

The Council for the Village of Monroeville held a work session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at the MMC.

Present were: Council members Chris Raftery, Sam Wiley, Sue Rogers, Craig Franklin, and Bob Whitacre; Mayor Melissa Fries-Seip, Fiscal Officer Bonnie Beck, Solicitor Jim Barney, Administrator Tom Gray, and Chief Gary Lyons.

Vince Thompson was the guest. He is the owner/administrator of Effective Web, and had come to show the applications that could be installed on the new tablets. He brought one of the tablets with him, and he showed that they come with a keyboard and a detachable mouse. He stated that the tablets are pretty much like a laptop, only smaller. Because MS Office cannot be installed, he installed Google docx on all the tablets. The same user account was established so everyone will have access to the same information. Anyone can add to the calendar, and all will have access to it. E-mail abilities were discussed. Those from the Administrative Offices can be read by everyone, but Vince said there is a problem with e-mailing other addresses than to each other. He hosts the website and email, so a monroevilleohio.com email could be created for Council members. The Mayor expressed concern as part of how she stays on top of her emails would be compromised if others are reading the same emails. Vince said he didn't know how to remedy that except by adding additional accounts. Bonnie said she can still send her documents/info to personal accounts if that's what individuals want. Vince said that the biggest thing with the tablets is that they can be used remotely. He may have to work with each person one-on-one to get everyone acclimated. He provided the code to unlock the devices. Sam asked if there was a PDF reader in the Google docx, and Vince said he hasn't explored that yet. Sam said they need to be able to read PDF and power point. Vince said the mouse requires 2 AAA batteries, which did not come with the devices. The keyboard has a USB port, and both that and the tablet will need to be charged. Vince said he can give everyone some time to think of anything else they may want on the tablet. The Mayor asked if they could set up a time for "training", and it was determined that if everyone could meet on Saturday, March 13, Vince could schedule incremental time slots between 10am and 2pm. Vince suggested bringing additional email accounts if they wanted to do so. Discussion about who would be using the tablets. Bob said he would not be using one, and Bonnie said that she, Tom, and Gary would not be using one.

The proposed policy for the tablets was then discussed. Bonnie said it was being tweaked to make it applicable to Monroeville. The language included cell phones and other devices, so it would be replacing the policy we currently have in place for cell phones. Craig said the devices need to be used only for Village business. The Mayor questioned the definition of accidental damage. A decision will need to be made on this. Jim Barney asked who would determine if it was an accident. Bonnie will check with the insurance company about coverage, and will have the policy draft to everyone by Friday so any other questions can be addressed at the Council meeting.

The Mayor asked if Council had given any consideration to a salary increase for the beginning of the next Council/Mayor terms. Chris commented that it has been a while since any increases were done (since 2015). Discussion about the deadline for passing legislation to increase the salaries, and the determination that the increases would not be effective until the new terms. Chris suggested a \$25 per month increase for Council members and the Mayor. Sam asked how the increase can be justified. Chris responded that it's due to inflation. Bonnie said she could present the legislation for first reading at the March meeting. Sam remarked that at the training he attended last year the attendees were told that if there are a lot of emergency pieces of legislation, something's wrong. Bonnie responded that most

Councils meet once a week (or twice a month), where we meet once a month. The emergency legislation must contain an emergency clause citing why it's an emergency. It was noted that many of ours have to do with deadlines.

The Mayor asked if Council had considered where to place the golden eagle, and the Village seal made for us by the late Jim Herner. She commented that she would like to see more of the Village's history in the building, but she doesn't know how to do that. She suggested pictures of the Mayor and administration, and framed newspaper articles. Sam suggested putting the seal in the foyer where everyone can see it. The Mayor said we have lots of options, as the corridor walls can be used, too. Craig spoke about the Civil War history we have here that includes two encampment sites. He said he can contact Russ Herner about artifacts and how they can be displayed. He added that Roger Dickman would be another source for historical information.

Craig asked of Mr. Sommers had been contacted about the Council table. Bonnie said she forgot to do that, but would make sure she got it done.

Jim said he met with the Judge and Norwalk Law Director regarding Gatsso issues. More information is needed for them, so they are definitely not moving ahead.

Tom said he had nothing to report.

Bonnie said the annual State report is done and can be viewed on the Auditor's website. She was asked to put the building ad on our website with a description. Discussion about appraisals and values. Jim reminded Council that once the offers come in we can either reject or accept them. Bob asked who determines who gets the award, and the Mayor answered that Council does. Sam asked who opens them. Bonnie answered that typically Tom would open bids, and she always records them as they're opened. Discussion. Jim said that the bids are what they are – there is no negotiating. When asked if there was any interest yet Bonnie said that with other project bids, the bidders usually waited until closer to the bid date to express interest or ask questions.

Sam asked about 10 Monroe St., and Tom said it's a dead issue at this point as the agreement with the potential buyer fell through.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonnie Beck, MMC

Fiscal Officer