

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL SESSION**

March 14, 2023

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The Legislative body of the Village of DeGraff convened in special session from 6:00 P.M. to 8:21 P.M. 107 S. Main St., DeGraff, OH 43318.

Mayor Orsborne called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with the following Council Members and staff Present:

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne – Present  
Mike Dodds, Council Member – Present  
Mike Ropp, Council Member – Present  
Tom Rowley, Council Member – Present  
Nancy Hall, Council Member – Present  
Sandra Short, President Pro Tempore – Present  
Tonya Castallante, Council Member – Present

Staff Present: Kassandra Staley, Fiscal Officer; Ken McAlexander, Village Administrator; Greg Beatty, Assistant Fire Chief; Terry Brentlinger, Police Chief

Mayor Orsborne reminded council and visitors the only items that can be discussed is the CBDG grant opportunity and the Firehouse.

Ms. Hannah from CDC of Ohio went over what the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) entails. It is a \$750,000 grant through the commissioners to revitalize communities. The biggest element is citizen participation. There will be talk with an engineer to get project cost estimates on the viability of projects. There will be one more meeting about what the community would like to see. Hopefully, by May, the Village will have cost estimates and go through all the numbers before the application is submitted in June. Also, of importance, is no matching funds is necessary. Ms. Hannah explained that we could cover engineering costs out of the grant, however, it is better if the Village can pay for the engineering themselves. There is also available an allocation grant through the commissioners, which may be a possibility as well to help cover the engineering costs.

Mr. McAlexander handed a paper showing some identified areas within the Village that would be beneficial with the grant. He looked at the worse areas within the community where infiltration is getting into our sewer system, there is not good fire flow, where water main breaks have been, sidewalks to the park and school, and areas at the park that need improvement. The numbers he gathered are not accurate numbers from an engineer, they are educated guesses.

It was mentioned that the grant is not meant to cause the village financial stress. We will need to show projects considered by residents and work with the engineer on cost and viability of the projects. Mayor Orsborne mentioned we may have to raise water and sewer bills in the future. We could also look at possible requests from the fire department to add some fluff ideas for the grant.

Mr. Rowley mentioned he would like to pave handicap spots at the park to finish the project started last year with the handicap sidewalks. It would allow easier access to the sidewalks.

Surveys need to be turned in by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Fire House Discussion:

Mr. McAlexander explained the Village is going for a .5% income tax levy. Came to that conclusion through much research. Worked with Dinsmore and if the Village does a property tax increase the Village can only borrow a max of \$900,000. Have spoke with Quincy and Miami township they are willing to talk about and EMS, but not a fire district. The .5% levy would generate \$147,563 annually. The bond would be for 28 years. The building would be \$92,306 annually and that would leave about \$55,200 for operation. The current 1.8% property tax levy generates \$26,000, and the general fund has been supplementing. The Village does have contracts with the townships for fire protection services. If the Village went with a joint district the millage would need to be 3.18 mills to equal the income levy.

Residents asked about the contracts with the townships. Mayor Orsborne explained she asked the Fire Chief to get info on increasing and he brought back raising the contracts \$500-\$1000. The fire department has outgrown the current building. The trucks barely fit and if trucks were upgraded the new one with the new specs would not even fit in the building. Some residents started they would like to keep the fire department where it is at. They do not want to see the downtown empty and believe it is more centrally located. Also mentioned, was if the building stays downtown and we just build another building beside the current fire department then we could lose some additional parking downtown.

Ms. Short mentioned she is appreciative of the volunteer fire department. The Village is lucky we still have that.

Options mentioned by residents to look at:

- Cutting Fire Pay
- Raising townships costs to reduce income tax amount
- Just building an additional building beside the existing and not attaching it until the current is upgraded.
- Charging townships by square mileage
- Look at doing a district with Pleasant

Mr. Ropp left at 8:00 pm due to work schedule

Mr. Dodds mentioned he believes it would be wise to involve the townships. Have a meeting and see if they are even interested in doing a district.

Ms. Short made the motion to adjourn at 8:21 PM, seconded by Mr. Rowley. Roll Call – All Ayes.

MOTION

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Mayor Stephanie Orsborne

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Sandra Short, Council Pro Tempore

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Kassandra Staley, Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL concerning and relating to the adoption of Ordinances, Resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.