

Regular Session of Village Council

July 8, 2014

Call to Order

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Erwin. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll Call was completed by the Mayor. The following members were present.

Judy Neal – P	Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh – P
York Bryant – P	John Poe – A
Terry Erwin – P	William Thompson – P

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion by Councilman Erwin to approve the minutes of the June 10th Regular Session; second by Councilwoman Neal. Three yea, one abstention by Councilwoman Isaacs-Niemesh and one nay with dissent by Councilman Thompson. Motion carried.

Shawn Campbell / Jones Warner Engineering

Campbell advised in evaluating the Water Plant and Treatment System, it was determined age and a lack of maintenance on a plant of the 1950's to 60's has resulted in a number of problems, the primary issue being structural integrity. His report provided pictures of Plant 1 and 2. He stated he and Administrator Smith discussed the filter media which hadn't been done in 15 years; 10 years is recommended. Campbell stated Plant 1 has been operating. He reported the floor in the second level needs to be shored up before the filter media is replaced. Plant #2 is near catastrophic; Plant #1 is not quite as severe Campbell advised. Plant 1 has eroding steel, numerous foundation cracks and is settling. Information has been provided regarding bandages, etc. and in meetings with OPWC and with the Mayor, submitting a replacement plant package and bringing the third well on line (other side of soccer field) have been discussed. He advised the cost would be \$2.9 Million to put in a new Water Plant with softening agent and some room for expansion. Campbell stated the County gave the Village \$55,000, with \$223,000 from the Village Water Fund and a \$1,000,000 loan at an interest rate of 2.4% to 2.5% from the Ohio Water Development Authority. He advised the Environmental Protection Agency regionally dictates the rate. An application to the OPWC ranked Morrow number five in the preliminary ranking for a zero interest \$1 Million loan for twenty years with a \$600,000 grant.

Shawn Campbell stated current water rates would need to increase \$13 to \$15 a month. The rates would need to be such that they would sustain and repay the loan. Thompson asked about the number of gallons of water for that increase; he stated everyone wouldn't use the same amount. Campbell stated an application was provided to Council with the numbers; however, it wasn't broken down to gallons. For a Ohio Water Department Authority loan, the amount would be \$26 to \$30 increase per billing. We are recommending a work session to discuss options, two good active wells plus a third one to tap in or some alternate measure. An improvement of \$25,000 is required before the filter media can be installed; he stated a new plant might not be the option you choose. Mayor Erwin stated he would have engineering determine if the floor could be propped up now. Campbell commented on shoring up the floor. The Mayor advised let's look at it, study it and schedule a meeting. Campbell discussed erosion and rust from the steel beams. Thompson stated he wanted to know the status of the media filter in Plant 1. Campbell stated Plant 1 needs to be addressed; Plant 2 has locked up two lines. He responded to additional questions. Discussion followed.

Judge Rob Fischer & Judge Gary Loxley/Warren County Court

Judge Loxley reported on the history of the court. He stated the Warren County Court replaced the Justices of the Peace and was established in 1959 with Judge Ray as its first part-time Judge; the Court expanded to two part time Judges in 1971. The first female judge was Judge Kathleen Porter. Judge Loxley advised he took office in 2013. Morrow is one of 10 Villages and 7 Townships and Municipalities Warren County Court serves. The Court has

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seven staff members, ten Deputy Clerks of Court and the elected County Clerk has nine assistants.

Judge Fisher discussed the types of cases heard by Warren County, Civil, Traffic and Criminal cases. He advised civil cases are heard up to \$15,000 and small claims court cases up to \$3,000. He stated the Court handles felony cases up to preliminary hearing. The County performs 100 weddings per year. Cases in 2013 were 1349. He advised criminal cases were going down; he reported 1123 Civil, 609 Probation and 1287 Traffic. He noted traffic cases were increasing. Fisher discussed cases heard by Warren County Court, OVI/ DUI/ DUS with FRA (Financial Responsibility) with DUI and OVI making up half of the case load. Domestic violence is a large portion. He advised Drugs and Theft offenses are significant. Out of 7,000 cases, Warren County has four or five jury trials a year Fisher reported.

Court Budget Efficiencies were addressed Judge Loxley reported. The County stopped seeing offenders every month to review fines; on a graduated scale, people are now given 90 days, 6 months or a year to pay total fines or cases are then sent to a Collection Agency. Using the collection agency saves time on Docket/Management and Warrant Processing Service. He advised the Public Defender is hired by County Commission to be certain all are receiving Good Council. Judge Loxley advised Warren County is considering upgrading its Case Management System to a new vendor or a paperless system; the online system is now cumbersome. Thompson posed a question, asking if, on the review of fines, was there any improvement. Loxley advised Warren County brought in a new collection agency last year. Internally he stated it is working well; that took place in January 2014. He advised there were no figures yet on it.

