

## Village of Crooksville

### Workshop Minutes April 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

Mayor Mohler calls the meeting to order. The following members were present; Mr. Rice, Mr. Locke, Mr. Hampton, Ms. Smith, Mr. Loomis, and Mr. Allen. Tom Collins was also present.

The meeting begins with a discussion on adopting an Animal Ordinance. All members agree that there needs to be an Ordinance on what type of animals, and the numbers of allowable animals within the Village. They feel that 4-H animals such as hens and rabbits should be allowed as long as the number of animals are limited. The Ohio Basic Code is pretty vague regarding this topic, so members of Council agree that they should look into Ordinances that other Villages use to control the animals in their area. They feel that roosters should not be an animal that is allowed. There was discussion on whether or not to "Grandfather" in residences that currently have animals that would no longer be allowed if we were to pass such an Ordinance. More information will need to be obtained before a formal decision can be made on this matter.

Next up for discussion is the Utility Billing Delinquency Report. Going back three years there is a total of \$244,960 owed on delinquent accounts. Discussion on what should, and can be done to cut back on this number. There should be liens put on the properties of the people who are delinquent on their bills. Some residences have their utilities totally shut off and are living with no water, or electric. The question is proposed as to whether this presents a health hazard that the Perry County Health Department should be informed of. If the tap is still present the minimum amount each month keeps accruing, and adds up quickly for those who are not paying at all. At this point in time, we are not able to have disconnects (due to the COVID-19 Pandemic). Discussion is held on once they reach \$2,500 in unpaid bills should the Village pull their tap, so further debt does not keep accumulating. Tom feels the answer to the problem is to no longer charge the Guarantee Deposit, but rather to have the utilities in the owner of the properties name rather than the renters name. Therefore, the landlord would be responsible for making sure the utilities are paid, and would be less likely to get behind. Mayor Mohler feels like we are better off charging the guarantee deposit, so if the bill goes unpaid, we can put the \$150 towards the bill. The discussion continues with no decision being made.

Next up Tom would like to discuss the possibility of clearing a walking path from the brick alley down to Grant street. This would be a nice place for people to come and visit, walk the path, and to see the beautiful view from the overlook. Eventually it would be nice to have picnic tables, and eventually to put up a small shelter house. This would not take much work, or investments to get it usable. Would be a nice place for the public to utilize for outdoor recreation here in Crooksville. The suggestion is made about seeing if the Clay Valley Foundation would be interested in purchasing Christmas decorations to put on Main street. They would be visible from the outlook.

Next up was a very lengthy discussion regarding the Rec Center. Mayor Mohler has given Devyn Holm a key to access the Rec Center to work with the K-9 dog, Rocky to continue his training. The Rec Center should be able to utilize more of the space that is taken up by the Archery program. Archery is not bringing in much money, and they take up a good deal of space. The program has only been bringing in between \$500-\$700 per year. They have their equipment spread out in a number of places, limiting that

space to other programs. They would like to see a kitchen put back into the Rec Center, making it a more attractive location for events such as wedding receptions, and reunions. Mr. Rice feels that basketball does not bring in enough money for the amount of time they spend in the Rec Center. He feels basketball should be paying not only a gate fee, but also be paying to hold practices there. All other activities pay per person. In some cases, they are practicing in the gym for free, and then playing All-star games elsewhere, so we are not collecting gate money to help offset the practice costs. The amount of money that basketball has brought in has consistently dropped over the last several years. Some members of Council feel that if basketballs gate was collected by an employee rather than a volunteer that they would bring in more money. They feel that in many cases people are allowed to enter without paying. That there should be more consistency, and that everyone should pay to enter the Rec Center at all times. Some ideas that were thrown out where that perhaps they should charge a flat rate for the use of the Rec Center for a basketball season. If they were to be able to keep a small percentage of the gate proceeds that they would be more likely to charge all people who enter for the basketball games. Tom reminds Council that the Rec Center is kept open by the Tax Payers. Also, that the Air Conditioning Units are in great need of being replaced, as well as the Fire alarm needing to be renewed, replaced or upgraded. All of these items will be very costly. There will still be decisions that will need to be made regarding the Rec Center.

With no further discussion Mayor Mohler calls the meeting adjourned.

---

CHRIS MOHLER  
Mayor

---

MARILYN HORNER  
Fiscal Officer