

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF
EAST SPARTA, COUNTY OF STARK AND STATE OF OHIO HELD IN THE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON AUGUST 18, 2008.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The Mayor led Council and visitors in reciting The Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following members present; Mayor Jackie Truax, Council Members Charlene Stelluto, Michael Caudill, Chris Freitag, Marlene Grey, Kenneth Byrd, David Naus and Clerk-Treasurer Rice.

Visitors included; Joe Kostic (Village Coordinator), Robert Cyperski (Village Solicitor), Barbara Malavite (Sandy Valley Community Park Supervisor), Dave Collier (East Sparta Fire), Richard Himes (Village Resident) and Joel Bender (Whitakre Myers Insurance Group).

Chief Hager presented the Police Report to Council. For July there were; 2 Traffic Arrests, 0 Juvenile Traffic, 0 DUI Arrests, 0 Crash Reports, 0 Driving under Suspension, 0 Misdemeanor Arrests, 0 Felony Arrests, 5 Calls for Service and 8 Agency Assists.

Collier addressed Council. Collier asked if Trick or Treat had been set as of yet. The Fire Dept. is trying to schedule their Halloween Party. Collier was informed that Trick or Treat would not be set until the September Meeting. The Mayor did inform Collier that Boo In The Park would be October 18th.

Himes addressed Council. Himes asked Council for support in building a Community Center on the grade school property. Himes stated that this would give the kids in town a place to go. Himes envisioned the center being equipped with computers, pool tables, pinball machines, etc. Council inquired of Himes how the center would be funded. Himes stated that he was certain that the residents would support a tax levy to pay for the construction and running of the center. Himes stated that he will complete a Village Survey to see what support could be garnered and would report back to Council.

Bender addressed Council. Bender inquired if Council would allow his firm to offer a quote this fall when the Village insurance comes due. No action taken by Council.

The minutes of the July 21st meeting were read. Freitag made motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Naus. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Financial Reports were presented to Council. The reports included; Warrant Register, Bank Reconciliation, Receipt Register, Revenue Status, Fund Status and Appropriation Status. Stelluto made motion to pay the bills totaling \$39,963.18, seconded by Caudill. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

R-13-08-8 Alternative Budget. Rice informed Council that the Alternative Budget was completed and waiting for Council's approval. Caudill made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Caudill made motion to approve budget as presented, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

O-15-08-8 ODOT Agreement. Mayor Truax informed council of the need for legislation to approve an ODOT resurfacing program for State Route 800 within the Village limits. Stelluto made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Naus. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Stelluto made motion to accept agreement as presented, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

O-16-08-8 Stark County Engineers Agreement. Mayor Truax informed Council that legislation was needed to accept the agreement with the Stark County Engineers for the maintenance of Ridge Rd. in conjunction with the annexation. Freitag made motion to suspend three readings, seconded by Naus. Roll Call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Freitag made motion to accept the agreement as presented, seconded by Naus. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

The Mayor informed Council that she had received notice of a CDBG Grant writing meeting from Regional Planning on August 27th at 9:00am. The Mayor and Stelluto are planning on attending.

Byrd, Stelluto and Grey will be entering into negotiations with the Fire Department concerning the passing of the fire levy and 2009 contract. The committee will report back to Council of the results.

Stelluto stated that a Disaster Committee meeting will be held 8/21 at 9:00am.

The Mayor stated that the OML Conference will be held October 1, 2, and 3rd at a cost of \$185.00 each plus expenses. Caudill made motion to send the Mayor and Stelluto, seconded by Freitag. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Cyperski offered to evaluate the boiler insurance policy for the park.

Kostic presented the Coordinators Report to Council. Since last meeting, 3 catch basins have been rebuilt. Keeping busy with mowing and spraying for weeds. The County has sprayed for mosquitoes.

Byrd stated that prior to negotiations with the Fire Department, he would like Council to obtain their own trash removal and stop using diesel fuel from the fire department for the backhoe. Stelluto made motion to obtain trash removal and cans for diesel fuel, seconded by Naus. Roll call 6 Yea, 0 Nay, motion carried. Rice to obtain estimates for trash removal.

Malavite presented the Park Board Minutes to Council. Malavite stated that the ice cream machine was broken and will take \$2,200.00 to repair. Malavite asked Council for approval to repair. Council tabled decision until later in fall as season basically is over and directed Malavite to inquire about a new machine or leasing a machine.

The Water Board Minutes were presented to Council.

The Mayor stated that Council needs to start educating the residents about the two levies on November's ballot. These levies need to pass.

Karen Sanders and Scott Muir arrived and asked to address Council. Sanders stated that she is upset with the number of four wheelers, scooters, go carts and dirt bikes on Village streets at all hours of the day and night. Chief Hager informed Sanders that unless someone calls the department the police can do nothing. They also must be caught in the act. Sanders stated that she will call in the future.

Muir addressed Council. He is also upset about the scooters, etc. but also about the drug problem and the problem of teens hanging around the Town Pump and Community Park with vulgar language and general rowdiness. Once again Chief Hager stated that someone needs to call the police. Muir stated that by the time the police arrive the teens are gone. Hager asked Muir if he was getting license numbers of any vehicles of individuals causing the problem and Muir stated that he wasn't going to do the police's job. Hager informed Muir that getting a license plate will help the officers at least visit the offenders and warn them. Unless caught in the act, that is all the officers can do and without a license number they can't even do that. Hager informed Muir and Sanders that they cannot be in the Village 24/7 without a substantial increase in the police contract. Muir stated that he will call when trouble arises and hopes that the police can correct the problem.

Rice informed Council of a shortfall in next years operating budget. Rice informed Council that it is estimated to have \$193,000.00 in the General Fund with fixed expenses of \$126,000.00, leaving \$67,000.00 to fund everything else the Village needs to do such as Village Worker wages, building maintenance, office supplies, cemetery maintenance, solicitor fees, training, vehicle maintenance, etc. Rice informed Council that they need to start now attempting to figure out how to fund the necessary projects for 2009.

Stelluto made motion to adjourn, seconded by Grey. Meeting adjourned 8:56pm.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer