**Village of LaGrange Committee of the Whole Minutes**

**Record of Proceedings**

**November 21, 2024, 6:45 p.m.**

The Committee of the Whole meeting started at 6:45 p.m. The following council members were present: Flynn, Price, Gregory, Karpinski, Honer, and Smith.

Most of the committee meeting was spent discussing the state of our water fund. At a previous meeting, Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller mentioned that our water fund was being depleted by what she thought was water loss. Further investigation uncovered other factors contributing to the short fall in the water fund. In January 2024 Rural Lorain County Water Authority (RLCWA) implemented a rate increase. However, we were only advised that tap-in fees would increase; the increase in tap-in fees was accounted for. Unfortunately, we did not discover the rate increase until our November 2024 internal audit. Additionally, water rates should account for personnel-related costs as well as maintenance, meters, repairs, vehicles, etc. Council plans to invite residents to a water bill discussion. Communications will be made on our website, our Facebook page, and in the Rural-Urban Record.

The next discussion item concerned salary and/or hourly rate changes for 2025. A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% was proposed for 2025 (same as Social Security Administration) for employees with additional compensation increases given to employees who provided exceptional performance. Further discussion should occur during the regular council meeting.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Curt Karpinski, Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer

 Council President Pro Tempore