**The Byesville Village Council met in Regular Session on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 5:30 pm, at Village Hall.**

**Those in attendance included Mayor Jay Jackson, Village Administrator Brennan Dudley, Fiscal Officer Angela Grant, and Village Solicitor Bill Ferguson**

**Mayor Jackson led The Pledge of Allegiance.** **Administrator Dudley offered a prayer.**

**Roll Call: p. - Albright, p. - Warner, p. - Haren, p. - Port, p. - Kenworthy, p. - Neff**

**Guest: Jeff Paden - Guernsey County Sheriff**

**Guernsey County Sheriff Jeff Paden attended the meeting to answer any questions that council may have regarding his campaign for reelection.**

**Councilwoman Warner asked Sheriff Paden if he would be attending the upcoming Trump Parade to escort the participates. He stated that he would be escorting.**

**Council had several questions for the sheriff…**

**Kenworthy: What are your thoughts on Community Policing and the Citizen’s Police Academy?**

**Sheriff Paden: We do community policing and as a cop, you are continuously doing community policing. We have community crime watch and it is in almost every village. That is how you build your informants. A lot of people don’t want to call in to report something, they would rather be able to speak out directly. As far as the Citizen’s Police Academy, that is done through the city police department. We have been involved in that in the past, but are not at this time. We would be willing to do it again in the future, however, right now with COVID, it is not something we are able to do.**

**Kenworthy: Can you please tell us about the drug education that you do?**

**Sheriff: We have a list of programs that we are involved in for drug education. The Be Aware Program educated adults on what to look for and to help with know what the different drugs themselves look like. We have School Resource Deputies. There are two in Meadowbrook, one at Buckeye Trail and one that is shared at the vocational school. They are ALICE trained. They do assemblies to talk about drug awareness and 9-1-1. They also do the Deputy Phil program, that is a program about stranger danger. There is a drug course with Guernsey Health Choices for 14-15 year olds. Resource Deputies assist with vetting armed school staff.**

**The CHANGE Program was through a grant and it helps educated inmates about drug addiction. Along with that grant, we were also able to buy a body scanner that will help detect any contraband someone may have on their persons when entering the jail.**

**Guernsey County Recovery Response Team gathers information through the 9-1-1 system on any overdoses or drug calls that someone was attended to by squad. With that, we take a team, a deputy, and a specialist to the home of that person and try to encourage them to get rehabilitation. We provide them with all the proper paperwork and help with the process. We have had a good response to this program.**

**Kenworthy: Can you tell us about alternate funding used and about the UCRs that have not been filed?**

**Sheriff: The old reporting system should have auto-populated these reports and Mr. Hill brought it to our attention that it was not being done. We have sense corrected it and they are now getting reported. The UCRs are used to apply for COPS Grants. We have never applied for a COPS Grant because it is a grant that in three years, you are supposed to pick-up the deputies whose salaries were being paid for by these grants. If you do not have the money to guarantee the deputies a job at the end of that grant, that is setting them up for failure and I would rather not do that. You do not have to report to that agency in order to receive grants. We have received many grants for various things. We have gotten creative with the ways that have allowed us to hire deputies. We have our School Resource Officers that we pay 20% on each and the schools pay the rest. There are several deputies that the sheriff’s office does not pay any of their salary. Twenty-seven percent of the BULK Taskforce deputy’s salary is paid for by the Sheriff’s Office.**

**Kenworthy: Your opponent painted a bleak picture of internal issues. Would you like to touch on that subject?**

**Sheriff: People come and go. I have had four guys go to Muskingum County. Two of those guys, live in Muskingum County and that is why they wanted to go back home. The other two wanted a clean slate. We have also hired three Cambridge Police Officers at our department. It is an ebb and flow.**

**Port: Do you have a plan to change the jail population issue in the near future?**

**Sheriff: We were closer than ever before COVID hit. We were applying for a matching $5M grant, which means we would have to come up with $2.5M. Once you build it, you have to staff it. We planned to add 70 beds. The jail right now is 66 beds and the highest the jail has been is 131. There is a high demand for women’s beds. We planned to hold off 10 beds and contract with the county for those beds. That would generate approximately $250,000 and that would help us with the staffing.**

**Warner: Would you say that drugs are the biggest thing you are facing right now?**

**Sheriff: Yes, ma’am and our hands are tied with our jail space. With us joining the Joint Task Force and the CODE, it has helped with the manpower.**

**Kenworthy: You have an overlap deputy now, correct?**

**Sheriff: Yes, we have gone to 10 hour shifts. It has really helped with the crucial times because we normally only have two deputies on the road.**

***Clerk:***

Councilman Kenworthy made a motion, seconded by Councilman Neff to approve the September 9, 2020, meeting minutes, as presented.

