

Regular Council Meeting
07/09/2020
7:00 PM

Meeting held via Zoom teleconference and streamed live on the Village of Blanchester Facebook page

Gary Bauer, Harry Brumbaugh, Don Gephart, Chad Hollon, Reilly Hopkins, and Richard Simpson were present. Mayor John Carman presided over the meeting. Mayor took a few minutes to read through the guidelines for Council.

Mayor requested additions to the agenda: 1). Discussion of employee to come off of probation (Bryan Buchanan, Street Department); 2) discussion of crash at Broadway and Center Streets.

HOLLON/SIMPSON: Motion to accept agenda with suggested change. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 06/11/20 and 06/22/20 meetings were presented to Council.

BRUMBAUGH/HOPKINS: Motion to approve minutes from 06/11/20 and 06/22/20 meetings as presented. All voted yea.

APPROVAL OF BILLS/ADJUSTMENTS

Bills and adjustments were presented to Council.

**ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS
PRESENTED TO COUNCIL 07/09/2020**

FUND/DEPT	UAN ACCT #	FUND
LANDS/BUILDINGS CONTRACTUAL	1000-730-300	\$ 4,300.00
LANDS/BUILDINGS SUPPLIES	1000-730-400	\$ 1,500.00
LANDS/BUILDINGS CONTRACTUAL	1000-730-300	\$ 500.00
UNIFORM ACCOUNTING NETWORK FEES	1000-745-343	\$ (500.00)
TOTAL GEN FUND		\$5,800.00
MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT CAPITAL OUTLAY	4913-800-500	\$ 6,859.00
MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND PROJECT ADVANCES OUT	4913-920-920	\$ 31,589.00
WATER OPERATING OWDA LOAN 6490 PRINCIPAL	5101-850-710-5000	\$ 0.01
WATER OPERATING OWDA LOAN 6490 INTEREST	5101-850-720-5000	\$ (0.01)
WATER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	5101-531-300	\$ 10,000.00
WATER TRANSFERS OUT	5101-910-910	\$ (10,000.00)
TOTAL OTHER		\$38,448.00
TOTAL GEN FUND+OTHER		\$44,248.00

HOLLON/GEFHART: Motion to approve bills/adjustments as presented. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dave Carlson and Wayde Lombardo, McGohan Brabender representatives, spoke on services that could possibly be provided to the Village of Blanchester if made agent of record for the current health insurance and wanted to provide Council an opportunity to voice any concerns or questions they might have. Wayde stated he believed there would be a depth of services provided and regular meetings with Council to discuss reports. Harry asked for more clarification of services. Wayde answered that Dave and Wayde would remain as consultants responsible for the oversight of the account and assurance that McGohan Brabender would be aligning with the overall goals of the Village of Blanchester (“We don’t go anywhere. We’re not salesman.”). An account manager would be assigned for day to day contact. Data analytics would be provided and MB Advocates which are contacts for the employees can reach out to

for resolution of bills/claims. A timeline for the entire year would be provided, showing goals and steps to take to accomplish those goals for the year. Harry then inquired if there would be a cost difference. Dave stated the cost would not be raised, and could possibly include negotiate to go lower than current cost. Mayor asked if there would be annual meetings held with employees to review changes to benefits. Dave and Wayde confirmed this as part of their provided services usually incorporated into open enrollment during renewal time. Changes would be presented in language the employees would understand and provide questions and answers for the employees onsite. He said the meeting could be held in person or via Zoom, whichever the Village desired. Mayor asked if McGohan Brabender was named agent of record during 2020's renewal period, how early would the Village have renewal information available for 2021's renewal. Wayde answered typically this was provided 60 days in advance of renewal (early June). Chad mentioned one concern is that employees do not wish to lose their current coverage through Employee Benefit Services (EBS). He asked if McGohan Brabender would be able to work alongside EBS as agent if so named. This was confirmed by Dave who stated he had 2 conversations in order to confirm with EBS, and the CEO had confirmed twice that there would be a positive working relationship. Wayde said they were not about coming in to "tell you what to do or make big changes". He stated it was not their desire to change what relationship they have with EBS. Dave said that if a better opportunity for health care coverage that would benefit the Village, it would be their responsibility to present that option to Council for review. Council review the options and then tells the agent which option they prefer to go with in the end. Mayor confirmed that the CEO had confirmed that EBS would be willing to work with McGohan Brabender via email that was forwarded to the chairmen of both the Finance Committee and the Safety/Service Committees. Reilly asked if the Village did decide to name MB as agent of record and then decided to revert back to previous agent prior to the end of a one-year period, would there be a fee associated with breaking "contract". Wayde stated there would not be a fee associated with this situation. Dave said there is no contract in place; they are paid when the bill is paid so to speak and there would be no penalty fees. Both Dave and Wayde expressed appreciation to Council for allowing them to speak at the meeting about the possibility of a future working relationship.

