

VILLAGE OF MARBLEHEAD REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Mayor Starcher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Answering roll call were Dean Dorko, Dennis Kennedy, Matt Kovach, Angie Kukay, Maryann Sauvey, and Lee Walker.

Also present were Fiscal Officer Rhonda Sowers, Solicitor Jim Barney, Police Officer Shawn Craig, and Police Sgt. Jeremy Danklefsen.

Visitors in attendance were Jane Milholland, Joe Gouker, Patty Gouker, Al Mazzeo and Katy Mazzeo.

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 24, 2024 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

VISITOR COMMENTS

In response to questions from Mr. Gouker, Mrs. Sowers stated CT Consultants will again be assisting in the applications to re-nominate village projects for WSRLA funding, and Mr. Kovach said he will have an update on the water rate study in his committee report.

MAYOR

Mayor Starcher stated any council member in need of business cards with the new village brand should advise Mrs. Sowers who will place the order.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator

Mr. White was in Columbus for training but submitted a written report of activity. Several items of note were:

- He will be the featured guest at the Marblehead Library coffee hour at 10:00 am on February 16.
- He and Mrs. Sowers attended Ohio EPA's webinar update for the WSRLA 2025 program year. Applications are due by March 8.
- Continues coordination with ODOT on this year's project to resurface SR 163 through the village.
- As village representative on the Advisory Group for the NW Ohio Transportation Action Plan, he attended a web meeting February 13 to begin to identify priority safety concerns in Ottawa County.
- Has participated at meetings of Ottawa County EMA as well as Shores and Islands Visitors' Bureau regarding plans for the April 8 solar eclipse. Links to additional information are included on the Administrator's report posted on the village website.

Fiscal Officer

Mrs. Sowers reported the following:

- The 2023 Annual Finance report was filed with the state on February 1. Copies are available at the Town Hall and may also be viewed on the village website.
- Two training opportunities are available for village officials. The Ohio Municipal League has scheduled training for newly elected council members in March and the State Auditor

will host the annual Local Government Officials Conference in Columbus March 26-28. Costs for either of these training sessions are authorized village expenses.

- Western Reserve Land Conservancy will host a virtual symposium February 15 on biodiversity. First presenter will be Mark Dilley of MAD Scientists who was instrumental in designing the development plan for Clemons Park.

Police Chief

Officer Craig submitted a written report of recent activity prepared by Chief Thellmann.

Solicitor

Mr. Barney had nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning

Mr. Kennedy reported on the February 7 Planning Commission meeting. This was the first meeting of the year and was primarily the organizational meeting but a lengthy discussion was held on the proposal by Bay Point Acquisitions for 400 storage units and a convenience store on Bayshore Road across from the Waterview at Bay Point development. These are permitted uses in that zoning district but the commission had concerns about traffic congestion with the location of the proposed driveway near Alexander Pike and the Waterview entrance. Following discussion, the commission is requiring the developer to prepare a traffic impact study prior to issuing any zoning permits.

Finance

Mr. Kovach said he, the administrator, fiscal officer, and water superintendent met recently with representatives of RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Program) to review data compiled for the water rate study. Marblehead's rates have not been raised since 2009 and an increase is needed to keep up with the cost of providing water. The study is considering two possibilities. Option A is to maintain the current water production and distribution systems and construct a second water tower to improve both storage and pressure on the south side of the village. Option B is to purchase water in bulk from the county regional system and maintain the current distribution system. This would eliminate the cost of producing water and the need for a second water tower. The data compiled was based on assumptions about the cost of purchasing water from the county. Mr. Kovach contacted the County Sanitary Engineer and is awaiting more precise figures. A Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22 at 5:00 pm to discuss 2024 appropriations.

Legislative

Mr. Walker plans to schedule a meeting of the Legislative Committee in early March.

Personnel

Mrs. Kukay reported the Personnel Committee will meet at 3:45 pm on Tuesday, February 20 to discuss personnel policies and staffing.

Parks, Cemetery

Mrs. Sauvey has scheduled a meeting of the Parks Committee at 3:45 pm on Tuesday, February 27 to discuss projects for 2024.

Infrastructure

Mr. Dorko had nothing to report.

LEGISLATION

There was no legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Resignation of Sgt. Jeremy Danklefsen** – Sergeant Jeremy Danklefsen submitted his resignation from the Marblehead Police Department effective February 14. Mayor Starcher expressed thanks for the years he served as both a Sergeant and the K9 handler on the department.
- B. **Retire K9 Officer Luke and disband the K9 unit** – Considering his K9 partner’s age and health, Sgt. Danklefsen asked that K9 Luke be retired and sold to him for \$1 as authorized by state law. Mr. Dorko moved to disband the Marblehead K9 unit, retire K9 Officer Luke and sell Luke to his handler for \$1. Second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- C. **Police cruiser graphics** – Mayor Starcher advised that Chief Thellmann has requested a waiver from using the village’s branding logo and fonts in order to create new graphics for police cruisers. After viewing the proposed design, Mrs. Kukay moved to authorize the new graphics created by Allure Sigs. Second by Mr. Kovach. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- D. **Ohio Municipal League Legislative Action Committee** – Mr. Dorko moved to contribute \$250 to the Ohio Municipal League for membership in the OML Legislative Action Committee. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- E. **Equipment disposal** – Mr. Walker moved to declare as surplus and authorize disposal of four Ricoh copiers which have been in storage and are no longer serviceable. Second by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- F. **Quote for water plant clarifier rehabilitation** – Mr. Kovach moved to accept a \$64,002.33 quote from Leary Construction Company of Fremont for EPA mandated rehabilitation for one water clarifier. Second by Mr. Kennedy. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.
- G. **Request for one-time forgiveness of large water bill** – Mrs. Kukay moved to authorize a one-time forgiveness of \$538.88 for large water usage due to a leak at St. Mary’s Byzantine Church, 505 E. Main Street. Second by Mrs. Sauvey. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

H. Resignation of water department employee Joel Hogue – Mayor Starcher reported that part-time meter reader Joel Hogue submitted his resignation from the Water Department effective February 12, 2024. The resignation creates an opening to be filled.


AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to authorize payment of bills totaling \$244,736.40 was made by Mr. Dorko and seconded by Mrs. Kukay. Vote: Mr. Dorko-yes, Mr. Kennedy-yes, Mr. Kovach-yes, Mrs. Kukay-yes, Mrs. Sauvey-yes, Mr. Walker-yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

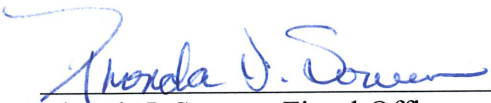
Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Kukay and seconded by Mr. Kovach. The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:33 pm.

APPROVED:



John E. Starcher, Mayor

Attest:



Rhonda I. Sowers, Fiscal Officer