Loxley reported a Veterans Court Docket has been introduced with no expense to the Court; Veterans Services will help. Veterans will get information on all available services. There will be a specialized Docket with a representative Judge Loxley stated. Judge Fisher discussed the Mental Health Docket. They are locating services; there are challenges seeking the appropriate services. Severe mental health issues will need to be handled. Judge Loxley asked for questions. Administrator Smith inquired regarding statistics/recidivism. Judge Loxley responded the biggest recidivism is attributed to drugs. Judge Fisher stated it is high; the County has seen people again and again over the last three months.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Village Administrator Smith advised Congressman Steve Chabot had office hours in the Municipal Building at 9am and met with citizens. He referred Council to page one of his monthly report provided and discussed the Zoning Report. Smith advised the Zoning Code process had begun; Warren County is working with us. He stated demolition should begin shortly for American Spirits Bar. Smith reported a small portion of the funding for the Veteran's Memorial has been secured. He stated the 2nd Annual Punt, Pass and Kick Competition will be held on July 26, 2014 at Thornton Park. Miami Panther Association is partnering with Parks and Recreation. The Administrator reported Parks and Recreation planned to have a Cruising Movie on July 26th due to the June 28th date being rained out.

Smith referred to the Police Department statistics on page 6 of his report, stating the Police responded to 471 calls in May and he was proud of the job the officers were doing. He stated August 5, 2014 would be the 2nd Annual National Night Out in Morrow. Some 16,000 committees hold these events, providing an opportunity for residents and business owners to meet the Police and help make the community as safe as possible.

The Village Administrator advised the Mayor's Court Report was also provided in his report. He reported delinquent bills will go to the Warren County Auditor's Office. Smith referred to Mr. Johnson's concern from the prior meeting regarding street sweeping; he stated it will be done by the August meeting. Smith advised bids were requested from various companies. He thanked Thompson for sweeping Mill Street. Thompson commented on the Police Report. Legislation will be presented in August requesting delinquent water and sewer bills be forwarded to the County Auditor's office where late fees will be assessed to property tax.

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Smith reiterated; Campbell stated our Water Project Application ranked 5th among many areas reviewed. The Administrator stressed it is significant and shows there is a dire need; it is a huge win for Morrow.

Administrator Smith advised Photo Journalist Tim Rice would travel through Morrow in the evening of July 8, 2014 and stop at the campground behind the Municipal Building. Smith advised local pictures may be viewed on www.theroam.net. He also reported on upcoming *special dates*, the birthdays of Vice Mayor/Councilwoman Judy Neal (7/25); Public Works, Tim Erwin (7/14); Prosecutor A. Tranter (7/22); Patrolman Robert Hawk (7/30); Police Sergeant Matt Landrum (8/1) and Police Chief Heath Kilburn (8/11); July employment anniversaries for Administrator Rod Smith (7/30, 2 yrs.) and Clerk of Council Gladys Jackson (7/15, 5 yrs.)

Thompson asked if Morrow being awarded a \$600,000 grant was a rumor; the Mayor responded. Fiscal Officer Kathie Koehler stated the Tax Hearing would be held July 15, 2014 at 6pm across the street at the Public Works Building. Neal advised the Congressman was pleased with the day's turn out for his visit; twelve citizens came out and were able to meet with Congressman Chabot.

Public Forum – No comments

Approval of Disbursements

Standard Bank Reconciliation Reports, Revenue Status by Fund Summary and disbursements were provided.

Motion by Neal to pay the bills; second by Erwin. All yea.

Solicitor Kaspar requested Council adjourn to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation; Mayor Erwin requested addition of a personnel issue. The Administrator requested the addition of one more personnel issue.

Motion by T. Erwin to go into Executive Session at 6:44pm to discuss pending litigations and personnel matters; second by Councilman Bryant. All yea. Motion by Neal to return to Regular Session at 7:01pm; second by Erwin. All yea.

Ordinances/Resolutions

The Fiscal Officer requested a \$5,000 increase in the General Fund.

Motion by Erwin to suspend the rules and waive three readings of Resolution #11-14; second by Neal. All yea. Motion by Erwin to adopt Resolution #11-14, approving a \$5,000 increase in the General Fund; second by Neal. All yea. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Bryant to adjourn; second by Erwin. All yea.

Kathie Koehler, Fiscal Officer

Mike Erwin, Mayor