.

**Fiscal Officer's Report** – No report.

### **Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Gensimore said we had looked at our meeting schedule and didn't realize there is going to be a primary election on March 19 – the third Tuesday.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to move meetings that are scheduled on March 19 to Thursday, March 21, second by Mrs. Conroy.

Roll Call: Conroy, Steiner, Joseph, and Gensimore voted yes. Motion passes.

### **Mayor's Communications**

Mayor McDaniel presented an employment application for the fire department. Brandon Minor comes highly recommended by our fire chief. He still needs a background check.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to approve the hiring of Brandon Minor upon completion of a background check, second by Mr. Steiner.

Roll Call: Gensimore, Steiner, Conroy, and Joseph voted yes. Motion passes.

The mayor indicated he attended the Emergency Management Executive Meeting. One item discussed was the upcoming solar eclipse. They recommend everyone to stay home as you will be safer. He indicated where events will be in the area on that day. There will be a lot of traffic issues and eye injuries so hospitals are preparing.

### **Council Communications and Council Committee Reports**

Mrs. Gensimore reported on the 6:00 PM Community Development Committee meeting. Discussed was the suggestion from the New Franklin Police that we put a citizens complaint form on our website. Another concern after review was would that go beyond our expenses/contract with our web manager. It won't be a cost for us as we have two revisions per year. The committee voted to recommend to council that we have a concern page put on the website – a link they can click on.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion that we vote to add a "report a concern" page to our website for our citizens, second by Mrs. Conroy.

Mr. Steiner asked if our other meetings and updates are going to be put on our website and Mrs. Weirick indicated that we are working on it.

Roll Call: Steiner, Conroy, Joseph, and Gensimore voted yes. Motion passes.

Mrs. Gensimore said she will speak to our web designer. She then reported that Memorial Day was discussed. If anyone has any suggestions about advertising it, donations for raffle, volunteers, etc. Regarding the ceremony at the cemetery or the parade, please contact Mrs. Gensimore.

What was also suggested was a movie night and we will look into the liability of doing that regarding insurance – all the parameters about what this would take to do it. Maybe sponsor an event once a month.

She also asked for newsletter articles by February 27. All departments have been reached out to for an article.

**Citizens Comments** – No comments.

### **Resolutions and Ordinances**

#### **First Reading**

##### **Resolution No. R-24-01**

A Resolution Authorizing all Actions Necessary to Accept Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2024 Energized Community Grant.

Mrs. Weirick said we have just over \$3,200 to request a reimbursement from them from 2023's grant for our radar sign. We will get another \$2,722 from them. There is a portion we pay. We can get more solar signs as well using this type of grant. That was our plan. We can use all over the Village. There might be other grants other than NOPEC out there as well.

#### **New Business**

Mrs. Gensimore brought up the number of Canadian geese down at the pond. They are a nuisance. There are communities that do things to get rid of them. Mr. Steiner indicated that dogs, spraying the lawn, etc., didn't work at Luna Lake. To have a controlled shooting, you have to get the geese that are born here. That can take years. Ideas such as using a "cut out" of a coyote placed in the immediate area to scare them off was talked about.

#### **Council General Discussion**

Mr. Steiner sent everyone an email about how to enter the blocked railroad track information. There are a lot of steps to follow to do this which is not a great reporting system.

Mayor McDaniel stopped at the fire department and talked to Mr. Yohey and he said he could keep track of it. It's a matter of entering the data once we have the numbers. The mayor is going to be meeting with Hudson's city planner regarding the track issue.

#### **Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval**

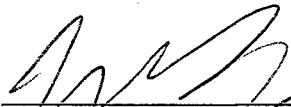
Mr. Steiner highlighted Gatchell-Grant Resources in the amount of \$13,741.50. a grant writing fee for the fire truck. We pay if we win the grant and get the truck - a commission on the dollars received.

Mr. Steiner made a motion to approve the purchase orders and bills in the amount of \$34,632.82, second by Mrs. Conroy.

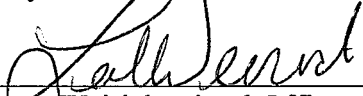
Roll Call: Conroy, Joseph, Gensimore, and Steiner voted yes. Motion passes.

Mrs. Gensimore added that there is a field trip planned for Northwest's fourth graders to come to visit the OVMP and Mrs. Gensimore will be bringing a group to Village Hall, Harter House, and walk downtown to give them a history of Clinton.

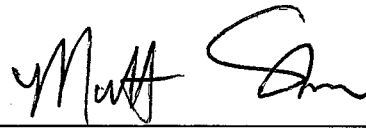
Mr. Steiner made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 PM, and was seconded by Mrs. Conroy. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer



Matt Steiner, President of Council