

VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2008

Mayor Opelt opened the November 18, 2008 meeting at 7 pm with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Miesmer, Bowman, Campbell, King and Madaras. Cox was absent. Others present were: Mayor Opelt, Chief Bingham, Russell Eby, Bud Kahler, Gene Steele and the clerk.

Minutes to the Previous Meeting: The November 4, 2008 minutes were approved by Council.

Treasurer's Report: Bills amounting to \$8,546.13 were presented to Council for payment approval. Campbell asked to check the bills for #6 stone charged to the Street Department. The clerk would check to see if this should have been charged to the Water Department. King asked the clerk to check if the new cruiser's service agreement covered oil changes. Miesmer made a motion to pay the bills and Bowman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #1436 -3rd Reading -2009 ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS, DEFINING DUTIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION. There were three revisions made to the ordinance. (1.) Section 9 – Job title changed to “Streets, Lands & Buildings Superintendent. (2.) Section 18 – The hourly rate was changed to \$13.00. (3.) Section 28 – The phrase was added, “A spouse who is employed and is eligible for employer sponsored health insurance will not be eligible for Village sponsored health insurance.”

Campbell asked why a Water Helper position was not added to the ordinance. Miesmer explained that a Backflow Water Operator was added instead of a Water Helper. This position would hire a part-time licensed operator to fulfill the EPA requirements for back flow prevention. Backflow valves will eventually have to be installed for every waterline going into each property in the Village.

Madaras had talked to some of the employees about the Section 28 clause which requires spouses who are employed with insurance coverage to go to the spouse's employer coverage. This change would affect three employees. Changing insurance companies can cause problems for families due to changing doctors and specialists. Miesmer's response was that our insurance agent, Deb Kos, seemed to satisfy all of the employee's questions at the employee meeting. Also, the employee's children would have the choice to stay with our Medical Mutual coverage. Madaras and the Mayor reported that they received calls from some employees who felt that they were given the information about the insurance and they had no say, and had to accept what was presented to them. Miesmer explained that the Personnel Committee decided to move down to the MOP 8 RX2 plan with spouses moving to employer coverage with the intent to hold costs down to last year's level for the Village and to also hold down the cost of the employee's share.

Mayor Opelt asked why the BPA Clerk position was changed to the higher rate of pay. Miesmer responded by saying that the Personnel Committee and several others working with the BPA Clerk had asked to increase the pay rate due to job performance and the responsibilities of the job which justified a \$13.00 per hour rate. The Mayor was displeased with this change because he wanted to see a simple 2% across the board pay increase for each employee. Campbell wanted a balanced flat dollar amount raise rather than a percentage raise given and asked if that had been considered. The Personnel Committee had discussed this and decided to use a percentage raise which is common practice. Campbell also asked if the comp time carryover to next year was discussed. Miesmer explained that the Personnel Committee thought that the comp time was working well the way it was set up. We pay out the comp time in December each year to clear any obligations on the Village books. Comp time should be used within the same year as it is earned. Campbell thought the ordinance could be written to specify how the comp time would be paid out for the year earned.

Miesmer made a motion to amend Ordinance 1436 by substitution and Madaras seconded. The roll call vote was: Meismer – Yes, Madaras – No, Bowman – Yes, Campbell – No and King – Yes. The motion failed. There was no motion to pass the original Ordinance #1436, so it must go back to the drawing board. Mayor explained that it would be nice to complete the contract before the end of the year, but it could go into next year to get completed and then paid retroactively back to January 1st.

Health Insurance: Council needs to accept the Medical Mutual policy by Dec. 1st. The Village share of MOP 8.0 insurance will cost about \$82,000 for 2009. Using the spouse-employer coverage would save the Village about \$15,000 in 2009. Health Insurance cost the Village approximately \$64,000 in 2008. Bowman questioned Council if it was important to keep the same cost to the Village close to this current year. Council was concerned that the change for the spouse to go on their employer's plan would bring potential disruption to employees' families. Campbell shared that he did not want to hurt the employees or single out certain employees by going to the spouse-employer clause. If the spouse has a much lower medical plan, it would be a major burden for the family. Miesmer made a motion to accept the Medical Mutual MOP 8.0 with RX2 as the base policy for the employees. The option to move to slightly better coverage with MOP 7.5 RX2 is an option available to the employees. It was clarified that the spouse-employer coverage was not part of the motion that was made, only the coverage with Medical Mutual. King seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report: The appropriations are being worked on and an ordinance will be brought to the next meeting. Please come into the office and get a copy if you would like to look this over before the next meeting.

