

VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 19, 2008

Mayor Opelt opened the August 19, 2008 Council meeting at 7 pm with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Miesmer, Bowman, Campbell, Cox, King were present at 7 pm. Madaras came into the meeting at 7:05 pm. Others present were: Mayor James R. Opelt, Richard Bingham, Russ Eby, Bud Kahler and the clerk.

Minutes of previous meeting of August 5, 2008 were approved by Council.

Treasurer's Report: Bills in the amount of \$ 40,116.06 were submitted to Council for approval to pay. King made a motion to pay the bills and Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE 1431 - 1st Reading - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE, OHIO DURING THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2008 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008. (Additional Appropriations for North Water Plant Construction.) Campbell made a motion to suspend the rules and Cox seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Cox made a motion to pass Ordinance 1431 and Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #702 – 3rd Reading – RESOLUTION DECLARING THE AMOUNT OF TAXES THAT MAY BE RAISED BY LEVY AT THE MAXIMUM RATE AUTHORIZED BY LAW WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS TO BE INSUFFICIENT, AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF A LEVY IN EXCESS OF SUCH RATE. (Police Levy – This Ordinance currently reads 2.7 mills for 5 years.) King made a motion to pass Resolution 702 and Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #703 – 3rd Reading – RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE THE QUESTION OF AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE 10 MIL LIMITATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING POLICE PROTECTION FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE. (Police Levy 2.7 mills.) King made a motion to pass Resolution 703 and Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION #704 – 2nd Reading – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED. The application was due on August 22, 2008 so Miesmer made a motion to suspend the rules and Bowman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Bowman made a motion to pass Resolution 704 and Cox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

At 7:15 pm Cox made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Police Chief contract. Miesmer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:25 pm.

Appointment of Police Chief:

Miesmer made a motion to hire Richard Bingham as Police Chief and Campbell seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. September 1, 2008 would be Bingham's start date. Mayor Opelt gave the Oath of Office to Chief Richard Bingham.

Appointment of BPA replacement:

Mayor Opelt recommended to Council Mr. Dean Krukemyer. Cox shared some background information about Krukemyer to the Council. He worked on the zoning board for Freedom Township, is an Eastwood High School and Ohio State graduate. He is currently a farmer. Cox said he would do a great job for the BPA. The Village is now paying out about \$6,000 per year to the BPA which would be much less than a village administrator. We can't justify the cost of an administrator especially since the Mayor just gave a proposed list of 17 items to cut costs in the Village.

Miesmer added to the discussion of the BPA versus a village administrator. He said we don't need to change our current form of government. A pure administrator for a village of this size cannot be justified, and it would be fiscally prudent to keep our form of government. As supervisors retire out, we could possibly hire in a working village administrator at that time.

Bowman shared that he had no problems with the appointment of Krukemyer. The BPA has some unresolved issues that expose the Village to potential lawsuits (i.e. problem with the wells on Bierley Avenue). There is a lack of supervision by the BPA. Bowman asked for the most current BPA minutes and also wanted to know if they had hired a utility helper yet. The clerk said she had overlooked getting the BPA minutes to Council yet. The BPA was still interviewing for the utility helper position.

Madaras stated that our village employees are not treated fairly. Certain people should not always get the preferential job duties and other people always get the much less desirable job. The Personnel Committee should oversee all five employees and treat them all equally. All five guys should answer to the same person(s). There is a lack of supervision. Madaras agreed that the time was not right to hire a village administrator and also thought that a working, licensed village administrator in the future should be considered.

Campbell stated that he had no problem with Krukemyer, but it does not mean that he will not pursue a village administrator in the future. The employees themselves don't get along and it's been that way. There has been no communication from the BPA to Council and problem solving has never been there. There are overall problems we face financially and utility wise. BPA has the idea of not taking loans to fix waterlines that are patched or following through on capital improvement plans. Concerning budget constraints, he said that he is somewhat of an optimist and feels that this economic draught will not last for long.

Mayor added that a special meeting would be best to discuss the village administrator issue because there is a lot to discuss and there are differences of opinion. The advantages and disadvantages need to be listed for each side. The Mayor stated that there is nothing personal against either people recommended for the BPA. Madaras wants to do research on other villages that have an administrator and have the finance committee find a way to fund a village administrator. The Mayor asked Cox to inform the BPA about the issue of personnel and concerns and questions that Council would like to have addressed.