Councilwoman Warner asked if there was an update on the Glass Ave. project or an expected start date. Mayor Jackson stated that the contract had not been signed, but would hopefully be done soon and an update should be available after that is done.

Yea (6) – Albright, Warner, Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Albright

Councilman Haren made a motion, seconded by Councilman Port to approve the bills as presented.

Councilwoman Warner asked for clarification as to why the paving project was paid from the General Fund. She was unsure if it was a transfer of funds or reimbursement and wanted to clarify. It was stated that the paving projects are paid from the General Fund. The line item on the budget is 1000-800-555: Streets, Highways, Sidewalks, and Curbs.

The M & M Feed bill led to the question from Mrs. Warner as to the health of K9 Officer Xato. He had recently been ill and she asked if he was well and working. Mayor Jackson stated that he is and Councilwoman Warner asked if the Police Department could provide council with a report as to how many calls/runs Xato has been on with our officers. Mayor Jackson stated that he would request a report.

Councilman Neff asked for clarification on the Rowe Wireless bill for $2,731.81 and if it was a monthly billing. It was stated that it is billed for two months.

Councilman Port asked for a breakdown of the Rowe Wireless bill for $5,354.90. Council was provided with the invoice breakdown for the number of computers per department and it was clarified that this bill is for three years of anti-virus. There were also invoices paid for Splashtop and IT Support.

Councilman Albright brought up the discussion that the internet and phone service with Rowe has had issues. It was discussed that there have been numerous times the phones are down and at times, the employees are not aware that they are down. There are also issues when you are on the calls with static and the calls dropping. The fire department stated that they have also had problems with the internet. The internet is crucial for the fire department because that is how they receive their calls. Mayor Jackson stated that we can look into other options, but he was unsure of the cost factor.

Councilman Albright asked what the remaining balance is in the paving budget. That number was not readily available.

Yea (6) – Albright, Warner, Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Neff

***Administrator:***

***Water Operations***

Routine Maintenance and Operation: Clean and maintain sediment basins, CIP filter units weekly, back-wash at least one Aeralater per day, maintain chemical levels. Welding on Aerolators as needed.

Water Improvement Project: The plan is to have at least 4 new pressure filters online in the next two weeks. Once the four units are online; demolition of the existing units can proceed and installation of the additional 4 pressure filters will take place.

Distribution: Service calls, shut offs, turn on, OUPS tickets. meter reads. Repair leak on E. Spruce.

***Wastewater Operations***

Routine Maintenance and Operation: Pressing and composting as scheduled, routine, and preventative maintenance as scheduled.

Sewer Reline Project Phase II: Still working with the contractor for completion.

GPS Wastewater line: Phase II is being advertised for bid. Bids will be due by 10/22. We have obtained a necessary easement from a property owner on Seneca Lane. We will be attending the RHLSD board meeting tomorrow to finalize the easement for the lift station.

***Street***

Routine Maintenance and Operation: Clean catch basins and culverts, repair leak holes, sweep streets, assist distribution crew as needed.

Glass Ave: GC Commissioners have sent a NOA and construction contract to the contractor. We are awaiting return of the signed contract. The contractor will need to sign the contract by 9/30. We have finalized all of the necessary easements for the project.

1 St Clean-up: Village personnel have been working to clean a dump site. The site started from a burned-out trailer from two years ago. Since that time, the site has been an accumulating eyesore of the neighborhood. A lien will be placed in the property for the expenses.

Fall Clean-up: Final count on dumpster was 17. We have not received an invoice, but the Village’s share should be around $2,500.

Light Pole: Village personnel replaced a light pole on Main Ave that was damaged in May from a traffic accident.

