

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH LEBANON
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

1. Mayor Lawhorn opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge.
2. Linda Allen - Present Sue Johnson - Present
Randall Atkins – Present Steve Riley – Present
Jim Boerio – Present James Smith – Present
3. Mayor Lawhorn opened the floor to the public:

Sara Wilson – 375 W. Pike St. – stated on behalf of the Historical Society, she wanted to present a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Smith for his help with Ms. Rogers. She read the certificate stating that he made a positive impact on our community in 2014 and strengthened the image of it’s residents always willing to help others.
4. Mayor Lawhorn presented Ordinance 2015-1 establishing accounting policies and procedures. He said this covers what the auditor and council talked about, just to clean up our practices and protect everybody. A motion to suspend the reading rule was made by Boerio, seconded by Smith, all yeas. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2015-1 was made by Atkins, seconded by Allen, all yeas.
5. Mayor Lawhorn stated that Gary Vidmar was sick yesterday and off today, that is why he is not here tonight.
6. Mayor Lawhorn stated that there is a memorandum to review Choice One Engineering’s master agreement. Resolution presented for first reading. Mayor Lawhorn said Gary has asked if council would want to have the second reading at the workshop. A motion to allow the second reading in the workshop was made by Boerio, seconded by Riley, all yeas.
7. Sgt. Boylan stated there is a scam where they call and tell you that you have missed a court date and they will take your credit card for the fine. He said they then take your credit card number and go buy something. He said this scam is coming from a prison in Georgia. Sgt. Boylan said one of the callers has two life sentences.

Sgt. Boylan said they are having the Citizen Police Academy again and asked for everyone to pass the word along. He provided the information sheet to be filled out by interested citizens. Decided they will be at front desk for pick up.

Sgt. Boylan said the Sheriff had some grant money left over and bought our department the latest in hand held lasers. Discussed the new verses the old lasers.

Sgt. Boylan said he would have year-end stats for next meeting. He said looks pretty close to last year but traffic seems to be down this year.

8. Mayor Lawhorn stated ORC 733.41 says the mayor shall report to the legislative authority concerning the affairs of the municipal corporation in the first meeting of January each year.

Mayor stated in general the Village of South Lebanon is in good financial condition and the audit of the finances was completed for 2012 and 2013 and council heard the report. He said the report was good except for some changes in financial practices and the ordinance passed tonight will implement those changes. He said at the next meeting council will receive a list of invoices for approval and Sharon will have the invoices here for you to look at if you have questions. Mayor Lawhorn said they cannot come in the packets because to keep up and pay in a timely manner, you will get them at the meeting for review. He said the General Fund started in 2014 at \$2,260,305.95 and after the revenue collected and expenditures were made, the balance at year end was \$2,850,931.50 so we increased over the year. He said the General Fund can be used to pay any village expense. He said it did pay one debt from the water fund in 2014. He said the Street Fund started with \$167,922.35 and ended up with 228,630.55 and that money is used for maintenance of the streets in the village and used to pay village share on loans and grants received. He stated this will pay the share on Zoar Road repair and the money comes from license taxes and road taxes. This can only be used for roads. The mayor said we paid a share on the Pike Street project but did not do a lot, so that fund increased. He stated we need to look at the streets more and do some other things. He said the Park Fund started with \$10,842.20 and after all revenue and expenditures the balance was \$4,622.87. He said we bought some swings this year and if we are going to do a water project, we need to know before budget time so we can budget for it. The mayor said the DUI Fund and Indigent Alcohol Monitoring Fund you can see the balances on the report and that is money collected by the court and can only be spent as per the Ohio Revised Code. Mayor Lawhorn said the Permissive Tax had a balance of \$156,338.04 at the beginning of the year and at year end it had \$108,090.50. He said that is used for street repair only. He stated the Community Center started with \$11,531.99 and ended with \$8,072.97. He said we collect rent and it does not cover all the expenses. He said the Water Fund started with \$356,728.17 and after revenue and expenses the balance was \$366,076.78. He said the water fund is doing better, but we had some tap fees that were paid. He said we were able to pay our share of the East/West Waterline Project from

that fund. He said the General Fund loaned \$52,482.72 to pay one of the loans off and should the fund get in good enough condition, we need to pay the General Fund back for that loan. He said we were notified by the City of Cincinnati after Bruce and Gary worked on and council passed the renegotiation of the contract, the village used enough water that we didn't have to pay any take or pay. He said the first two years we didn't pay anything because Cincinnati waived those fees. Mayor Lawhorn said the water fund has four loans with OWDA and we have one that matures July 1, 2016 and the amount owed is \$49,890.00 and one in July of 2017 and it is \$36,864.77 and then one in 2018 in the amount of \$51,333.49 and the last one is January 1, 2043 and it is \$197,140.06. He said the first three, the interest is a little over 7% a year and the last one has no interest. He said we have applied for a grant from OWDA, and it looks like are going to get a loan to replace the waterline under the bridge. Smith said that will add 189 units and that will be huge. Mayor Lawhorn said the Sewer Fund started with \$2,500,960.21 and ended with \$2,227,635.53. He said the revenue is collected from customer usage and tap fees. The mayor said we had a lot of expenses in the sewer fund, we rebuilt pumps and yet we still gained and we are gaining because of the collections. He said Gary and the village engineers are looking at that fund and I want to be able to come back to council and recommend that we reduce the fee for the public. He said he can't see us keeping that large of a balance. Smith said we need to look at the big items for the sewer plant, some of those are \$500,000 and it has been twenty some years so those should be coming up to be replaced. Smith said the power stations have actually reduced our costs, because in case of power outage we had to pay to rent pumps and that was tens of thousands of dollars per day. Mayor Lawhorn said the Sanitation Fund started with \$40,430.40 and ended with \$44,364.00. He said we have a contract with Rumpke and don't have a lot of choice but to charge what we pay out. He said we have a Utility Maintenance and Improvement Fund, and these monies were set aside from sewer and water fund. He said we have \$184,759.29 in that fund and Sharon and I have discussed it, that fund is not being used for anything and has only collected about \$10 in interest for a year. He said he thinks we should look at taking that money out of that fund and he would like to see us use that money to retire some of that debt we have in the water department. He said we can do the first three and it is about \$139,000.00. He said Sharon thinks we can't pay them off early but we are going to find out. Discussed the maintenance fund and how it was used and the decrease in the interest earned.