Cox made the motion to accept Dean Krukemyer and Miesmer seconded. Roll call vote: Cox – Yes, Miesmer – Yes, Madaras – Abstain, King – Yes, Bowman – Yes, Campbell – Abstain. The motion passed.

It was suggested to have the BPA minutes posted on the website just like the Council meeting minutes. Council would also like to be informed of the applicants who are being interviewed for the utility worker position.

Ruth Philips sent a letter to Council expressing her dismay that Council wants to eliminate the Board of Public Affairs to hire an administrator. She stated that the cost of hiring an administrator cannot be justified, and the BPA does a good job and provides a wealth of experience and knowledge for the minimal pay of \$6,000 a year. She also wanted to know what makes the monthly brush pick up service so expensive which was reported in a recent Council meeting.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Opelt thanked everyone who worked at the Pemberville Fair. It was a tremendous fair with record crowds. The Sentinel Tribune article was very complimentary to the entire village.

Plans for Trick or Treat were discussed. After some discussion, Bowman made a motion to have Trick or Treat on Thursday, October 30, 2008 from 6 to 8 pm. King seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bowman – Yes, King – Yes, Madaras – Yes, Miesmer – Yes, Campbell – Yes, Cox – Abstain.
The motion passed.

Committee Reports:**Miesmer:**

The Personnel Committee met on August 12th and worked on the personnel manual. The 2008 wage ordinance was distributed to the committee to begin working on the 2009 wage ordinance in September.

Planning Commission will meet on August 20 at 7 pm.

Bowman:

The Economic Development Committee put together a village information booth at the fair. Bowman spent over seven hours talking and representing the village. He thanked King and Madaras for helping out at the fair booth.

There was a problem with traffic on College Avenue during the parade. This caused a danger for the kids that were the kiddie parade float winners. Madaras stated that the Fair Board was made aware of the problem and will meet with the Police Department for next year.

The next meeting of the Economic Development Task Force is on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 7:30 pm.

Campbell:

The Streets and Sidewalks Committee will meet on Thursday, August 21st at 5 pm.

Cox:

The BPA will be applying for an Ohio Public Works Commission Issue I grant for \$400,000.

Lift stations have been cleaned out by Adkins. Jim Palmer will be working on the catch basins at the elevator and Forrest Avenue.

Bowman asked about the construction work at the North Water Plant. There has been a building addition and an upgrade on the water system. This was financed with a matching grant.

The electric installation at the North Water Plant was also being worked on.

The electric extension on Kahler Road is still being worked on.

King:

The new police cruiser was delivered and the lettering was applied to the vehicle.

King distributed an information sheet about the Police Levy. King would like to walk the town and pass this sheet out to promote the Police Levy.

Mayor Opelt asked if we could park the older police cruiser at various locations around town.

The Police Department will need to purchase a new computer. This will be researched once the new police chief starts working.

Madaras:

Madaras asked if the clerk will be taking the levy information to the Board of Elections to be processed for the November ballot. This will be done on Wednesday, August 20th.

The Fair Board and Madaras conveyed their thanks to all of the village employees. Mayor Opelt said thank you to John Lockard, Brian Heestand and a BPA member who was working late the last night of the fair. The Fair Board and several fair vendors complimented the village employees for their expert work.

Madaras suggested using the front windows of the Ford Garage to display promotional material for the Park Levy and Policy Levy.

Mike Marsh will follow-up on the status of the Perry Street Extension nuisance problem.

Guests:

Russ Eby's wife was delayed getting home due to the 5 Miler race and Pemberville Road closure. Residents could not get home from work during that time of evening. It was suggested to remind residents of road closings during the fair.

The results of the 5 Miler Race will be posted on the Pemberville.org website within a few more days.

Madaras expressed his thanks to the Police Department and Interim Chief Darling for their work during the fair.

Cox mentioned that there will be a Long-term Power Ordinance brought to the next meeting.

Mayor Opelt again expressed his thanks to all who worked this past week and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Clerk

Mayor