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

**Record of Proceedings**

**January 9, 2025, 6:45 p.m.**

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

Letters have been drafted for the addresses whose water meters read incorrectly. We then can determine next steps for those locations (i.e., repair, replacement, etc.). The Neptune water meters no longer are supported; that is the unit located in most locations. Metron water meters are read with the help of Verizon technology; we have 17 on hand. The Metron water meters provide timely alerts not only to the Village but also to the residents. We are looking at $15,800 plus shipping for 40 Metron meters. Unfortunately, we are not eligible for any grants currently. We should be able to apply for grants after our rate increase becomes effective. Low-interest loans are available through Metron; Gates will provide more information at the next meeting.

Karpinski suggested the Village bill the wastewater treatment plant at the bulk rate we receive from Rural Lorain County Water Authority. Additionally, we will pay the water bill for the wastewater plant from the sanitary fund instead of the water fund because water is used to run the wastewater treatment plant. A 2-inch main runs 24/7/365 for the plant. Last month 125,000 gallons of water was used at the plant.

Smith would like the Village to develop a strategic plan for the Village. This was prompted by her and Gregory’s participation in the recent active shooter program. Smith stated that Granville, Ohio, seems to have a good strategic plan. It took Keystone School District over a year to put the strategic plan in place. Strategic plans address more than zoning. A few items discussed included safety services being available on the south side of town (other side of railroad tracks), mass evacuation of Keystone Pointe, the limitations of the wastewater treatment plant, becoming a Red Cross Storm Center, etc.

Gates shared with the group that there was a failure at the Manassas lift station over the weekend that impacted 5 residents including Gates. Of the 5 affected properties, 3 may file claims. The lift station is back up and operational after repairs were made.

Gates estimated 400 hours of overtime again this year. It is the same amount requested and approved in previous years. She stated that the maintenance agreement was received from Jason Scott of the U. S. Grant Street apartment complex and that we received a $580.50 payment from them for the outstanding balance they had with us. Gates also passed along thanks from Chief Hornby for those who attended the active shooter and mass casualty training on January 6th; they are postponing the January 20th training until sometime in February or March.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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

Curt Karpinski, Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer

Council President Pro Tempore