Chris Pratt, Horan Associates, recapped with Council over the past year's events of trying to provide a market bid for renewal time from his company prior to COVID-19 issues arising. He stated it was unfortunate that "here we are at renewal time and you guys have no idea what your renewal is". He stated Council should already have had at this time what the renewal information would be. Chris stated that Horan had shared vast information over the past year and provided information regarding Horan's credentials and services that could be provided which were very similar to McGohan Brabender's services. He stated there would be a customer service team that would be there for the Fiscal Officer to help employees with health care-related issues, as well as analytics provided to the Village on a regular basis on what might be driving claims under the self-funded plan. Chris stated he wanted to be frank with Council after digging into the financials, "You are overpaying not only for your benefits, but for your agent and the level of service that you're getting today." He felt it was unjust to the Village and "bush-league" and the use of taxpayer dollars that Council would not see the information for the renewal until August, the month of renewal time. He stated he had never come across this where the renewal was being provided "15 days out from the renewal date". He stated that with either Horan or McGohan Brabender, the Village would get proactivity, regular reporting, a pre-renewal plan would be at least 120 days in advance from the renewal. Employees would be provided the support and education they need, and the Fiscal Officer would also get the support needed. Chad asked for Chris to confirm that if Horan was named agent of record, the Village would have to switch health insurance providers and third-party administrator (TPA). Chris did confirm this and recapped that Horan had attempted to have a working relationship with EBS, but due to a previous negative experience with Horan, EBS was unwilling to name Horan as an authorized agent with their company. Chris said, "They're [EBS] protecting the current broker and that is not...very common you would find a relationship...where the TPA is protecting the agent. At the end of the day, they are serving you. You're the client." He stated Horan would have the goal to do a full market bid. Since the Village has been with the same TPA for 30 years, it was well overdue to have a complete market review and probably due for a change in some shape or form. The Mayor thanked Chris for sharing with Council and noted,

“We have some decisions to make obviously.” Chris said he appreciated the opportunity to be at the meeting.

Mayor inquired if Council wished to move forward with any direction as to agent of record for the health insurance. Wayde confirmed that an agent of record change would have to take place quickly in order to provide the most information available for the renewal in August. Chris stated that in Horan’s case, they already have an executed contract in place, but would still need to perform the Formfire application process with the employees to determine eligibility for a municipality health insurance pool. Harry asked if the current agent knew a change in agent of record was taking place. The Mayor reminded Council that the current agent had been invited to attend the meeting and was aware of the TPA being contacted by other possible agents. Reilly stated he had spoken with the current agent who didn’t want to present at the same meeting with the other two companies. The Mayor reiterated that again the renewal process was being pushed back by having to create a special meeting to accommodate the current agent. Gary vocalized that it might be time to look at other options since it’s been 25-30 years, and expressed frustration that information was not being presented to Council timely. Harry felt that the current agent needed the opportunity to present at a special Council meeting. Common consent was to have the special meeting quickly in order to allow time to collect information for renewal. Chad reiterated that the current agent was given the chance to present at this meeting and he didn’t take the opportunity.

HOLLON/: **Motion to change agent of record to McGohen Brabender. Motion failed for lack of second.**

Mayor asked Jewellie to set up special meeting and have Stephanie post notice for Tuesday, July 14th at 5PM via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor announced Save-A-Lot building would be coming down on July 23rd in preparation for the new construction of UDF in same location.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2020.011 was introduced to Council by the Mayor. Resolution is for COVID-19 relief reimbursement for expenses in 2020.

HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to adopt Resolution 2020.011, Resolution for Village of Blanchester CARES Act Participation. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Jewellie informed Council that an email would be going out to Village departments to copy any expenses that have been paid to date in order to be reimbursement for COVID-19 related expenses. She explained that the rules as to which expenses would be approved for reimbursement was changing frequently, and said she was trying to stay on top of all of the legislative changes taking place.

Mayor recapped that Bryan Buchanan, Street Department Laborer, was hired on January 20, 2020. His probation would be completed on July 20th. He reminded Council discussion had taken place previously to grant Bryan a step increase after probation.

HOPKINS/BAUER: Motion to move Bryan Buchanan up one step on payscale effective 07/20/2020. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Mayor stated there was a bad car accident at Broadway and Center Street which had caused damage to street lights via a pole collision. There had been a meeting before the accident with Choice One Engineering to discuss the ODOT safety grant and discussions by council to remove the current signal to a four way stop. Choice One recommended having a traffic study done before changing that intersection to a four way stop. A traffic study needs to be completed to determine if the current signal is warranted or not by ODOT before making any changes. Choice One is working on a proposal for the traffic study and application for possible safety

grant to pay for new poles and lighting and at Main Street as well. Ram elaborated with details of correspondence regarding the matter and explained they would like to use the existing traffic poles, but is unsure of the cost and reimbursement from insurance. He explained more information would be available at a later date.

SOLICITOR

Mayor asked Andrew regarding an annexation of 28 Park and farm properties when a hearing might be able to take place. Andrew stated for the 2 farm properties there was a drafting of petition taking place for the annexation and hoped that the petition would be available for the August Council meeting. He said regarding the Warren County property, he needs to check some laws in Warren County before moving forward.

FISCAL OFFICE

Jewelie reminded Council that the 1st review of the first quarter of 2020 credit cards by the compliance officer needs to take place soon. She announced that she had tried to obtain some forms from other governmental entities, but explained the reviewing by compliance officer is new to all entities, so there is no audited form that is available. Mayor asked if Council was better about signing the monthly reports. Jewelie noted she had seen the report that was currently ready for signatures and had seen a better response than in the past.

MAYOR

Mayor stated he would forward the email to all of Council from EBS that confirmed they would be willing to work alongside McGohan Brabender if named agent of record.

Ram told Council that at the 7/2/20 BPA meeting, there had been an approval of another water department employee and a pay range created. He explained the water department has had a reduction of employees over the past few years compared to earlier years. He stated the department is short-staffed and has issues particularly during vacation times and or sick leave situations. Range of pay would be W-3-C to W-3-F.

GEPHART/BAUER: Motion to accept hiring new employee for Water Department as recommended by the BPA. Roll call was made. All voted yea.

Mayor reminded Council that there was currently an advertisement on Indeed and Facebook for a new Street Laborer to replace Ted Sharp who would be retiring at the end of the month.

HOPKINS/HOLLON: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Approved: August 13, 2020

Mayor: John M. Carran

Attest: Jewelie Carter