

Village of Carey - Minutes
Meeting Date: May 03, 2021

The Village of Carey Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Rathburn presiding. The meeting was called to order. Council members Robert Styer, Dario Troiano, Anthony Fletcher, Chase Fletcher, Zack Wick, and Melissa Cole were present. The meeting was held on Zoom. The meeting was open to the public online. Anyone was able to follow on the Zoom website, app or by the call-in number. Also in attendance were Administrator Nathan Curtis, Solicitor Laurie Scheck, Public Works Director Bryan Spencer and Fiscal Officer Laura Ewing.

Minutes:

Wick motioned to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2021 meeting, seconded by Styer. Roll Call Vote : Yes (6) Styer, Troiano, Cole, C. Fletcher, Wick & A. Fletcher. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Visitors:

Administrator:

1. **Spring Cleanup:** Spring Cleanup is scheduled for May 21st. a 3-bag limit continues, with bags supplied by resident; rules are the same as usual: no large appliances; no TV's or computer monitors; no furniture, tires, or auto parts; and no liquid paint or solvents (dry them out with sawdust, kitty litter or other absorbents). (TV's, monitors, general electronics & larger appliances should contact the Recycling Center for disposal – they do charge a small fee (419.396.3541))
2. **Pool:** We are anticipating an opening day of May 29th, 2021 for the Carey Swimming Pool this year and plan on pool passes going on sale the week of May 10th.
3. **Tax Day:** Just another reminder taxes are due on May 17th.
4. **Toledo St. Bridge:** We were informed on Friday April 30th that the Toledo St. Bridge did not pass inspection and we were informed that we needed to close down access to the bridge. ODOT concurred this morning with the closure of the bridge as it was no longer safe for vehicular, pedestrian, or bike use. Pedestrians may use the walking bridge. The soonest to be moved up on the grant list would be for work to start in late 2023 and for the bridge to be open in 2024, or staying with our current progress for work to begin in 2024. The other option is to pay the estimated \$250,000 up front from the Village. The grant option is covered 100% by ODOT. Troiano asked what we could do to get the paperwork submitted sooner on the grant. Curtis stated that the engineer will get the paperwork in as soon as possible. Curtis stated that all other bridge work will continue. Troiano did not feel like getting the bridge in use a couple of months earlier than it would be with the grant work would be worth that much money.

5. **Water Tower:** Lastly, I wanted to float the paint color options to council for the water tower to see if there is a favorite so that we can turn into Suez so that they can begin their work. Troiano and Wick liked the cadet blue as it's closest to the school colors. Cole asked if the prices were the same. Curtis is unaware of any different prices. This is for the waterworks tower. Spencer explained how some of the process would occur with getting the tower painted. Some options are being looked at for temporary towers for the internet providers who use the tower. Wick asked if it will still say "Carey" in white, or if it would be solid blue. Spencer stated that we could keep the "Carey" and will keep it the same unless there is something different wanted. Council agreed with the cadet blue and the "Carey" lettering.

Legislation:

Third Reading:

Ordinance No. 2021-06 – An emergency ordinance approving the codification, editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the codified ordinances of Carey, Ohio. Styer motioned to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Troiano. Roll Call Vote : Yes (6) Styer, Troiano, Cole, C. Fletcher, Wick & A. Fletcher. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Other: Nathan Davis from RCAP presented a sewer rate study for the Village. He explained the information he collected which included past finances, existing and future debt, future maintenance and other possible future outcomes to plan for expenses. Davis reviewed the current sewer rates both inside and outside the corporation limits and presented his suggested rate raise for a 22% increase for 2021 or as soon as possible. This would make up for the typical year deficit, a 3% inflation on expenses and set aside for short lived assets in the plant. A 10% increase in 2022 for similar reasons, and to include the set aside for an emergency escrow. Beyond the first two years of increases he suggested a 3% increase for the next 3 years to keep up with inflation and bring the set aside for plant assets to \$40,000 and the emergency escrow capped at 12% by that time. Styer asked if there was capital infrastructure funds built into this. Davis stated that there are lines for that in the current budget. Styer asked if there has ever been an audit for the sewer lines age and the separation of sewer and storm lines. Curtis stated that most of Carey's lines have been separated. Wick asked for an explanation of how the median household income was calculated. Davis stated that he received his information for the calculation from the American Community Survey and that there is a margin of error. He stated that if the Village felt the number was considerably off that there is a process to get it corrected. Wick asked with these proposed rate increases if there is a grasp on how many households would not be able to pay this rate. Davis stated he did not have that data and would need a "fairness analysis" and would require an in depth look into the billing records. He did bring up the American Rescue Plan Act as being a possibility. Wick asked Davis to define debt capacity. Davis explained that he's specifically talking about the O&M budget for daily operations, preventative and expected maintenance and annual set aside amounts for replacing short lived assets. The Mayor asked if an alternative rate increase is possible. Davis stated that he has it set based on the current cash flow and then moving towards the set asides for short lived assets and emergency escrow. He stated that if you push the set aside for later years then it would lower the rates. A. Fletcher asked about using the average versus the prior year numbers. Davis explained that if he finds a line item that fluctuates he will use an average, unless there is a trend of increase/decrease, then he uses the prior year. The Mayor asked if we could use the ARPA funds as an escrow emergency fund. Ewing stated that it may be possible, but those funds must be spent by the end of 2024. Wick asked if there was a similar report of forecasting if there is no rate increase. The Mayor stated that we are close to getting into the red. Wick asked how long that will take. A. Fletcher, Mayor and Ewing stated that it could be one to two years. The Mayor stated that the Village has waited on looking at the sewer rate until after the AMI project was finished. A. Fletcher asked what the current position of

people paying their current sewer bills. Curtis stated that we average 60 shut offs per month. Wick asked if there is another group to have look at the sewer rates. A. Fletcher asked if there are shorter asset lines we should be using. Davis stated that there are lines budgeted for that, but encourage annual CCV work, relining and a scheduled rotation of cleaning the sewer lines. The short lived assets in the plant are in good order for now, but to look at starting to set aside something for it within the next few years to come. Wick thanked the public works department for the improved parking situation at the soccer fields. Spencer explained that they used some barricades and rope to section off a driving lane and designated parking rows. Spencer also stated that he ordered new barricades and signage for the Toledo St. bridge. Troiano asked that people be aware that they can still use the pedestrian bridge at the Toledo St. bridge. Styer asked how the other bridges are. Curtis stated that those had been inspected last year and work will begin on those ASAP.

Troiano motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Styer. Roll Call Vote : Yes (5) Styer, Troiano, Cole, Wick & A. Fletcher. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

The next regular council meeting will be held at 7:00pm, May 17, 2021.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor