Regular Meeting Village Hall Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:00 pm

The regular meeting of the Village Board opened with Mayor Riley Goodwin presiding. Trustees present were Roy Dean Dickey, Kenneth Chandler, John Baker, Todd Kinzel and Laura McMahon. Chris Klingeman was absent.

Charlie Heyl-Building & Zoning, Laura Ottens-Chief of Police, Chad Easton-Village Administrator and Robert Jackowski-Police Officer were also present.

Visitors present were Larry Weekley, David Schneidewind, Alicia Andrade, Howard Kirkland, Kathy Wright, Mike Trotter-County Journal and Jake Easton.

John Baker led the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor Riley Goodwin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Roy Dean to approve the previous meeting minutes. John Baker made an amendment to the minutes. John wanted the following stated on the minutes from May 5, 2025. John made a request to table the Village Administrator position but was not permitted to. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Chris).

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Kenneth to approve the summary of Village Financial report. John asked where the funding for the General Account came from. Chad told him sales tax. John asked where funding from water & sewer come from. Chad told him from residents paying water bill. Riley asked how often we get Host fees. Chad told him quarterly.

No correspondence.

Mayor’s Report.

Mayor Riley Goodwin Thanked Kathy Wright and Pam Baker for planting the flowers and Brandi for watering them. The new food/coffee truck will be at the 4-way next Thursday. Two new riding mowers were purchased and delivered courtesy of a Grant secured by Chad. Three new commercial weed trimmers were purchased along with 2 new trash pumps. Four local teens were hired for summer help. Riley met with Justin Rhodes on several occasions to discuss future projects. Riley spoke with Mike Minks regarding the sidewalk bridge by Casey’s. Mike will get him a bid next week. They are waiting on an Engineer to access the project. Riley spoke with Fire Chief Bingel about the possibility of the Fire Department filling swimming pools. Riley is working with Mary Laumbattus on her home that burned. He mowed her grass and helped her clean her yard. Riley spoke with Justin Laumbattus about his home on Main St. Justin says that he is working on getting it torn down but currently has a baby on the way. Riley would like the Village to have consideration for the family at this time. Justin will try to take advantage of the clean-up day. Kenneth would like to see Justin help the Village by mowing his ditch. Justin says that the ditch is Village owned and he shouldn’t have to mow it. Justin’s neighbor has offered to purchase rip rap for the ditch once it is cleaned out. The timer on the lights at the South Park are not working. Riley spoke with Chief Ottens about the new Police Department location, and they will take a tour of the building and get a renovation plan together. John asked if the old Fire House would be the new Police Department. Riley told him that was the plan. Chief Ottens would like another Full Time Police Officer. Chief Ottens put the 2016 Ford in the shop for repairs. Jeremy Gibson replaced 130 light bulbs and ballasts in Village Hall and the rest will be replaced when the bulbs arrive. Hiring a new Law Firm is on the agenda for tonight. Three bids were received to lay 3800 sq feet on flooring in Village Hall. $50,000.00 liens were added to the 2 burned homes in town to help motivate the cleanup of the properties.

Roy Dean reported that the gate entrance at the new city shed is too small for semi-trailers to get in. The gate should be a rolling gate with a 30ft opening not a 20ft. A new 12X10 concrete pad will need to be poured for the fuel tanks. The power will come up thru the pads. The pads should be located behind the buildings. John asked if the tanks needed containment. Roy Dean told him they did not. Riley asked who pours the concrete. Roy Dean told the Village workers will. Roy Dean would like concrete to be poured and concrete blocks to be put up for gravel, sand and rock to minimize the waste of materials. He asked when the last time the pipes were smoked because there seems to be an infiltration of water in the sewer. We need to bring someone in to find a solution. Sewers were not capped in the past when buildings were torn down which could cause problems. In the recent years the city workers check that the sewers are capped. Kenneth said that homeowners can install backwater preventers in basements to stop the backflow of sewer into their homes.

Kenneth reported he contacted the State about lowering the highway. He would like to see at least 2 layers removed. They are currently sitting higher than the curb. The highway will still flood but not resident’s homes. He walked the waterway and said it will be costly to fix.

John reported he had heard from citizens that the water tower looks dirty underneath and wanted to know if it could be cleaned or if it was in the works to be cleaned. He also stated some citizens noted the Street signs are fading. In response to Jeremiah’s concerns last week, John has compiled a list of properties that need cleaned up.

Todd had no report.

Laura reported that she helped with the committees.

Charlie Heyl reported that he approved the following permits: Paul Weilmuenster a bathroom addition at 402 N. Main and Rhonda Gillette a 6’ wood fence at 919 S. Main.

Chad reported that he had good feedback on the 2 storm sirens that are in service. The third siren will be in service soon. The National Weather Service alerts the County when weather is bad, and they sound the sirens. The second set of Sirens that went off last storm 20 minutes after the first set were set off by Robb Cobb. The Rec Area siren will be in the same location as the current siren. One change will need to be made to the sidewalk project. This month was a transition period getting Riley up to speed on projects. Riley asked how the host fees were handled and why they were not always the same amount and when the contract with Waste would be renegotiated. He had heard that it was time to renegotiate them. Chad explained that 10% of the gross revenue from the landfill is paid out quarterly so if the landfill doesn’t make as much the Village doesn’t get as much. Waste gives the Village 10% and of that 10% the school gets 10%. The contract is for 50 years so it won’t come up for negotiation for some time yet. The money is intended to be used for Village Improvements but was used for payroll in the past but not anymore. Kenneth asked what happened to the money being used for Parks and a Lake from the original deal in the past. A park wasn’t wanted so it was decided to be used for Village Improvements. Waste built the Sewer Plant for us.

Citizens wishing to speak:

Kathy Wright spoke about the cleanup days on June 5-7. Those who would like help with their cleanup can pick up a form at Jody Lynz or call Village Hall to be put on a list and Pam Baker, Kathy Wright or Angie Stein will contact you. It would be nice to have the forms turned in by June 1. The Masons and FFA will be helping with the cleanup for those who call Village Hall or fill out a form. Kathy would like to have shirts purchased for those helping but Printworx want $10.00 per shirt. Chad suggested that her group have a fundraiser to purchase shirts for the future cleanup days. Chad also said that the reason the Village doesn’t put this on is because of insurance and the liability of someone getting hurt on a homeowner’s property. Kathy said she will be on People Speak some Thursday.

Larry Weekley said that the flooding issue needs to be in the forefront, and we have County and State Grants that we can apply for. He also asked why we must opt out of Homefield Energy every year. It should be a one and done. Chad told him that he reached out to Homefield Energy asking the same question and was told that Ohio is the only state with a permanent opt out.

Howard Kirkland thanked Charlie Heyl for opening the Church during the storm but would like a better all clear signal. He spoke about how his family recently moved here and how the people are welcoming, and they love the slower pace of life. They have a food business named Mix’d Plate and make Philippine and Mexican food. They have a food handling certificate and are applying for an EIN number. They are going to apply for a permit to sell food from their home. They have spoken with John from Insider’s and will be cooking there on Friday’s.

Charlie Heyl would like the police to meet with him to learn how to man the lift at the Church for when storms arrive, and people need to get to the basement. Charlie praised the police for opening the Church when the sirens went off late on May 19, 2025. He said that 31 people including 2 First Responders and 1 Police Officer were present. No animals.

Old Business:

The Ordinances have been placed in binders and will be distributed once the amended ordinance for meetings has passed and the entire book has been approved by the Board. This should be finished next meeting.

New Business:

A motion was made by Kenneth and seconded by John to approve the appointment for David Schneidewind from Baker, Sterchi ,Cowden & Rice as the new Village Attorney. David spoke and said that he appreciates the opportunity and looks forward to working with the Board. John said it is good to have a hometown person representing the Village. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Todd to reappoint Chief Laura Ottens as Chief of Police. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Roy Dean to reappoint Robb Cobb as Animal Control Officer. Riley spoke with Robb about what all he expects from him in the future. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Todd to reappoint Charlie Heyl for Building and Zoning Administrator. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by John to reappoint Jennifer Nuernberger as Village Clerk. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by John to reappoint Volkert for Village Engineer. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Kenneth to approve the Legal Representation Agreement with Baker, Sterchi, Cowden & Rice. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Todd to approve the authorization to add Riley Goodwin as a signer on all banking accounts the Village has. Current signers Laura McMahon, Roy Dean Dickey, Chad Easton and Donna Stewart will all remain on the accounts with Riley. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by John to approve MFT Resolution # 568. Chad explained that he calculates the amount by the number of roads that need to be fixed. He sends the bid in to the State high, but it gives us a budget. The amount can always be scaled back if needed. John noted a difference in the written amount and the numerical amount that needed to be changed. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Kenneth to approve moving the 2nd monthly meeting back to the 3rd Monday of every month starting on July 21, 2025. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

No discussion was had and a decision to table the approval of the Fire Department filling swimming pools was taken. Further information is needed before a decision could be made.

A motion was made by Roy Dean and seconded by Todd to discuss the Police Department taking over Code Enforcement. Chief Ottens said she will need another full-time Police Officer to help cover the job since it is a daytime task. Chad noted that a Police Officer will be paid $35.00 per hour where they now only pay $18.00 per hour. John asked if the Officer would need to be trained. He would need to learn the Ordinances. David-Village Attorney said that he would need continuity with the tickets if he needed to go to court. At this time John made a motion to table and Kenneth seconded the motion to table. They would like to meet with the current Code Enforcer. Motion passed with roll call as follows: Roy Dean-yes, Kenneth-yes, John-yes, Todd-yes, Chris-absent, Laura-yes. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent.

 A motion was made by Todd and seconded by Kenneth to approve a Liquor License for the American Legion Post 172 during Coal Festival August 8th, 9th & 10th, 2025. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Chris).

A motion was made by John and seconded by Kenneth to adjourn at 8:41pm. Motion passed. 5-ayes, 0-nayes, 1-absent (Chris).