

Bowerston Village Council  
November 16

**Village Attendance:** Paula, Polly, Karen, Juliet and Jon for Council. Jacquie, Jenna, Bart, Heidi, Justin and Janeen.

**Visitors:** Kimmy Hanshaw, Mar and Leeza Coen, Christian Gallogy.

Kimmy Hanshaw was present to discuss her easement violations and fines. A discussion took place, Jacquie advised that the shipping containers are by definition of Ordinance 316 "junk", and must be removed. Kimmy advise that the property is in her name, but her partner, Donnie Coen, built the porch and lean-to. Fines will continue to accrue until the property is clean.

Christina was present to observe.

Paula moved to approve October minutes, as presented, Juliet seconded, unanimous.

Paula moved to pay bills, as presented, Polly seconded, unanimous.

**Personnel Committee:**

1. Janeen explained that she is retiring as of January 28th for OPERS purposes, she will be rehired. Paula moved to approve Janeen's request for Village's acknowledgement that she will be applying for OPERS, Karen seconded unanimous.
2. Paula reported that the committee recommends a .50 cent per hour pay increase for Justine, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Juliet made motion to approve, Jon seconded, unanimous by roll call, to begin first full pay in January.

**Loan/Grant Status Report:**

1. Jacquie reported that she, Jon, Paula and Bart had went to the Atwood Regional meeting last night to see if Sherrodsville is interested in buying water from Bowerston. Sherrodsville is interested and are distributing a survey to their residents to determine the amount of interest. This would assist us in getting the EPA funding back.

**Mayor's Report:**

1. Jacquie reported that Bowerston purchased it's own One Call system, we have no connection with CV. Also, the late fees that are being imposed have been in place for 30 years, they are not a product of this administration. Having not enforced these fees have cost the Village approximately \$200K in the past 30 years.

**Utility Clerk/Income Tax Administrator Reports**

1. Janeen reported on current status of utility billing.
2. Janeen reported that we are approximately \$40K above collection of this time last year.
3. Paula noted that Janeen is in the process of getting all billing in the names of property owners, instead of renters.

### **Fiscal Officer's Report:**

1. Heidi reported that she and Paula have been working on the 2022 appropriations.
2. Jacquie inquired about direct payroll deposit, Heidi asked to move that goal to 2022.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

1. Jenna advised that she, Paula and Bart had a Zoom meeting with the EPA regarding the Hein legal situation. The EPA is issuing violations to the Village and they will address the matter with Hein. Bart inquired what will be done with the pumps that were in that lift station. Jenna explained that once we gain access to the property in question we will access the amount of damage and pursue at that time.
2. Bart advised that his department wants to fill that area with cement once the legal action is finalized. Paula noted that the EPA violation is to assist the Village.
3. Jenna noted that Court on the Hein legal matter is November 29th.
4. Jenna presented Ordinance 2021-7 for emergency measure, regarding non-sufficient funds checks.
5. Paula moved to suspend the rules of three readings, Julie seconded, unanimous.
6. Paula moved to pass Ordinance 2021-7, Karen seconded, unanimous by roll call vote.
7. Jenna had Ordinance 2021-8, updating the Credit card ordinance, to remove the word "debit", per State Auditor's advice.
8. Paula moved to suspend the rules for three readings, Julie seconded, unanimous.
9. Paula moved to pass Ordinance 2021-8, Julie second, unanimous by roll call vote.
10. Jenna inquired if Council wants to pursue the injunction against Hanshaw on the easement violation. A discussion took place regarding the matter. Council agreed to have Jenna contact Hanshaw and advise they have 15 to completely remove items from the easement. If the obstacles obstructing this easement are not completely removed, the injunction will be filed with the Harrison County Court on the 16<sup>th</sup> day.
11. Jenna advised that she is working on the water/sewer rate contract with LJ Smith. She asked for Council's direction and suggested a period of 5 years. Paula presented a chart of rate increases for the next 4 years. Jenna to prepare the contract and contact LJ Smith.
12. Heidi inquired if a council member could be paid a salary as a part time assistant. No, but the stipend can be increased.

### **Village Administrator's Report:**

1. Bart reported that the tractor/backhoe is going to need maintenance, he would like to purchase a new one, he has 3 estimates, this would cost around \$80K. Bart contacted the bank, we're looking at \$16K a year, without a down payment. Bart reported that we could do a lot of our own repair work with the backhoe. Jacquie inquired of Justine how he feels about doing this, he is in support of. Estimates to be finalized by December meeting for approval in 2022 appropriations.
2. Bart reported that he has a quote to replace the furnace in the water treatment plant \$2,820.00 from Simpson's for a gas heater. This may be purchased as an emergency measure.

3. Bart reported that he is working with the company that we are purchasing the top of the salt dome from and they will be stamping the drawings, to be sent to Diversified to apply for our permit.
4. Bart reported that he spoke with Encino today and the person that he had been working with has left their employ, he has a new contact.
5. Bart reported that he has been looking at health insurance for Justine and his family. Jacquie inquired as to when he will need this, July. Costs range from \$800 to \$1200 per month. Estimates to be finalized, and employee's portion of payment determined, by December meeting, to be put in 2022 appropriations.

**Old Business:**

1. Jacquie inquired as to how Council wants to handle the ordinance violations in the future. Jenna suggested a committee meet, agree and photograph the violations, then notify her to send the notice. Paula suggested that the Street Committee handle this task. Jacquie requested that all Council be made aware before any violations are issued so that they may be prepared to respond if approached by those receiving the violations. Jacquie cautioned Council to be prepared to follow through on any violations that are issued, this is a great deal of work.
2. Paula inquired of Jenna about 2 other properties that have encroached our Village easements. Jenna inquired if either of these were blocking Village access, one is and one is not. A discussion took place regarding this matter.


**New Business:**

1. Jacquie inquired if Council agrees to sell the old truck. 2007 Chevy Silverado, 4 wheel drive, single cab, half ton, 4.3 V6, manual transmission. Long bed, with Reese hitch. Sold "as is", with a \$1,000.00 minimum bid.
2. Julie moved to sell, Polly seconded, unanimous.
3. Set December meeting for Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. A covered dish will follow, all are welcome.

**Adjournment:**

Julie moved to adjourn, Jon seconded, unanimous

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fiscal Officer

