**#1 Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Shiocton for the November 13, 2023 meeting was called to order by Village President Terri James at 6:00p.m.

**#2 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America**

**#3 Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and present were Village President Terri James, Trustees Dawes, Bunnell, D. Van Straten, Tyler, Schmoock and Gomm. Also, present were Village Clerk Laurie Sweeney, Gary Bunnell, Matt Woods, Rich Woods, Jesse Smith, Larry Berken, Jim Fank, Lori Bellile, Michaela Woodward, Eugene R. Bunnell, Chief Knapp and Jake Lamb.

**#4. Approve Minutes from October Meeting**

**M/S/P Bunnell/Dawes to Approve the minutes from the October meeting**

**#5. Discus and decide on Buoy Placement**

Trustee Van Straten reported that she, Chief Knapp, Zac Seitz-DNR, Trustees Schmoock, Bunnell and Gomm took a boat on the river to look at the location that the buoys would be placed based on the coordinates that were provided by Mr. Fank. They all agreed that location does not need buoys. Trustee Schmoock stated that location is wider than other areas and the corner is long enough that there may be time to prevent accidents.

Jim Fank stated that he is not in a hurry and nothing will happen this year but would like the board to revisit this in the spring when the water is high and there are many more boats. During a no wake boats must be 500’ from a residence and when the water is high in the spring that is not possible. There may be other options, like New London pulls out the buoys after spring once the water goes down.

Trustee Van Straten agreed that they could look again in the spring. Chief Knapp stated that the boaters and kayakers need to be responsible too.

There was talk about the fact that having a buoy in place encourages people to be more careful.

Trustee Bunnell stated that Shiocton cannot be compared to New London and he does not agree there is a need to revisit in the spring.

Larry Berken suggested taking them all out for one year and see how that works. Jim Fank stated that if people move the buoys after they are put in maybe leave them where they move them.

Village president James stated the Board will revisit the subject in April when the water is high.

**#6. Approve Ordinance 3-1-1(c) Waive Tax Bond Requirement**

**M/S/P D. Van Straten/Dawes to Approve Ordinance 3-1-1(c) Waive Tax Bond Requirement**

**#7. Village Hall Updates**

Clerk Sweeney reported that the duct work is done and the ceiling is scheduled to start on November 27th. After that the ducts will be cleaned and carpets cleaned.

The Board went over the quotes for the new sign in front of the Village Hall. There were three quotes and the Board went with the less expensive option.

**M/S/P D. Van Straten/Dawes to order the $5,000 sign.**

**#8. Eugene R. Bunnell-Burning Ordinance**

Eugene presented the Board a copy of the current burning ordinanceand went over some changes he is requesting.

Eugene stated that Shiocton is one of the only municipalities in the area that allows burning of leaves and yard waste any time of the year. He is concerned about the air quality and the nuisance to the neighbors.

Some of the things he proposes would be to ban burning barrels, require fire pits to be lined with rock or brick, be more specific on what can be burned, and limit the months leaves, grass and green wood can be burned to November to April. The Village could waive the restrictions on occasion for extenuating circumstances. The revised ordinance would allow the Fire Chief to extinguish a fire if it is a nuisance to the immediate neighbors.

There were concerns from the Board about people bringing more leaves and grass to the plant to be burned and that affecting the residents by the plant. It was suggested to separate the grass clippings from the other piles.

Trustee Tyler asked Chief Knapp if there have been many complaints and Chief Knapp said there have been no complaints reported. Eugene stated he has not complained because the ordinance may be too vague. DPW Conradt stated that he would be concerned about losing the ability to burn at the plant if the start burning more often.

Trustee Bunnell stated the subject should be discussed further at an Ordinance Committee meeting. The committee meeting will be November 27th at 6pm.

**#9. Approve 2024 Election poll workers- Tammy Free, Diane Boelter, Sara Knapp, Darlene Steinbach, Marilyn Sausen, Deb Van Straten, Janet Coe and Angela Krug**

**M/S/P Bunnell/Gomm to Approve 2024 Election poll workers- Tammy Free, Diane Boelter, Sara Knapp, Darlene Steinbach, Marilyn Sausen, Deb Van Straten, Janet Coe and Angela Krug**

**#10. Street/Utilities Reports- Director of Public Works Dan Conradt**

DPW Conradt reported there was a water main break on HWY 76. The DOT informed them that a permit is required anytime they do work on a state HWY.

There were new Christmas decorations ordered.

**#11. Shiocton Police Department October Activity Report- Chief Knapp**

Chief Knapp reported that the officers participated in the school evacuation drill, run with the cop’s event, and Halloween in the Village.

The buoys were removed and three were missing.

**Calls for October:**

DAMAGE 1

FRAUD 1

SUSP INCIDENT 2

JUVENILE 3

VEHICLE LOCKOUT 1

MEDICAL 3

BUSINESS CHECK 23

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TRAFFIC SAFETY | 0 |  |  |  |
| ASSIST | 6 |  |  |  |
| DISTURBANCE | 0 |  |  |  |
| ORDINANCE | 4 |  |  |  |
| RECKLESS DRIVER | 0 |  |  |  |
| 911 HANGUP | 4 |  |  |  |
| ANIMAL | 1 |  |  |  |
| THEFT | 1 |  |  |  |
| JUVENILE | 1 |  |  |  |
| SCHOOL SAFETY | 12 |  |  |  |
| LOST AND FOUND | 2 |  |  |  |
| PARKING | 3 |  |  |  |
| PROPERTY DAMAGE | 0 |  |  |  |
| FIRE CALL | 1 |  |  |  |
| WELFARE CHECK | 3 |  |  |  |
| TRAFFIC STOP  CRIME PREVENTION | 47  3 |  |  |  |
|  | 119 |  |  |  |

**#12. Range Report- Chief Knapp**

Chief Knapp reported that the range has been busy with the upcoming gun hunt. There have been no issues, things are going well.

**#13. Finance Committee examination of bills & voucher**

**M/S/P Schmoock/Tyler to Approve bills as presented**

**#14. Village President- Gold Cross Service Agreement**

Village President Terri James reported that the contract with Gold Cross for ambulance service has been approved and will start January 1, 2024. Until then they have agreed to cover any calls we can’t cover.

The ambulance will be sold eventually and the equipment will have to be donated due to requirements from being purchased through grants.

Clerk Sweeney will send notification to the residents regarding the change.

President James reported that Shadows on the Wolf put three loads of rip rap at Bamboo Bend and more gravel for the parkin lot. They are also looking at paving the sturgeon trail.

**#15. Committee Reports**

President James reported on the Fire Commission meeting. They went over the information about the ambulance and the 2024 budget.

The Library Director reported that she is working on the 4K program. They also had over 100 children for Halloween.

**#16. Clerk-employee Christmas, Date for DNR to meet with Board**

Clerk Sweeney reported that the DNR will be meeting with the Board December 6th at 5:00p.m. to go over procedures regarding flood zones and wetlands.

The Budget hearing will be November 27th at 5:00p.m.

The Board decided to have the employee Christmas party at the Village Hall after the December meeting.

**#17. Approve/Deny Operator License for Melanie Blohowiak & Stacey Carstens**

**M/S/P to Approve Operator License for Melanie Blohowiak & Stacey Carstens**

**#18. Discuss status of the River Rail Property**

Village President James updated the Board on the status. The last thing reported was that the owner was still working with the insurance company. There have been many inquiries about when it will be cleaned up.

The water shut off valve being under the pile of debris is an issue. The debris on the riprap going into the river may be an issue. The board asked the clerk to send a certified letter to all the owners.

**#19. Public Comment – This is a time for the public to bring up any concerns they would like the Board to address**

Larry Berken stated that when the no parking signs were moved to the other side of the road on Morgan Ave, he put railroad ties up to block his driveway so his parking lot was not getting torn up. The snow plow then hit the ties and showed them onto a pile of snow along with a lot of gravel. It took a day to fix it this spring so he is asking the DPW to be careful it doesn’t happen again. DPW Smith stated he now uses the pick-up truck to plow that street so it should not be an issue.

**20. Adjourn**

**With no further business to come before the Board meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.**

Posted and dated November 15, 2023

Laurie Sweeney, Village Clerk/Treasurer

The Shiocton Village Hall is accessible to the physically disadvantaged. If special accommodations for visually or hearing-impaired individuals are needed, please contact the Shiocton Clerk/Treasurer at 920-986-3415.