Mayor Lawhorn said the residential housing continues slowly with Woodknoll, Shepherd's Way and Fredrick's Stand and Vista Pointe has a house now and then. He said Grant's Settlement/Frederick's Stand are building a few. He said the houses in Woodknoll have sold quickly and there are at least five that are occupied. He said commercial development continues with completion of the Dollar Store, PetSmart, Shoe Carnival,

and Starbucks. He said Dollar Tree will have the grand opening January 24th. He said there is a new barbeque place called Dickie's Barbeque Pit and they are out of Texas and they are going in next to Starbucks. He said the Speedway is due to start construction in March. He said Gary has worked with ODOT and you have seen the white fence in place and ODOT agreed to that and it had to be done before they would give permit to go to the other side. He said they had to have a date also for the exit lane from 48 to southbound 71 and that is going to have to be done at the end of this year. The mayor said Speedway has closed on the property. Mayor Lawhorn said while Gary was working with IRG he found that the sewer, water, storm sewer, and detention ponds were put in and financed with TIF funds and they are considered public utilities and have to be accepted and dedicated by the village council. He said that is north of Corwin Nixon. He said Lowe's and the bank are not and now the fence is the villages responsibility. He said they are working on the Mason Morrow Milgrove Road project. He said Mayor's Court was down about \$6,000.00. He said Sgt. Boylan stated traffic was down. Mayor Lawhorn said the village is in good shape, things are running good and he said he compliments Gary and Bruce, they work well together. He said everyone is doing a good job. He thanked council and said they have worked together and got things done.

9. Mayor Lawhorn said the selection of Vice-Mayor has to be done at this meeting. Allen nominated Steve Riley and he accepted. Smith nominated Randall Atkins and he accepted. Johnson nominated Linda Allen and she declined stating she nominated Riley and enjoyed it but thinks it is time for someone else to do it. Roll was called for Riley, all yeas.
10. Mayor Lawhorn said an appointment needs to be made for the Planning Board and he asked for nominations. Mayor Lawhorn said Linda has been the representative for the Regional Planning and they have asked her if she would be interested in being on the executive board. He said it would be nice if she were on the village board. Boerio nominated Linda Allen and she accepted. Roll called, all yeas.
11. Mayor Lawhorn said an appointment needs to be made to the Zoning Board. Smith nominated Randall Atkins and he accepted. Roll was called, all yeas.
12. Mayor Lawhorn passed out his recommendations for committees and asked council to confirm. A motion to accept the committees was made by Atkins, seconded by Boerio, all yeas.
13. Mayor Lawhorn presented the invoice for the liability insurance renewal in the amount of \$33,845.00. A motion to pay the invoice was made by Allen, seconded by Atkins, all yeas.

14. Atkins asked about the development on Pike Street concerning stop signs. Mayor Lawhorn stated it is the developer's responsibility. Bruce said he does not know if it is on the schedule and would have to look at it. Mayor Lawhorn said he does not know if we can force stop signs on private property. Sgt. Boylan said if the signs are regulation size his department can enforce them. He said he will discuss with Gary.
15. Boerio stated we need to keep an eye on the streets, with the winter weather it creates pot holes. He said the little bridge over Turtlecreek has some pot holes.
16. Smith said outside the limits of the village, on Cochran, can we have Gary notify the township or county that there is pot hole that goes into our subdivision that is eight to ten inches deep. Smith reported that the swings we put in the park are used a lot and he looked at the area and said if we put the second set in front of the other it will fit better in the park.

Smith asked about the duplex that burned and the mayor said it will be torn down.

Smith stated he has looked at a lot of audits throughout the county and State of Ohio and ours looks very well and he wants to personally thank Sharon because she handles the paperwork and bookkeeping and to keep us where we get a good report from the State is a compliment to the community.

Smith thanked the Historical Society for the certificate.

Smith asked Bruce if the village would get revenue from gasoline tax from Speedway. Bruce said it sounds like Smith thinks Lebanon did something by ordinance to change the money they receive and he does not know that answer. Mayor Lawhorn said he thinks that is set by the State and we don't have a say so in that and Bruce agreed. Bruce said he will contact Pat Clemons and see what they did.

17. Riley thanked everyone for the nomination.

18. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:27 p.m. by Atkins, seconded by Riley, all yeas.

Sharon Louallen, Fiscal Officer

Lionel Lawhorn, Mayor