

October 13, 2021

Mayor Julie Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the Pledge to the flag

<b>Attendance</b>	Mayor Julie Robinson
Trustees-	Bruce Widrick
	Keith Bush
	Linda Nortz
	Lloyd Richardson-excused at 7:20 PM
Treasurer	Charlene Moser
Deputy Clerk	Liz Jones
Clerk	Dawn Ashline
Village Maintenance	Mitch Robinson

The meeting was held at the Village Garage.

### **Guests**

Cassandra Buell- Lewis County Director of Planning  
Bruce Tabolt

### **Public Comment**

Cassandra Buell handed out fliers with information about a grant that the county is giving out to qualified applicants. The Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program aims to revitalize the historic character and attractiveness of villages and hamlets in Lewis County through public and private investment. This program is a 75/25 matching funds. Cassandra encouraged the board to notify the businesses in town including apartment houses about this program. The application process has a deadline of November 5, 2021.

Cassandra also reported that all the paperwork has been submitted for the reimbursement to the village for the benches and table bought through the COVID program.

Bruce Tabolt's concerns were 1. What was the board going to do about his ditch problem and 2. Why did he get a letter from the village with the property maintenance law indicating that he is in violation of the law.

The board informed Bruce that the drain he is complaining about is not village owned and we have no reason to repair it. What the village is trying to do is, reroute the drains in front of the post office so that there will not be as much water going through the pipe that Bruce is concerned about. The village has no other obligation to the pipe/drain in question.

As far as the letter that Bruce received, regarding violations of the property maintenance law, the board has requested a copy of the law so they can read up on the violations that not only Bruce was given a letter for but for some other village residents/businesses. Bruce's violation will be tabled until the trustees have read the law.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurers report was read, Trustee Bush made a motion to accept the treasurers report, Trustee Widrick seconded, adopted-Aye-4 Widrick, Bush, Nortz, Richardson Nay-0. Motion approved.

After review-Trustee Bush made the motion, seconded by Trustee Widrick to pay the bills as presented and carried. Aye-4 Nay-0

General Fund #5	vouchers 112 to 129 for \$13,992.74
General Fund #5A	vouchers 130 to 132 for \$1,933.81
Water Fund #5	vouchers 40 to 50 for \$2,033.35
Sewer Fund #5	vouchers 36 to 42 for \$1,152.84
Sewer Fund #5A	vouchers 43 to 45 for \$1,947.26

A motion was made by Trustee Bush seconded by Trustee Widrick to make any transfers needed, Carried Aye-3 Nay-0 Trustee Richardson absent.

The bill of Daniel Farney's was discussed. A motion by Trustee Bush and seconded by Widrick to only bill Daniel Farney half of the total bill and the village pick up the other half was voted on Aye-2 Trustee Widrick and Trustee Bush Nay-1- Trustee Nortz Mayor vote is Aye for quorum vote.

The SEWER LOAN IS PAID IN FULL. The last payment was made, and the village is debt free until Monday when the village will purchase the LED street lights.

The Village of Croghan has received \$7,285.67 from the county per the following resolution-

### **Resolution No. 258-2021**

Resolution authorizing distribution to certain villages to assist in water/sewer infrastructure expenses and improvement costs.

Introduced by Legislature Jerry King, Chair of the General Services Committee and Thomas Osborne, Chair of the Finance and Rules Committee.

