

Village of Crooksville

Workshop Minutes

February 10th, 2020

Mayor Chris Mohler calls the meeting to order, with the following members being present: Mr. Rice, Mr. Locke, Mr. Hampton, Ms. Smith, Mr. Allen, Mr. Loomis. Amy Utsch, and Tom Collins were also present.

Samantha Shafer, was present to discuss possibly using the Rec Center in Emergency situations for Integrated Services. This is a Behavioral Health Agency. They have recently purchased the West School. They have purchased it to develop a residential placement for youth to have access to treatment that is close to home. The youth that will be housed there will be in the ten to seventeen age range. It will be a co-ed facility. They will have enough space to have 13 bedrooms. What they are asking from the Village is to be permitted in case of an emergency at their location to have access to the Rec Center. Samantha would like to see the community rally behind these children, so they know that the community is behind them. She states, "These are not bad kids, they are just trying to find their way".

The need for a program like this is great. This will be Integrated Services first attempt at a residential treatment. There will be a 24-hour waking staff. They hope by having a service such as this one, it will help keep some children out of detention centers, and allow them to get the help that they need. A location such as this will allow kids to stay closer to home. This will allow the families to get the help, and support they need for a smoother transition when their children come home. In the past some children have had to go as far as being shipped out of state for treatment. Being close to home, with the parents involved will hopefully shorten the length of time the children are in treatment. The goal for the length of treatment would be between 30 and 90 days.

The facility hopes they will help to bring in some jobs to the community. They will need food services, as well as maintenance services. They hope to keep their providers from within the community. They will be working with the school districts that the children are from. Some will do online classes, but they hope in time to bring on a full-time teacher to work with the youth. There are 12 counties that can be referred to this program: Perry, Athens, Hocking, Vinton, Meigs, Gallia, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Fairfield, Pickaway, and Morgan. Only these twelve counties will be able to refer to this location. They hope that they will be able to get the facility open during this year.

This location is on a historic site. They will be leaving the outside of the building the way that it is, and only plan on making changes to the inside to accommodate their needs. At some time after the facility is open, they would like to perhaps work with the Village, and have the ability to access the Rec Center to provide activities for the youth. They would like to stay in contact, and have open communication with the Village and the community so they can all work together to have everyone's best interest in mind.

Next up on the agenda: Agile Networks would like to be permitted use of local infrastructures for internet expansion in Perry County. They would like to utilize the water tanks to put up antennas. The question is to whether Council wants to permit them to make money while utilizing the Village's property. If they were permitted, they would have to have access to the Village's water towers, and all

of the fenced in property. The cost of their internet is higher than Spectrums. This discussion continued in great lengths. Further discussion will be needed and possibly to see a study done by Agile Networks.

Next up on the agenda is to discuss the vacant property registration. The Solicitor has drafted an ordinance for Council to look over. Council goes into a lengthy discussion regarding Muni Reg. At this point in time they have had no clients to get references from. The Village would still have to have a liaison to compile a list to give to them about the vacant properties. There is question on what the fee would be for the service. There are still many questions as to the process, procedure, costs that would be involved in the vacant property registration. Council will need to have time to look over the proposed Ordinance before a decision can be made on the matter.

There will be a meeting on held on February 13th at 6:30 p.m. if any Council would like to attend. This is regarding the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant the Village has received from HAPCAP.

Before the Solicitor adds “seniors” over the age of 65 can walk in the Rec Center for free to an Ordinance there will need to be a discussion on if that will just permit them to walk in the Rec Center for free, or will that include all other activities that can be done in the Rec Center. There will have to be a lengthier discussion, and the Ordinance will have to be put on hold until a final decision can be reached by Council.

Next up on the agenda is a discussion on the proposed Fire/EMS Facility. There are two building option layouts to be decided on. While Council feels that both are good options it is unanimous that Option 2 is the better choice. All parties that have had interaction with Tim Bement with App Architecture have been very pleased with him. He was able to reduce the size of the facility by 25%, and still meet all the needs and the requirements. By cutting the size, the cost of the facility should go down drastically. Council wants to make sure that the new Fire/EMS Station has a nice “curb appeal”.

Mayor Mohler asks if any of the citizens have anything they would like to discuss.

Rocky Chevalier wanted to voice his opinion on whether or not the parks should become non-smoking locations. Rocky feels very passionately that the Village should put signs in the park banning smoking. He does not see any issue with putting up signs that would not cost the Village any money, and try and reduce the number of people who smoke in the park. He states that smoking is not a right laid out in the Constitution. He feels that families should be able to enjoy the park without the smoke. A lengthy discussion is had between Mr. Chevalier and members on Council regarding the pros and the cons of the Park becoming a Smoke Free Facility. No decision or conclusion is reached.

With no further matters to be discussed, Mayor Mohler adjourns the meeting.

Chris Mohler

Mayor

Amy Utsch

Fiscal Officer