

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF VILLAGE
OF EAST SPARTA, COUNTY OF STARK AND STATE OF OHIO
HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON OCTOBER 15, 2007.**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. The Mayor led Council and visitors in reciting The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following members present; Mayor Jackie Truax, Council Members Charlene Stelluto, Michael Caudill, Chris Freitag, Marlene Gray, Robert Smith, Kenneth Byrd and Clerk-Treasurer Rice. Visitors included; Joe Kostic (Village Coordinator), Robert Cyperski (Village Solicitor), Karen Mundy (Press News), Arnie Adams (E.S. Fire Dept.), Brandon Muir (Tri-Division Ambulance), Paul Hanood (E.S. Fire Dept.), Chief Hager (Magnolia PD), Doug Baum (Pike Township Trustee), and resident Patricia Byrd.

Chief Hager presented the Police Report to Council. For September there were; 14 Traffic Arrests, 2 Juvenile Traffic, 1 DUI Arrests, 1 Crash Report, 1 Misdemeanor Arrest, 0 Felony Arrests and 14 Reports.

Adams addressed Council. Adams stated that he was in attendance to discover what Council's intentions were for the new fire levy. Adams stated that the fire department would like the Village to place a new levy of 2 mills on the ballot to increase the amount paid by the Village to the fire department. Adams stated that expenses have risen over the years; equipment is antiquated and needs replaced. Adams stated that the fire department cannot continue to exist on the \$10,000.00 fee the Village has been paying.

Baum addressed Council. Baum stated that he was in attendance to also endorse a 2 mill new fire levy for the Village. Baum stated that the township has already replaced one of their fire levies and are waiting for the Village to step up before they place the second levy on the ballot as a replacement. Baum stated that he did not believe it was fair to township residents for the Village to pay less than 2 mills for fire protection while the township was paying 2 mills. Baum stated that the township would not be happy with less than a 2 mill levy being placed on the ballot. Baum also asked about the CEDA agreement.

Muir addressed Council. Muir stated that he was seeking the endorsement of Council for Tri-Division's new replacement levy of 4 mills. Muir stated that Tri-Division was in need of the increase and was also seeking donations.

The minutes of the September 17th meeting were read. Freitag made motion to accept minutes as read, seconded by Caudill. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer presented the Financial Reports to Council for their consideration. The reports included; Warrant Register, Receipt Register, Bank Reconciliation, Revenue Status, Fund Status and Appropriation Status. Smith made motion to pay the bills totaling \$78,914.67, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Mayor presented the Mayor's Cash Report to Council. There was \$576.00 collected with \$120.00 going to the state. Freitag made motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Stelluto. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

O-9-07-8 3rd reading of ordinance to hire Solicitor as Tuscarawas County Prosecutor for Village. Byrd made motion to accept ordinance as presented, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, ordinance passed.

The Mayor stated that Council needs to make decision of millage to send to the Board of elections for the fire levy. The certification amounts received from the Stark County Auditor were; 1 mill - \$10,060.00, 1.25 mills - \$12,576.00, 1.5 mills - \$15,091.00 and 1.75 mills - \$17,606.00. Rice stated that 2 mill would be approximately \$20,000.00 which would be almost double what the old levy was which brought in \$10,600.00. Byrd stated that he has been told by several residents that they would not vote for any increase in taxes at all and may not vote for current amounts. Smith stated that he also has been informed of the same unrest concerning taxes. The fire department and the Pike Township Trustees stated that the Village should just place the 2 mills on the ballot and let the residents decide. Caudill addressed Baum and asked if the Village places 2 mills on the ballot and the levy fails, what is the township willing to do to help the Village? With the failure of the levy to be placed on the November ballot, the Village could be facing a hardship except for the generosity of the Solicitor to pay the \$10,000.00 for 2008. Caudill stated that if the new levy fails the Village would have to rob Peter to pay Paul and just wondered what the township was willing to do since they are pushing for the 2 mills. Baum stated that he would speak with the other Trustees at their meeting. It was decided to have several Town Meetings to allow the fire department to educate the residents of their situation prior to sending the question to the Board of Elections. There will be a Town Meeting on November 4th at 3:00 PM and November 5th at 7:00 PM. With both meetings to be held at the fire station. There will also be a Special Meeting of Council on November 12th at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building to discuss the question of the levy prior to a final decision at the regular meeting of Council.

O-12-07-10 contract between the Village and the Canton Prosecutor for a two year period at \$5,300.00. Smith made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Smith made motion to accept contract as presented, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Clerk-Treasurer reported the amounts assessed Village property by the Muskingum Watershed. The Village total was \$840.00, broken down as follows; Park - \$468.00, Civic Association - \$60.00, Fire Department - \$24.00, Cemetery - \$108.00 and Village \$180.00. Freitag made motion for the Clerk to invoice the Fire Dept., Civic Assoc. and Park for their portions of the assessments, seconded by Byrd. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Caudill made motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, Executive Session entered into at 8:03 PM. Freitag made motion to Exit Executive Session, seconded by Smith. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, Session exited at 8:20 PM.

O-13-07-10 1st reading Village pay ordinance. Smith made motion to establish a 3% pay raise to Kostic, Boston and Rice, seconded by Freitag.

R-15-07-10 resolution accepting amounts set forth by Stark County Auditor. Smith made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Caudill. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Caudill made motion to pass

resolution as presented, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Cyperski stated that he had forwarded copies of the CEDA received from Attorney Hall. Cyperski stated that he has already addressed one issue with Hall concerning placing a Pike Township resident on the Park Board. This can only be accomplished if the resident lives in the Village per the Ohio Revised Code. Cyperski also to address the zoning issue with Hall and will report back to Council.

The Mayor presented the Park Board Minutes to Council.

Joe presented the Coordinators Report to Council. Kostic reported the paving and striping has been completed. He and Jerry are preparing the equipment for winter. Kostic asked Council about snow removal and ice control. Caudill made motion to leave it to Kostic's discretion to use either all salt or a salt/cinder mixture depending on the situation, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Water Board minutes were presented to Council

The Mayor stated that a meeting on November 1st was scheduled for the census. The Mayor asked for volunteers to attend the meeting with her. Stelluto volunteered to attend the meeting with the Mayor.

Stelluto made motion to adjourn, seconded by Freitag. Meeting adjourned 9:01 PM.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer