



**RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Norris, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen, and Waszak. **ABSENT:** Hudak

MOTION: TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF MR. HUDAK.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Wheeler, Police Chief Swanson, Fire Chief Seifert, Finance Director Turk, IT Director Baker, Recreation Director Piepsny, Planning & Zoning Director Frantz, Service Director Waldemarson, and Law Director Chojnacki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 25, 2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

Moved by Norris, seconded by Philippbar. YAY: Beshara, Norris, and Philippbar.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2023 REGULAR MEETING, AS AMENDED.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

MAYOR'S REPORT

I am asking Council to approve my appointment of Adam Shipley and Nicholas Mancini to the position of full-time Fire Medics after Chief Seifert reads their Bio.

I am asking Council to wave 3rd reading and adopt Resolution 46-2023. Since we will not have another meeting for 28 days this will allow us to start the program on time.

Richfield Troop 387 has a new Eagle Scout, Sam Kmet. He made benches at the UCC for the retirement village to use.

We attended the Richfield Chamber Luncheon and heard the state of the Township. All is well financially. We will be discussing the upcoming 3 year contracts for safety forces.

We had discussions with Civic Plus regarding their agenda software. We have a live demo Tuesday the 27th.



Tuesday, we had the ground breaking ceremony for the Richfield Brewing Company. I am thrilled to be a part of this exciting milestone that signifies not only progress but also the preservation of our rich heritage.

The Richfield Chamber of Commerce had their Links for Education fundraiser last Wednesday. It was sold out. The lunch was great, the golf was fun and the dinner was awesome.

Today we had 2 econ development meetings, both went well.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Swanson – Police

Report:

The Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention completed our 2023 Annual Inspection of the Richfield Village Jail. I'm pleased to report that we are 100% compliant with the Essential Standards and at least 90% compliant with the Important Standards and again met the requirements of a "Compliant Jail" for 2023. I want to thank Sergeant Kellackey and Officer Padula for all their efforts with the inspection. I have completed the fairly in-depth process of the recertification process with the Ohio Collaborative/Community-Police Advisory Board for: Use of Force, Recruitment and Hiring, Community Engagement, Body Worn Cameras, Telecommunicator Training, Bias Free Policing and Investigation of Employee Misconduct. We also just received group certification for Vehicular Pursuits. Just a reminder, the Ohio Collaborative is a 12-person panel of law enforcement experts and community leaders from throughout the state. The standards they set forth hold everyone accountable and instill a greater confidence with the public. The Collaborative works closely with partners, including the community and law enforcement agencies, to continually implement new standards. All law enforcement agencies are expected to meet or exceed these standards as they develop policies and procedures to meet all the new expectations.

I want to thank the Amvets Post 176 Riders, for providing the police and fire departments with 16 Sensory bags, for our first responders to use to help calm those Autism Spectrum and others with sensory needs during stressful situations.



On June 13th Steve Schmidt, Billy Greenleaf and Post Commander Dave Mruk presented Chief Siefert and I with the kits. I would ask for a motion for council to accept this donation and recognize the Amvets Post 176 Riders.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF SENSORY BAGS FOR THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND RECOGNIZE AMVETS POST 176 RIDERS.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Chief Seifert– Fire

Report:

- 1) I am recommending the hiring of Nicholas Mancini to the position of Full-time Fire/Medic. Mr. Mancini has an associate degree in Fire Science from the University of Akron. He was previously employed full-time at Warrensville Heights. He also works part-time at the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. He also worked at The City of East Cleveland. We are excited to have Nick join our team.
- 2) I am recommending the hiring of Adam Shipley to the position of full-time Fire/Medic. Mr. Shipley Mr. Shipley is currently employed as a part-time fire medic for Twinsburg and Highland Hills fire departments. He was previously employed by Donald Martens & Son ambulance service. We are excited for Adam to join our team.
- 3) Lt. Urban is working on submitting our grant to the Bureau of Workers Compensation. We are hoping that we get approval to purchase new extrication tools to replace the older gas and hydraulic ones that are on the engine.
- 4) We had the floors resurfaced under the warranty last weekend. They look great!
- 5) We mutual aided Brecksville last week for two residential structure fires. Our crews did an outstanding job in helping extinguish the fires. Great job by all!
- 6) I would like to thank the Richfield AmVets for the donation of autism bags for both police and fire department vehicles. The bags include items to reduce noise, visual stimulus toys and soothing toys. The donation is greatly appreciated.
- 7) The drone team is up and running. Members have been practicing on shift. There is a drone training course late in June we will be attending. So do not be alarmed if you see a drone flying overhead during the day.



MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF NICHOLAS MANCINI TO THE POSITION OF FULL-TIME FIRE/MEDIC.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ADAM SHIPLEY TO THE POSITION OF FULL-TIME FIRE/MEDIC.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Chief Seifert thanked Council and the mayor for these hires, noting that they were chosen from a pool of 35 applicants. The mayor swore in Mancini and Shipley.

Recreation – Director Piepsny

Report:

Administrative Duties:

Multiple showings of Fellowship Hall and Masonic Hall.

Staff purchased snacks and last-minute goods for the summer camp.

Staff Meeting with Mayor.

First concert held on the Green with the Pop Tarts.

Worked the Bee Pollinator event on June 11 event at Eastwoods Preserve.

Attended Joint Planning and Zoning Meeting.

Had Cooler unit repaired in Johnson Barn.

Rentals:

Rentals for Fellowship and Masonic Hall have slowed during the summer months as people are outside more. Rentals, however, continue.

Recreation:

Broadview Heights Recreation Center Voucher update as of May 31st, there were 87 vouchers picked up since January 1st for a total of 205 resident individuals using the voucher program. Total cost for the program since January 1, 2023 is \$17,600.55. We are working with Broadview Heights to try to get a report of how many are renewals from last years start of the program.

Self-Defense classes started this past week. We had 7 registered for the Self-Defense class for women.



We currently are looking for instructors for the 2023 Fall/Winter classes. If there is anyone that has a unique hobby or skill set that they would like to teach as a class, we are currently looking and

Director Waldemarson – Service

Report:

1. Conducting interviews for two open full-time positions in the streets/highway department.
2. Working with contractors on replacement force main project pump station #2
3. Working with contractor installing underground conduit Grant Street extension.
4. Revere Road repaving started the week of June 5, 2023.
5. Crack sealing is scheduled to start June 19, 2023.
6. Held preconstruction meeting with contractor for Congress Parkway extension.
7. Held preconstruction meeting with Meridian building 3791 Brecksville Road project.
8. Working with architect on exterior repairs and upgrades to both Historical and Fellowship buildings.
9. Working with architect on pole barn exterior material and color for Eastwood Preserve.

Construction of the basketball court began yesterday. It should be ready by Community Day. The salt bin location has been identified as 3921 Brecksville Road. The Eastwood Preserve pole barn would be 24x24, with an 8x24 lean-to at the back of the building. Waszak suggested a steeper pitch for more of a Western Reserve design. He would also like a Buildings & Grounds meeting about the 3921 Brecksville Road building, but he will be out of town until July 1. Philippbar said the discussion could begin at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on June 27.

Philippbar complimented Waldemarson on the landscaping at the former Consolidated Freightways property. Beshara asked about moving the Tree City USA sign on Wheatley Road to a different spot. Wheeler said he could look into that.

Director Baker – Information Technology

Report:



- Surplus computers were sold yesterday.
- New switches came in; they will be worked on next week.
- Email migration will begin tomorrow.

Director Frantz – Planning & Zoning

Report:

1) At their June 15th meeting, the Planning Commission took the following actions:

- a) recommended approval of the proposed locations for six pickle ball courts and two tennis courts as illustrated on drawings created by Rob Morgan and dated June 5, 2023;
- b) provided final plan approval to construct an addition to an existing truck and transfer terminal located at 3774 Congress Parkway;
- c) provided an exception to the lot width to depth ratio required in Section 6.9.1 of the Subdivision Regulations;
- d) approved a request to install a double-faced ground sign (4'x4') on the property located at 3649 Brecksville Road;
- e) approved paint colors for the buildings located at 3920 Broadview Road & 4654 W. Streetsboro Road;
- f) approved a conditional zoning certificate for Angel Accents to operate a childcare center from the property located at 3333 Brecksville Road;
- g) approved a conditional zoning certificate for Westshore Homes to operate a facility for office and light assembly use on the property located at 4170 Highlander Parkway Suite #100;
- h) approved a request to replace windows at the property located at 4037 Broadview Road; and
- i) established an information hearing at the June 27th meeting to discuss the Council proposed text amendment to Sections 1103.03 and 1181.15 of the Planning and Zoning Code pertaining to the regulation of portable storage containers.

Pursuant to Section 1173.07 (d) of the Planning and Zoning Code, Village Council has 30 days to either waive their "call-up" authority in connection with the permit issued to Westshore Homes or Council can exercise its review authority and have final approval over the application and any related conditions.

Pursuant to Section 1173.07 (d) of the Planning and Zoning Code, Village Council has 30 days to either waive their "call-up" authority in connection with the permit issued to Angel Accents or Council can exercise its review authority and have final approval over the application and any related conditions.

2) The Summit County Building Department issued a condemnation order for the structures located at 4253 Hart Road. The Law Director has properly noticed the property ownership of the County orders and the Administration is prepared to proceed with the nuisance abatement. As such, we have received quotes from demolition contractors and are prepared to award the contract based on the low bid of \$22,320. We have coordinated with the Finance Department and the Finance Director has moved unused funds from the Capital



budget to cover the \$22,320. If Council concurs, we will proceed with noticing the demolition of 4253 Hart Road in the Akron Beacon Journal. I anticipate the project completion to be the middle of July.

Recommendations/Considerations: Consideration of conditional zoning certificates for: Angel Accents and Westshore Homes. Approval of \$22,320 financial appropriation for 4253 Hart Road nuisance abatement.

MOTION: TO WAIVE CALL-UP AUTHORITY FOR THE CONDITIONAL ZONING CERTIFICATES FOR ANGEL ACCENTS AND WESTSHORE HOMES.
Moved by Stoppenhagen, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

The plans for the sports courts call for two tennis courts and six pickleball courts. There is also another court that can serve as the third tennis court or the seventh and eighth pickleball courts. Piepsny said the plan also addresses the parking situation with 39 new parking spots in the former salt storage area. The mayor said the salt and mulch will move to 3921 Brecksville Road. Philipbar asked about the height of the fences. Wheeler said it would be eight feet like the baseball fence, but the baseball fence could be increased to 10 feet. Turk said the budget for this project is \$350,000. Wheeler noted that Hudson spent \$1.2 million on its courts last year, although they built more courts. Beshara asked about lights. Wheeler said the wiring could be installed first, with the lights possibly following in a later phase of the project. Stoppenhagen asked if the basketball court builder could do this job as well. Wheeler said he could bid on it.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE LOCATION OF THE TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Norris. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Director Turk – Finance

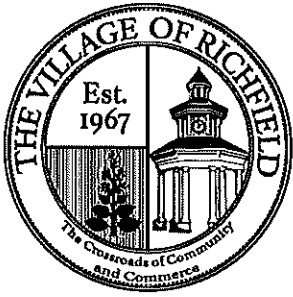
Report :

2023 Financials

Through June 15th, we collected \$15,805,694 of the \$35,810,667 budgeted for all funds revenue, or 44.1% of the budget. In 2022, we collected \$33,529,586 in total. On the expenditure side, \$14,764,369 was expended overall by the Village through June 15, or 33.4% of the \$44,181,166 budgeted for expenditures. The expected rate through mid-May should be approximately 45.8% of the budget being expended. In 2022, we expended \$34,787,367. Looking only at the General Fund, 46.1% of the revenues have been collected and 43.1% of the budget was expended.

Income Tax Refunds

Staff processed income tax refunds totaling \$323,133. Of this amount, \$181,481 (56%) were for individuals who are employed by Richfield companies, but they worked from home living in other



communities. We received \$181,764 from individuals who are employed by entities in other communities but live in Richfield and worked from home. Last year through May, \$391,632 of refunds were processed.

Recommendations/Considerations:

Consider suspending third reading and adopting Resolution Number 45-2023 for appropriations items that is on the agenda for second reading. Adoption is requested for Police to be able to order the BAC Breathalyzer machine that takes ten months to get in and for Service to proceed with the guardrail replacement project.

Legislation:

A. Resolution No. 45 -2023 To make appropriations for current expenses and other of the Village of Richfield, and declaring an emergency

This resolution is submitted for second reading, consideration of suspending third reading, and consideration of adoption. Adoption is requested to allow Police to order the BAC Breathalyzer machine that takes ten months to get in and for Service to proceed with the guardrail program. Total appropriations reflect a net increase of \$15,663.71. Service needed an additional \$25,000 for the guardrail replacement project bringing the total project cost to \$50,000. Service also indicated that the crack sealing program can be reduced by \$25,000 to capture the savings by doing some of the sealing in-house. We were also notified that in June we will be receiving \$3,663,71 for the National Opioid Settlement payment for year 3. With this payment, total Opioid funds received total \$23,593.84. Lastly, Police want to purchase a BAC Breathalyzer machine that should not exceed \$12,000. Funds from fines on operating a vehicle impaired (OVI) cases will be used. The cash balance in that fund is \$17,582.

B. Resolution No. 46-2023 To Enter into an Agreement with Teladoc Health, Inc. for Physician Services for employees for August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, and declaring an emergency

This resolution is submitted for second reading only. AUI was able to get Teladoc to reduce the renewal rate from \$9.16 to \$8.26 per full-time employee per month, reflecting an increase of \$1.50, or a 22% increase. The current rate of \$6.76 was held for two years. For 68 employees the cost is \$5,516 per year. At the new rate, the cost per year is \$6,740. The Village pays 100% of this insurance cost.

Teladoc allows employees to receive virtual visits when urgent medical issues arise, thus reducing emergency room, urgent care, and PCP visit costs. Teladoc also increases the likelihood that members will obtain care virtually, rather than choose to seek no care. Out of 154 eligible memberships, 52 visits were made. Teladoc services are estimated to have saved the Village \$27,3251 over the past year by not utilizing the emergency room, urgent care, or PCP visits. AUI



did get a quote from First Stop and Health Karma at \$8.40 and \$12.50 per full-time employee per month, respectively. Teladoc has been in business since 2002.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Philipbar said the RJRD Board would meet on June 26.

CAUCUS

MOTION: TO ADD RESOLUTION 51-2023 TO THE AGENDA.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

First Readings:

RESOLUTION 51-2023

Offered by Councilmember Norris

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TENNIS AND PICKLE BALL COURTS AT 4410 WEST STREETSBORO ROAD (TOWN HALL) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Second Readings:

RESOLUTION 45-2023

Offered by Councilmember Beshara

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO WAIVE THE THIRD READING OF RESOLUTION 45-2023.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 45-2023.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 46-2023

Offered by Councilmember Hudak

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TELADOC HEALTH, INC. FOR PHYSICIAN SERVICES FOR



**FULL-TIME VILLAGE EMPLOYEES FOR AUGUST 1, 2023 THROUGH JULY 31, 2024, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

MOTION: TO WAIVE THE THIRD READING OF RESOLUTION 46-2023.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed
unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 46-2023.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Stoppenhagen. Upon roll call, motion passed
unanimously

ORDINANCE 48-2023

Offered by Councilmember Boester

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1103.03 AND 1181.15 OF THE PLANNING AND
ZONING CODE PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION OF PORTABLE STORAGE CONTAINERS**

Third Readings: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Waszak said he would be visiting some national parks soon, and he would like Council to pass a
Dark Sky ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 18. July 12 is available if Council needs to meet
before then.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

WORK SESSION

Philippbar adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman
Clerk of Council

Sue Ann Philippbar
Council President