Misc. Work: Maintain streets, repair, clean, maintain equipment and facilities, patch holes as material is available. Clean and repair culverts and catch basins.

***General Administration***

Routine Administrative Functions: Oversee operations at the Street, WTP and WWTP departments, review and sign PO’s and invoices, H.R. functions, payroll preparation, work cooperatively with the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Income Tax, Utilities Clerk, Park Liaison, Building Inspector, Village Council, Police and Fire to ensure the day-to-day operation of the Village.

Zoning: 1-Container/1-Building/1-Variance Request

A lot of administration work is being done to ensure the projects of the Village are progressing.

***Mayor:***

Presented by Mayor Jackson

We are continuing to work on our fall beautification efforts. I would like to thank Kaleb Graham Productions and Lee’s Tees for the banners, Monarch Mercantile for donating some of the mums. The guys have cleaned up First Street and they did a great job. We have received the lasted notification on the trail grant stated that we were awarded the grant. We will probably move forward with that at the beginning of the year. We will be receiving CARES Act money. We only have a certain timeframe to use the money and it can only be spent on COVID related expenses. Trick or Treat will be October 31, 5:30-6:30. I do not plan to do a parade this year. I don’t know how we could with the safety issues and the social distancing.

Mr. Neff asked if all of the banners for the students were up now? He stated that there was a parent that contacted him regarding her child’s banner not being up. Mayor Jackson stated that they were waiting on a bracket and that they should all be up the following day.

Mrs. Warner asked if there had been any consideration given to the “drive-thru” type trick or treat. The mayor stated that some of the churches are doing trunk or treat and he is asking everyone to follow the safety protocol. (Masks, gloves, etc) Mr. Albright brought up a concern of trick or treat being on a different night of other area municipalities and having a lot of people swarm to the village. Mayor Jackson stated that he would look into the dates of other trick or treat nights and revisit it.

***Park*: -** Presented by Park Liaison Council President Neff

Nothing at this time.

***Fire:*** -Presented by Asst. Chief Noah Bacon

We have received the JAWS and used them for the first time on a recent call. We will be doing some training for them within the next month.

***Police:*** No Report

***Solicitor:*** No Official Report

***Village Services:*** Mr. Albright asked what was going to be done with the stuff around the village garage. Mayor Jackson stated that there are other projects being worked on, but that is on the list of things to do once things slow down.

***Finance:*** No report

***Legislative*:** Mr. Kenworthy

I do not currently have anything, but have submitted some things to Mr. Ferguson that he is working on. I also have a golf cart ordinance that Mr. Ferguson had written for Caldwell and I will bring that to the next meeting so we can go over it.

***Additional Business:***

**Kenworthy: ---**

**Neff:** ---

**Albright: There was a bad waterline break on Spruce. He would like to see about these bad areas, East Spruce and N. 3rd getting replaced.**

**Warner: Mrs. Warner stated that she had received a few calls regarding high grass and that she had left a voicemail for Chief May. She also requested a short executive session for personnel.**

**Haren: Mr. Haren inquired about the possibility of the village taking back possession of the former street garage. He stated that the fire department would have a need/use for the building. He asked what the arraignment was with the building and the railroad. Mayor Jackson stated that he is working on getting a meeting set up with Zemba’s and the railroad people. It was not clear what the wording in the contract stated and he would try to get clarification on it.**

**Port: I spoke with Brian Young with Spectrum yesterday. He has taken all the info that we had given him and has given it to his superiors and a construction team. I do know that they have been in downtown Byesville speaking to business owners and an enterprise line is at People’s Bank. Suddenlink has been involved in court hearings around the country, so it is not just our area.**

**Media: Clarifying that trick or treat will be held, but the date has not been determined. Mayor Jackson answered that he was correct. Asked Mr. Port to also clarify that he understood there has been some progress on Spectrum on the business side, but not as much on the residential side. Mr. Port stated that was correct.**

***Meeting Adjourned:***

Motion to enter Executive session: Port 2nd: Neff

Yea (6) – Albright, Warner, Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Neff

Entered Executive Session: 6:40pm

Resume Regular Session: 6:50pm

Motion to adjourn: Warner 2nd: Kenworthy

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50pm

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**Mayor Jay Jackson**

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**Minutes prepared by Village Fiscal Officer, Angela Grant**