WHEREAS, the county is committed to investment in projects which will improve and grow economic development. Maintenance of and improvements to water and/or sewer infrastructure and systems are essential to economic development in Lewis County; and

WHEREAS, the county seeks to consider a distribution to certain Villages in the County who maintain and operate water and/or sewer districts and systems, namely, the Villages of Constableville, Copenhagen, Croghan, Lowville, Lyons Falls, Port Leyden and Turin; and

WHEREAS, this payment is proposed in order to assist those named Villages with the expenses associated with each Village's infrastructure/system costs of maintenance and upgrades so that overall economic development may improve where water and/or sewer infrastructure are properly maintained;

Now therefore, be it resolved, as follows:

Section 1. That the Lewis County Board of Legislators hereby approve the following distribution of \$75,991.76 to the following named Villages in the County of Lewis who have water/sewer district infrastructures/systems for the amounts set forth for each:

Village of Constableville	\$3,983.13
Village of Copenhagen	\$1,510.60
Village of Croghan	\$7,285.67
Village of Lowville	\$53,463.71
Village of Lyons Falls	\$3,400.25
Village of Port Leyden	\$5,704.72
Village of Turin	\$643.68

Section 2. That the Treasurer is directed to make the aforesaid payments from the Lewis County contingency account t.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Legislator Virkler, seconded by Legislator King, and adopted.

Charlene reported that the Workers Compensation payment is not due until June, so the amounts reported in the General Fund Abstract number 118 for \$679.00, Water Fund Abstract number 42 for \$679.00, Sewer Fund Abstract number 39 for \$679.00 will be removed from the abstracts.

### **Clerk Report**

Clerk Ashline read the minutes of the public hearing meeting held September 22,2021.

### **The Resolution- Local Law Adoption**

#### **Adopting Local Law No. 1 of 2021**

**Local Law to Opt Out of Allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Site as Authorized Under Cannabis Law Article 4.**

**Resolution- Motion by Trustee Keith. Bush, seconded by Trustee Linda Nortz, that the village Board of the Village of Croghan adopt "Local Law No. 1of 2021 to opt out of allowing**

**Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On Site Consumption Sites Authorized Under Cannabis Law Article 4. Roll call YES vote: Nortz, Richardson, Widrick, Bush. NO vote- none. Motion carried to adopt.**

The board was also notified that this law is subject to a permissive referendum. Filings need to be made by November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to have this law put on the voting ballot for 2022, since elections for 2021 will have already passed.

Minutes were reviewed and by a motion by Trustee Widrick and seconded by Trustee Bush minutes were approved after corrections made. Aye-4 Nay-0

The board was reminded that Trustee Nortz and Trustee Richardson are up for re-election on Tuesday November 2, 2021.

A copy of the employee Handbook was given to each board member, Mayor and Treasurer for review. All were reminded to review and make changes if needed so they can be discussed at the November meeting and adopted at the December meeting. A copy will also be sent to Kevin Townsend to look over and add/delete sections that the insurance company would require to have.

The board was reminded to review the Rules and Procedures that were sent via email on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, so that we can discuss any changes at the November meeting with adoption at the December meeting.

The board was notified that the “complaint” letters were sent out. Each board member received a copy of the letters to each taxpayer. The board will review the Property Maintenance Law and will determine later what actions will be taken if the taxpayers do not comply.

### **Maintenance Report**

Mitch reported that he is still waiting for the quotes he has requested from businesses regarding putting in a lift station so that we may reroute the drain line in front of the post office.

Mitch stated that Mike Boliver of Eager Beaver Tree Service should be coming at the end of the week to cut down the tree by the library.

Mitch states the sewer beds are ponding yet. Although we are meeting our numbers for compliancy, they are getting to the point where we should be looking at replacing the media on the sewer beds. Mitch received a quote from Virkler and Son’s for \$24 a ton delivered of required media. We would need approximately 180 ton per pit. Mitch estimates the cost to replace media in all four beds would be about \$34,560.00.

Charlene reports there is \$92,406.23 in the media replacement Fund. The board instructed Mitch to start the process of replacing the media so that we are ready to do it in the Spring.

Mitch inquired to the board whether he should purchase the bulbs for the scoreboard or were we going to purchase a new scoreboard. It was decided that Trustee Richardson will contact the company he got the \$3,762 quote from for a new scoreboard and find out how soon we would receive the scoreboard if we ordered it. The board has discussed just replacing the scoreboard if we can get it before the ball season starts up next year or we may have to purchase replacement bulbs until we can get a new scoreboard.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Robinson read a letter penned to the board from Nate Foster, the new owner of the former Woodward property on the Croghan Reservoir Road.

The letter states that Mr. Foster is concerned that the cell tower project is still going as planned and has asked the board to reconsider allowing the cell tower.

The board feels that Verizon has met the villages concerns regarding our drinking water and feel there is no need to stop the project.

Warren Shaw has inquired whether the village received the letter from the fire department asking for a raise in village funding. It was determined the board had discussed this at a previous meeting and the raise was tabled until budget talks start in the spring. No one had notified Mr. Shaw of this information. A letter will be sent stating such.

Mayor Robinson has requested to be able to purchase a toner out of village funds for her computer as she is printing information that pertains to the village. Charlene informed the Mayor that she has a budget line for \$1,000.00 to spend, so if she needs toner then she should go and purchase it.

Mayor Robinson recently learned that the library was in possession of some medical books and a family bible belonging to local historical; figure Dr. Simonet. It was determined that the books should be in the village's possession for display and reference. Mayor Robinson has talked to the library President Jeanne Duffany and they are asking the board to go in half on purchasing two fire retardant display cases to be used at the library to display village artifacts. The discussion was tabled to be brought back up when the board starts to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year.

After discussion on whether the village should impose a curfew the night of Halloween, A motion was made by Trustee Bush and seconded by Trustee Nortz to impose a curfew of 9:00 PM on Halloween night. Aye-3 Nay-0 Motion carried. A notice will be placed in the post office and on the village Facebook page.

Mayor Robinson reported that we will be closing with National Grid on Monday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and proceed with the LED streetlight project. Charlene wired the money on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mayor Robinson reminded the board that the leaf pick up day is October 25-26 and if anyone would like to help the village maintenance department in raking the leaves to the vacuum, their help would be appreciated.

Mayor Robinson told the board that Village Attorney Kevin McArdle has submitted his letter of resignation to the village and has offered to recommend an attorney to take his place. Mayor Robinson will confer with Attorney McArdle as to potential candidates.

It was asked of Mayor Robinson if the village would sell Bridge Street Park. The Board stated it was not allowed as it was asked prior and research showed it cannot be sold.

The village received a Thank you note from the Ron Bush family for the plant that was sent for his funeral.

Discussion was had regarding advertising for back up help during the winter for plowing the streets. It was decided to advertise for a temporary on call position to aid in winter clean up. The applications will be on file at the village garage to be used when needed.

### **Trustee Report**

Trustee Bush had previously sent an email to the board in regard to allowing the Long Pond Snowmobile Club to park their trail groomer at or on village property while not in use. It was decided on a motion from Trustee Widrick and seconded by Trustee Nortz vote Aye-2 Abstain-1 Mayor Robinson Aye-1 to allow the parking of the snow groomer behind the village garage on condition our insurance allows it and an agreement is signed by both parties. Trustee Bush also stated the Club will pay the village for the cost of the electricity used because the groomer will need to be plugged in for the engine block. A sum of \$170 was offered.

Trustee Nortz has stated that the playground equipment was shipped on September 15,2021. Once the equipment is here, she will be looking for people to help put the equipment together. Trustee Nortz will also get two quotes for approved wood chips for the playground.

Trustee Nortz voiced her concern regarding the amount of money spent by the mayor for refurbishing the vintage Christmas decorations. The mayor stated that when she asked about spending the money Treasurer Moser told her to spend what she needed to because the trustees had already approved refurbishing the decorations. Not only this board but previous boards and it had not been done. Trustee Nortz states that in the rules and procedures the mayor should have gotten 2 quotes before purchasing the product needed.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM by a motion by Trustee Bush, seconded by Trustee Widrick. Aye-3 Nay-0 Motion carried.