

EP COUNCIL 2/27/23 85 N. MARKET ST. 7:00 PM

Mayor Conaway called the meeting to order. Present was Ms. May, Mr. Povenski, Dr. Rocco, Mr. Runnion and Mr. Walker. Mr. Simpson was not present; his absence was excused on a motion by Mr. Runnion seconded by Mr. Walker. Also present was Interim Manager/Finance Director Traci Spratt, Law Director Dave Powers, Chief Jim Brown, Chief Keith Drabick, W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe, Clerk Misti Martin, BZ Inspector CH McCutcheon. The minutes of the 2/13/23 meeting were approved on a motion by Dr. Rocco seconded by Mr. Walker. There were no department reports, agenda items, clerks, street or safety reports.

MAYOR: Mayor Conaway stated FEMA is now here and they are working on clean up. He said he is still working with all of the organizations daily to try and get everyone's questions answered. He stated there is now a clinic open at the First Church of Christ for anyone to ask questions related to medical issues related to the train incident and that the EPA is opening up a "Store Front" in the Studio 25 building where people can go to get answers to questions. The EPA will hold an open house Thursday evening at 6pm at the high school. W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe stated he is planning an open house at the water plant for residents to see the process and where their water comes from. Mayor Conaway stated there is information available on the EMA, EPA, and Norfolk Southern websites as well as our website and EP Information FB pages. Donations can be sent to the EP Community Foundation or any of the Civic Organizations that are listed on the village website.

MANAGER: Interim Manager Traci Spratt stated she received approval from EPA in reference to the water line replacement project with bidding being in April. Mr. Walker asked if NS would be removing the track and dirt from the area where the actual crash took place. Mayor Conaway stated the target date to start track removal was March 5 weather permitting, this will be done one lane at a time which take upwards of a couple months.

LAW DIRECTOR: In reference to Ord.3-2023 Atty. Powers stated the Village has taken steps by ordering supplies/replacement equipment some of which exceeded her authority so this legislation is confirming/ratifying things that she has done and are or will be paid for by NS. Mayor Conaway stated these things had to be dealt with asap to get emergency services back in order.

PARK/REC/CEM: NO REPORT Mayor Conaway stated that all contaminants have been removed from the park, they were just be staged there (bagged and in the container), there was no hazard to anyone but that we wanted them to be removed just to be safe. There are no contaminates at the park, it is a staging area only. In reference to mud being seen on the streets, we are being promised that it is not contaminated but rather from the new roadways that were put in for access. The contaminated mud is confined to a certain area.

DEV/FINANCE: Ms. May reminded everyone that counselors will be available at the EUM Church for anyone who just needs to confidentially talk to someone. In reference to monies being given by NS Ms. May stated these are not gifts or donations, these are reimbursements for damage. At this point Mayor Conaway stated that per the Charter he is allowed to build "Ad Hoc" committees; he is going to put a committee together with various citizens, community leaders, a couple reps from Council, PD, FD, Community Foundation as well as others to start looking at how we can move forward from this disaster. He stated he realizes we are still in the middle of this and that he hears everyone complaints and is trying to get all the answers but we have to begin discussion on how to move forward with the schools, youth sports, and just getting people back to town.

UTILITY: Mr. Simpson was absent however W/WW Superintendent Scott Wolfe was there to answer questions. Mr. Wolfe stated that Municipal water is being tested for voc's every Tuesday in conjunction with OEPA as well as an independent NS contractor and will continue to be tested week for the foreseeable future. He said that prior to the derailment they were only required to test for voc's tri-annually. He said they had done some testing during the oil/gas boom and that there has never been a hit of any kind. Mr. Wolfe said he doesn't foresee an issue in the future but also stated there a lot of things going on behind the scenes as far as having plans put in place if something did happen. Resident Ron Caratelli asked how long the testing would continue, Mr. Wolfe said he did not have a concrete answer but he felt the weekly testing would go on for quite some time. Mr. Wolfe stated that sentinel (monitoring) wells have been drilled, the wells were

drilled based on ground water flow (the ground water flows away from our well field)but if the contamination were to come back towards the well field we would be able to catch it very quickly. Mayor Conaway stated the Municipal water supply is okay but that if you had a well you should probably drink bottled water. For there to be an issue with a water break, the closest water line to the derailment site is at least 200 yards away. Business owner Steve Telischak asked how elaborate the water testing process is, Mr. Wolfe said it is an elaborate process to collect samples and then they are taken to Cardinal Labs in Youngstown; he receives the results in one to two days. The EPA and AE Comm testing are even more thorough and the results are taking closer to a week. Resident Ben Ratner asked if there would be a public listing of all of the results, Mr. Wolfe said all of the results will be on the EPA website and Mayor Conaway added they are working with them to get things posted in layman's terms. In reference to reading any of the results Mr. Wolfe said if you see the letters "BDL or U" those mean "below detectable limits/undetectable" which is like measuring for one grain of sand out of a billion. Mr. Ratner asked if questions could be submitted by email for example concern for SOC's in the air. BZ Inspector McCutcheon stated the workers are all very approachable and want to answer our questions. Mayor Conaway also asked that the residents please do not come to village employees' homes, they are doing a job but they are also residents here.

THERE WERE NO VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION

VISITORS: John Davis, Ron & Peggy Caratelli, Terry Keresty, Jon Varley, Jerry Coblentz, Nicole Johannes, Kent & Darlene Chapman, Tom Figley, Amanda Smith, Tami & Bob Harris, Bryan Dozler, Ben Ratner, Dave Biggins, & Katie White.

LEGISLATION: Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 2-2023 for a third reading and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance establishing the procedure and policy regarding lead and galvanized water line replacement in the Village of East Palestine, Ohio.** Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Ord. 2-2023. Ms. May-y, Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y. Mr. Runnion introduced Ord. 3-2023 and made a motion that it be read by title only seconded by Mr. Walker. **An ordinance ratifying and confirming all actions of the Village Manager relating to contracts entered into on behalf of the Village for replacement of equipment required by the Fire Department, Police Department, Street Department and Water Department, and which were contaminated, damaged, or destroyed as a result of the response to the train derailment on February 3, 2023 and declaring an emergency.** Mr. Runnion made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency seconded by Mr. Walker. Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y, Ms. May-y. Mr. Runnion called for a vote on Ord. 3-2023. Mr. Povenski-y, Dr. Rocco-y, Mr. Runnion-y, Mr. Simpson-y, Mr. Walker-y, Ms. May-y. 5 yes to pass. Mayor Conaway added that at some point there will be a special council meeting at the high school auditorium to recognize promotions within the fire department as well as everyone who has worked/helped during the derailment. Mr. Telischak added that once things are getting back to normal that we need to come up with some sort of program to let people know that the village is open for business. Mr. Ratner brought the need for independent testing in the village.

ADJOURN: Mr. Runnion made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Walker. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

MISTI J. MARTIN CLERK

MAYOR TRENT CONAWAY