

MINUTES – November 10, 2014

WOODVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Woodville Village Council held on Monday, November 10, 2014 in Council Chambers, 530 Lime Street at 7:00pm. Present at Roll Call were Mayor Rich Harman, Fiscal Officer Barb Runion, Council Members- Denny Fetzer, Judy Karchner, Joe Riffle, Stephanie Rizor, Jeff Tate, and Ty Tracy. Police Chief Roy Whitehead, Solicitor Bob Kuhlman, and Village Administrator Keith Kruse. Also present: See sign in sheet attached.

Mayor Rich Harman called the meeting to order and led the pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the Regular Council and Finance Committee Meeting on October 27, 2014 were approved as presented.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION- Tom Bloom read a prepared statement regarding the shooting of a dog, by Officer Steve Gilkerson, during a traffic stop on November 3, 2014. (attached)

Chief Roy Whitehead responded with a prepared statement regarding the same incident. (attached)

Mayor Harman allowed the crowd to voice respectful statements, as well as, a lengthy question and answer discussion concerning the issue.

At 7:45pm Mayor Harman thanked everyone for coming, and stated that the regular council meeting agenda will continue. Present at resuming: Mayor Rich Harman, Fiscal Officer Barb Runion, Council Members- Denny Fetzer, Judy Karchner, Joe Riffle, Stephanie Rizor, Jeff Tate, and Ty Tracy. Solicitor Bob Kuhlman, Village Administrator Keith Kruse, Township Trustee Ken Green, Deb Wallace of The Press, Karen Schepman, Miriam Obermyer, Cara Brown, and Tom Linke.

Ken Green stated he is impressed with the development of the solar field project. Mr. Green also noted he was grateful that the road has been patched by the school parking lot on Second St.

CORRESPONDENCE- None

OLD BUSINESS- None.

REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE & PERSONNEL- Riffle – No report.

PUBLIC WORKS & MAINTENANCE – Karchner – No report.

ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – Rizor – No report.

FINANCE – Tracy made a motion to adopt Finance Ordinance #1600 in the amount of \$29,253.39. Tate second. VOTE- Yeas-Tracy, Tate, Fetzer, Karchner, Riffle, and Rizor. Nays-None **MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

PUBLIC SAFETY- Tate – No report.

RECREATION & PARKS DEVELOPMENT – Fetzer – No report.

Police Chief Roy Whitehead re-entered the meeting at 7:55pm.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR – Keith Kruse reported:

• **Project Update:**

- New School: Attended a preconstruction meeting with Poggemeyer (PDG) and the contractor for the installation of the traffic light signals.
- Solar Field: Solar panels are being installed.
- Sewer Separation: 68% properties are connected into the new system. Many of the outstanding are on a contractor list for completion. Part of the Post-Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan requires Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) be sampled and inspected – this process will begin soon.
- Water Treatment Plant: Clarifier Roof and Valve Replacement work is scheduled to begin Nov. 17. Met with PDG and Eagon & Assoc. to discuss future plant upgrades and new well field options.

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VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR – Keith Kruse continued:

• **Other:**

- Replacing the fence posts around the pool with a white vinyl post would cost approximately \$33,000.
- Matt Tille will work on the swale behind Challenger Dr. sometime this week.
- CenturyLink has completed some of their media line transfers, and has authorized the Village to finish the remaining ones.

POLICE DEPARTMENT- Chief Whitehead – No report.

FISCAL OFFICER- No report.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

MAYOR'S REPORT- None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Tate made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:05 to discuss complaints against a village employee, Tracy second. VOTE- Yeas – Tate, Tracy, Fetzer, Karchner, Riffle, and Rizor. Nays – None. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0**

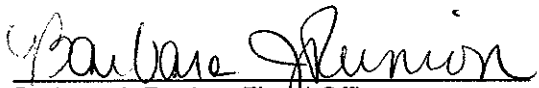
Present in executive session: Mayor Rich Harman, Fiscal Officer Barb Runion, Council Members- Denny Fetzer, Judy Karchner, Joe Riffle, Stephanie Rizor, Jeff Tate, and Ty Tracy. Solicitor Bob Kuhlman, Village Administrator Keith Kruse, and Chief Roy Whitehead.

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:55pm.

Mayor Harman adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm.



Mayor Richard A. Harman



Barbara J. Runion, Fiscal Officer

1. Thank Council for allowing you to speak.

2. Introduce yourself:

^{Tom}
I am ~~Chris~~ Bloom I have lived in this village for ^{PROBLEM OWNED FOX OVER 25 yrs}

I speak for several community members who have come ~~to me~~ and asked me to speak on their behalf so I speak not as one but for many. Many people have confided to me that they have a fear that they would be retaliated against if they spoke out so I will do my best to speak for them:

3. Our goal in speaking to you is to urge you to take some type of corrective action to ensure that what happened to Moses never happens again. No officer employed by this village should exercise such extreme force to control an animal by discharging a weapon when it is clear from witness accounts that this force was not justified.

4. We are deeply concerned that the initial investigation in this matter involved no interviews of the witnesses that were present at the scene. How can this be a thorough investigation? It clearly is within this council's authority to oversee the police force and the chief. Council has the oversight duty to ensure that the police force is managed correctly. As we speak to you today we are concerned that the police force is not managed properly. The police investigation has been flawed from the beginning in that the review panel never had all the facts. Investigation techniques usually require that before making a recommendation you at least interview the witnesses that were present at the scene. How can you submit a report clearing an officer without getting the facts from those who were there? This clearly shows that there was bias in the investigation. Because of this bias the citizens of this community now have lost faith and credibility in the police department. Where is the accountability of the chief and the officer that were involved in this incident?

5. It has been reported in the Blade that officer Gilkerson has a known fear of dogs that he does not know. How can this town be assured that our animals are safe? What action is this council going to take to ensure that officer Gilkerson will not discharge his weapon so quickly when most reasonable people can conclude that there were other actions that he could have taken to stop Moses without the threat of deadly force. With the utmost respect to officer Gilkerson ^{PLR} concern is that he has an unreasonable fear that most people do not have. Officer Gilkerson is entrusted with the public safety and right now we do not have trust in his ability to protect the public. Will it take a human being shot before this council does something to correct this issue?

6. Another concern we have is why does our police force not have cameras in every vehicle or body cameras? We would not likely be here today if the camera was on the officer. This should be a top priority in the police budget.

7. We would like to suggest to this council the following remedies:
- 1.) Officer Gilkerson not be permitted to continue in the line of duty without a complete psychological exam to ensure that he can safely carry a gun without unreasonable threat to the public or animals.
 - 2.) Officer Gilkerson be required to attend counseling that ensures that his phobia of dogs that he does not know be corrected.
 - 3.) The Americans With Disabilities Act requires that employers such as the Village of Woodville have employees that can safely and substantially perform the essential functions of a job despite their disabling condition. Officer Gilkerson must prove to this village that despite his known medical condition of phobia of dogs that he can safely carry a weapon. The job of police officer is too important to put in the hands of a person who has an unreasonable phobia. It is this village's legal duty to ensure that this officer can perform his job safely and substantially without risk to the public.
 - 4.) We as the public feel that the chief needs to be held accountable for the initial investigation of this matter when he failed to do a thorough investigation. No Chief of Police should ever submit a report without interviewing the people who were present at the scene. This clearly shows bias towards the officer and has eroded the public's trust in the department. This village must take disciplinary action to ensure that this never happens again. An initial 26 hour investigation without witness interviews is completely unacceptable.
 - 5.) Immediately put in the budget an acquisition to purchase police body cameras.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of many.

Village of Woodville
Council Meeting (11-10-2014)
Public statement

In reference to the incident that took place on 11-3-14 involving the shooting of a dog (Moses) during a traffic stop along US 20 east of town show the facts as follow.

Officer Gilkerson had a vehicle pulled over, and had 2 occupants out of the vehicle along the shoulder of US 20 and was attempting to do a consent search of the vehicle when he was approached by Moses on the driver's side of the vehicle in the roadway. Officer Gilkerson states, the dog approached him in a threaten manner, at which time he yelled out 2 commands before he fired one round striking the dog. Moses was not on a leash, not under reasonable control of his owners and lefts its property coming onto the highway. It was later determined that Moses was not licensed.

I obtained a written statement from Officer Gilkerson at 12:15 pm, which was within 1 hour of the shooting. His detailed report was completed and received by me at 3:30 pm the same date as the incident. All statements and reports are time stamped showing none of the information has been changed. Therefore rumors about statements and reports being changed are FALSE and are available for your review upon request.

