**COUNCIL MEETING 9-13-21**

Pledge

**Roll call-** Mayor Charlena Fisher Presiding, President Pro-Temp Dwayne Vannoy, Council -Nicolas Root, Holly Landis, Jeff Hamilton, Rodney Martin, Dave Price

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Vannoy, seconded by Root, vote 5 yeas and 1 abstain

**Mayor to speak-** I am going to address the Council, Village administrative team, and constituents of The Village of Amanda. Within the first few months of my mayorship, a couple council members of that time and at times the previous Mayor exhibited behaviors during the meetings. The behaviors were so disrespectful to myself and select fellow Council members and included interruptions, berating, and as far as an ORC book being slammed in front of myself and our Fiscal officer. The sheriff was employed to aid in restoration of peace during a Council meeting. Moreover, the President Pro Tem of the time, Tim Kirchgessner graciously offered to “run the meetings”. He then emailed council members as to his intent and the requirements of respectfully allowing each to speak and be heard as Robert’s Rules states and by way of a round table process. Since Tim’s move and resignation, Dwayne Vannoy has exemplified the Pres Pro Tem position through teamwork on committees, completing Public officials required training within a couple months of being sworn in and during our learning process. Furthermore, he led the meetings as I continued to learn and build a Council for the betterment of the Village of Amanda. I would like to record the gratitude of his service to our Council thus far. Also, the gratitude I have for each Council member as currently each have served on and met with their respective committees actively, all are compliant with Public Officials Training and a couple members are also FEMA trained or working on completing. Therefore, our Council will be prepared to respond in case of a catastrophic emergency and be eligible for federal funding.  (by the way I have never witnessed all of Council being compliant with trainings in 3 years as a Council member myself) The respectful tone of working together during Council meetings has been mostly restored. We can now serve our Village in ways which we have sworn to do so conductively. Additionally, during a time of transition and a pandemic, our Village administrative team have worked together to serve the Village in service department, appeals and zoning, office and clerical work, property maintenance tasks and during my first year offered guidance and wisdom to me and others present. I will like my gratitude for their efforts recorded. While we are all learning together, myself included, productivity has increased. With that being said, I have been studying Roberts Rules and our own Council Rules and will ask each of you to do so as well. We may accept them completely as is with the New Year or choose to revise. It is important to understand our procedures.

Finally, let it be known I am willing to learn from those with much more experience in this position -- if they so choose to offer that -- so the Village of Amanda can benefit from their wisdom.

Here forward Mayor Fisher will lead the meetings.

**People Before Council:** David Sheets Boy scout going for his Eagle Scout- He presents his project for approval, He is to build and maintain 3 book boxes around town. Library, school, and needs approval to put one at the village park. A motion to approve was made by Vannoy, seconded by Landis, with an all-in favor. David is to contact Ben or village office before placing at park to have location approved.

**Ben Hedrick:**

**Halderman/ Kriby/ Dunford-** The project is delayed due to the catch basin has not come in. They were told it should arrive this week. So projected start date is the 20th.

**Alleys-** Crack and Seal of Church and High will be done in Sept. However, they are still not sure when they can get to the tar n chip in the alleys. If weather hold out they might be able to begin this year but if weather turns it might have to be done in spring. Hedrick stated that if we wait to spring we should review to see if the one alley that is no longer used by school is a top priority, that we could move to an equal in size alley that is needed more. Martin suggested we ought to look into pave instead of tar and chip. Hedrick pointed out that the alleys have never been paved they all have only been tar and chipped to save cost. If it is postponed until next year we can address it then.

**Culvert –** The application for the culvert grant is due in Oct and Alan and Ben has been in communication to get application in on time.

**Lift Station-**We have had a quite a few issues with the lift stations over the last month, multiple times we had to have E.C Babbert out to work on it. Significant electrical issues were the cause, we had to replace components within the station to keep it running. The lift station was installed in the 90’s and parts are becoming obsolete so upgrading the components where are only option to keep it running. Parts and labor cost were $16,000 which is a lot higher than usual.

**Misc.-** Concrete at municipal building and park was completed. After moving the dumpster at park to new slab we have had no illegal dumping. If we ever do it is now close to the camera’s at plant.

**Committees-**

**Park & Beautification -**

**Fall festival update-** Vannoy has dropped offinvoice for tent. Plans for event are underway.

**Slide replacement part**- the 3 slides at the park (which is an older unit that we got used off of south school) the support post has begun to push thru the plastic of the slide. Ayers contacted the companies that we purchased our new items and they have gotten us in contact with the company we can get a replacement 3 tier slide. The cost is $5,592.52 for the parts. Ayers wanted to let council know before purchasing it. To let them decide if they wanted to fix or just not replace. When we installed the new playground, we have part new and used parts we got from south school. We originally got donations and a grant to replace items. We have $3,819.64 left in donations to cover any more replacement. So, the remaining $1,772.88 is to come out of the general fund park line that is still within our budget for the year. Landis and Fisher would like to look into more donation money to regenerate the park replacement funds for future replacements. Maybe look into festival/events any moneys go into that fund.

**Budget –**

**Resolution to accept rates set by auditor-** Motion to accept rates set by auditor Hamilton, Price, all in favor

**Employee wages-** The budget committee got together to address raises for employees. After Hedrick asked them to review pay. He was concerned that we would lose good workers since the village pay is so low. After reviewing the Vannoy presented the committee’s recommendation to the council. A 2.25 an hour raise for the 2 full time employees and a 1.25 for the part time. The one full time employees is working on getting certified to spray and the other was asked to do classes that might improve her knowledge. Motion to approve by Vannoy. Landis seconded it saying, she was glad that with the cost of living and competitive pay rates it brings them up closer to what they should be getting. The question of is this enough came up, they committee had discussed that after certification are done they could look it over in the new year and discuss. Vote all in favor

**Zoning-** we had a fence and barn permit this month.

**Services-** the grasshopper that is used to mow at the lagoon blew motor. Council would like to get information on cost of replace motor verses new and bring to next meeting.

Also, Simpson would like the John Deer with a grasshopper – Service committee go quotes this would be for next year. Will address this when they address the other grasshopper. Motion to table was made by Landis, seconded by Vannoy, all in favor

**Back Hoe-** the service committee looked into the back hoe and recommends we purchase Cat416 with the state discounted price. This would have to be ordered by end of Oct or Nov since they are 3 to 4 months out in filling order. Council would like to see an updated price and specs before they finalize purchase. A motion to purchase was made by Price and seconded Martin a vote of 5 no and 1 yes by Hamilton. Dave amended his original motion to all table until next month so council can review paperwork before purchase. Second by Martin. Vote 1 no by Hamilton and 5 yeas

**Property Maintenance-** the report was submitted – since the report was printed Price went out to do inspections. He is closing some and sending out 2nd notices.

**Old Business-**

**New Business-**

Martin asked Hedrick if we still have no dumping signs along bike path. He saw someone down that way that was dumping. Hedrick said he would check and possible have more installed.

Hamilton said that Eric Young contacted him about a black walnut tree that sits on village and Paige’s property line. He says it is going to fall soon and he is asking to cut it down and have it milled. He said that he would split the proceeds 3 ways (village, him, and Paige’s) motion to approve removal by Hamilton, Root, all in favor

Price brought up complaints on speeding cars that popped up on social media. He suggests asking the special duty sheriff to patrol more in the evening weekend hours. Fisher is to call him.

**Pay Bills -** Motion to pay the bills by Martin, seconded by Vannoy, all in favor

**Adjourn -**a motion was made to adjourn by Landis, seconded by Martin all in favor