Chief Bingham's Report: There are three Pemberville officers that will be participating in the "Shop with a Cop" program at Walmart. Needy children are given \$80 to shop. Raffle tickets for \$1 each or 7 tickets for \$5 are available at the Police Station. There are 180 kids that will be shopping at Walmart.

The Police Department has applied for a \$15,000 grant for equipment.

Mayor's Report: The Village events calendar for 2009 was reviewed. Council needs to contact Stephanie if they have any changes. There will be no grass collections next year, only grass drop-off will be available at the Street Garage. Mayor Opelt thought that the Street Garage phone should be turned off to save on the budget. After discussion, the Council thought the phone should be left on. The Police and Fire Department phone numbers should be put on the event calendar. Campbell explained that there will be three brush pickup days scheduled for 2009 which are May 4th, August 3rd and December 7th. There will always be brush pickup after a storm. The street cleaning will be done by the Street Department for 2009 and not hired out. Mayor Opelt expressed that we are beginning to cut some services to plan ahead for hard times. Campbell and the Mayor added that we need to look at the overtime spending as well.

Pickup Truck Bids: The sealed bids for the 1990 Chevy pickup were opened. Howard Shirling had the highest bid at \$803. The remaining bids were as follows: North Branch Nursery at \$801, Bob Brandt at \$800, Alton Beeker at \$701 and John Bailey at \$675. Madaras made a motion to accept Howard Shirling's bid of \$803 and Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Miesmer: No Report

Bowman: The Economic Development Committee recommended delaying any further decision on the Old Ford Garage until after the first of the year. The committee is striving to see that the Old Ford Garage will be part of the downtown revitalization enhancements. Miesmer reminded Council that it was voted months ago to sell the Ford Garage.

Bowman met with the PIMA organization. They have planned to create a uniform look with Christmas decoration in the downtown area. Wreaths and garland will be made of fresh greens. PIMA has asked to use the Ford Garage for this project. They will sell strings of lights, candles, wreaths and garlands at a reduced price. Campbell made a motion to purchase candles for the Town Hall. Bowman seconded. Roll call vote was: Campbell – Yes, Bowman – Yes, King – Yes, Madaras – Yes and Miesmer – No. The motion passed. After the vote, Mr. Miesmer donated funds to purchase six candles for the Town Hall windows.

Town Hall Restroom: The building permit was submitted to Wood County late, but would be issued this week. A delay on the permit may extend the project completion date.

Campbell: The Street Department employees wanted to know if they could purchase cold weather gear since the BPA employees purchased theirs. The policy for the Street Department needed to be researched.

The Walnut Street building needed to have walls put in to enclose all of the exposed water lines in the back garage section. Council asked to have a material and labor cost put together for them.

Flood Petition: The \$500 cost to file the ditch petition should be considered. It was suggested to invite Ray Huber to a Flood Committee meeting to discuss the ditch petition.

The Walnut Street Restrooms were vandalized. There was damage to the front door and light switches. Chief Bingham had a notice put in the Sentinel asking for information about this crime. The elementary school needed to be notified that the items around their building needed to be stored away. Picnic tables were damaged by vandals in this area. Mayor encouraged residents to call the police right away if they hear or see anything so the Police can quickly respond to this suspicious activity. There is a curfew ordinance (#1358) for minors of the age 16 years or under.

There will be a Streets, Sidewalks, Lands and Buildings meeting on November 20, 2008 at 5 pm.

Two different people fell in an open post-hole down at the back business parking lot. There was also a fall on the sidewalk down near the Fire Department and the Ford Garage area. This sidewalk could be leveled as part of the street scape project. Miesmer reminded Council that the grant was put on hold for the street scape project. Mayor felt that Council needed to start asking town businesses to donate funds toward this project.

King: The Fire Committee met and decided to apply for a grant to help with needed building maintenance at the Fire Department. The Fire Department also went over wage increases.

Madaras: Park & Rec Committee will meet on November 20th at 7pm.

Remind residents of the snow removal law. We need to have this information put into a newsletter to the residents along with the 2009 calendar of events.

Guests:

Gene Steele reported that he went to the Wood County Commission's meeting last week. The Auglaize County Commissioners talked on how they just finished cleaning out the St. Mary's River. Auglaize County did not use the flow metering process that FEMA wanted Pemberville to do that was going to cost \$230,000. Council thanked Mr. Steele for attending this meeting and bringing back this important information. Mr. Steele encouraged Council to approve the \$500 expenditure for the ditch cleaning petition. The flooding problem is critical and costs the residents big dollars. "The flooding problem deserves a lot more attention than what it is getting," stated Mr. Steele.

There was no other business to discuss, so Mayor Opelt adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Debra L. Cartledge

James R. Opelt

Clerk

Mayor