When I arrived on scene, I received a call from Tommy Bischoff while on scene and asked him to have Joni Kryspin from the office to call me and that I would call him back with information I received from Officer Gilkerson.

Later this same date I called Tommy Bischoff back and inquired on the dogs well being. I also advised Tommy of the statement received by Officer Gilkerson and he replied I still don't know why he would shot my dog.

On Tuesday 11-4-14 at approximately 7:30 pm I received a call from Tommy Bischoff who stated I wasn't sure if I was to call you or if you were calling me back. I advised Tommy that I still needed to talk with Joni and he stated that he would have her call me that things have been crazy with a big job that they had just completed. I questioned Tommy on where the dog was licensed in reference to which county and who the family vet was and he stated he would check with Lauren.

As for the media, I have been answering my own phones, not sending them to voicemail but taking several calls. I have spoke with, Alexandra Mester and Dave Murray of the Toledo Blade and have answered all their questions as well as their records request.

Channel 13 ABC, Lissa Guyton called and came to see me and I released a statement to her as well along with Officer Gilkerson's statement and report. Took a call from Steven Jackson from WTOL channel 11 and answered all questions.

On 11-4-14 at 2:00 pm, 3 Police Chief's, along with Sgt Gearheart (our firearms instructor) and I reviewed, Officer Gilkersons statements, report and review Policies and procedures, and we found no

violations for discharging his weapon. Officer Gilkerson was also questioned by all 5 members of the panel. This did not mean the investigation was over and that was quoted by me to both the Blade and channel 13. At this time an internal investigation continues.

11-6-14 information was forwarded to the Sandusky county prosecutor, Thomas Stierwalt for review.

On 11-7-14 I received a call from one of the witnesses and set an appointment with her on 11-17-14 as she will be out of town till then.

These are the facts to date and again, if any other witnesses would like to come forward, I would gladly talk with them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy J. Whitehead', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chief Roy J. Whitehead

Woodville Police Department

Regular Council Meeting Nov. 10, 2014 7pm

Please Sign In -

NAME:

ADDRESS:

BRIAN + HEATHER BREER

817 W. MAIN ST

James Noble

209 N Walnut

Nelson Clapp

Elmore

Jim Johnson

Woodville

Kelly O'Connor

2210 N. Cherry St Woodville

Cara Brown

Woodville

MIKE ANGELOTT

918 W. COLLEGE WOODVILLE

Matt Hammer

6990 C. R. 107

Lauren Meyer

2676 Co Rd 38 Gibsonburg

Thomas B. Schmitt Jr

875 E Main St Woodville

BEATRIZ ADAMS

1524 Fort Findlay Rd Woodville

Suzanne Kase

106 1/2 W. MAIN ST WOODVILLE

AJ Potter

716 Findlay Rd.

Tom Linkke

Woodville OH

Jack Bresler

Woodville

David Martin

Chad Sutton

Shannon Hummer

Woodville

Ron Spaldin

"

Kari Pyle

"

added
BPK

Local T.V. + Newspaper reporters + camera crews

- Channel 13 + 11

- The Blade

- The Press

Regular Council Meeting Nov. 10, 2014 7pm
Please Sign On —

NAME:	ADDRESS:
KAREN SCHERMAN	602 WATER
Miriam Obermyer	319 Erie
Vince Dombrowski	4980 E ST RT 20
Tom Bloom	209 N WALNUT, 43469
Don Brown	669 Parkville rd
Al Chiquier	17
Ken Greig	4680 CR 44 Woodville
Zoe Lanni	765 Stone Rd Elvan
Jeff Jorlin	2811 N First St Martin, OH
Rebecca Brooks	301 E. 1st. St. Woodville
Pat Brubaker
Joel Howard	11901 Vanduyke Curtice
Carren Howard	11901 Van Duke Curtice
Anny Stauffer	4601 Lueke Ave Woodville
Judy Robbins	4617 Elmhurst Dr Toledo Oh
Evelyn Burchett	Wadbridge, Ohio
PETE CRUSE	214 EVERGREEN DR. WOODVILLE, OH
Robin McIntire / Chris	310 W. main St, Woodville
Donald Barrett	107 west college woodville,
Stephane Schmidt	408 North St.
Brent Down	
Beth & Tony Hornyak	209 E First St
Chris Bloom	209 N. Walnut
PATRICIA NEES	420 GRIE
Mike Holke	first St. Woodville