

September 26, 2023

COUNCIL MEETING

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers, 2nd floor, at 102 Willow Street, New Richmond, Ohio, in regular session on Tuesday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Ewing opened the meeting with everyone standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ewing asked for Roll Call of all Council with the following members responding:

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Yes</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Absent</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Absent</u>

Present in Council Chambers: Mayor Glenn Ewing; Administration: Solicitor, Scott Sollmann, Interim Village Administrator, Bob Lindhorst; Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider; Department Heads: Police Chief Eric Williams and Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp

Guests present (Resident): Donna Prues, Bill Marsh **Zoom:** Bobbie Phillips, Ryan Pickering

Comments from Audience:

Bill Marsh:

- Wrote a letter Bob Lindhorst in regard to culvert. Ground is settling. He put up caution tape. Bob went up and took pictures. Councilperson Prues asked Bob when we could address this - per Bob, within a week. Bob noted that we have a drawing of this and will get with Norm Collins.
- Water Pressure-He had GR Plumbing come out and tested the line by the road. The meter was full of water. Probed by the house. Hired the plumber to fix the issues. Still not sure why the village didn't come out, but he is still waiting for a response from village. He noted that his Utility bill doubled. He was told to contact Bobbi Phillips for an adjustment. Seems there was a leak, his water pressure was too low. Councilperson Dalton commented on the new tablets the Utility Department will be using for Work Orders.

MINUTES

Minutes of the **09/12/2023** Regular Council meeting were presented for approval.

Councilperson Feldkamp motioned to approve the Minutes of 09/12/2023 Regular Council meeting with corrections; seconded by Councilperson Prues Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mary Allen <u>Yes</u>	Larry Prues <u>Yes</u>	Dennis Dalton <u>Abstain</u>
Richard Feldkamp <u>Yes</u>	Jon Tharpe <u>Absent</u>	Ryan Woodruff <u>Absent</u>

Personnel and Finance (dated 8/21 but should be 9/26)
Chairperson Mary Allen

We review our Task List and the status of each. We are on track for the steps we need to complete.

Task List - 2023 Police & Fire/EMS Levy

1. Insert the letter (Joel's version) that's on the website into the utility bill envelopes (Joel talk to Bobby) **(on track for next mailing)**
2. Yard Signs **(in progress – ready next week)**
 - a. Create the content (Joel and Tim)
 - b. Identify the best supplier (Joel and Glenn)
3. Town Hall Meetings **(scheduled)**
 - a. Create list of potential questions and answers (Mary) **(near final)**
 - b. Prepare handouts for attendees (Larry, Joel, and others) **(TBD)**
 - c. Create Agenda (drafted during 8/21/23 meeting by all attendees) **(in progress)**
 - i. Welcome and introductory comments (include limit on the number of questions per participant) **(in progress)**
 - ii. Key points we want to share with the audience.
 - iii. Q&A
 - d. Ask Kelley to communicate a Public Town Hall Meeting to discuss the levy for 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. prior to the two October Council Meetings **(complete)**
 - e. Conduct the Town Hall Meetings (All – Planned)
4. Web site creation – Matt Carey (Tim and Eric) **(in progress)**
5. Create election day handouts or something that can be handed out whenever **(In progress)**
6. Prepare a personal note and send it along with our letter on the website **(Near final – will be complete and sent first week of October)**

Matt Carey's suggestions during the August 7, 2023, Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting:

1. Establish a group of community influences **(in progress)**
2. Make sure our communications **(in progress)**
 - a. Justify the need.
 - b. Advise where all the money goes.
 - c. Depicts breakdown of the taxes on the property tax bill and point out just what the Village receives from the individual tax bills.
 - d. Highlight they pay property tax on the assessed value, not actual value, of their homes.
3. We should create a website and a Facebook page, and we should all point to that vs. trying to educate everyone on the message to be shared. **(in progress)**.
4. We should use "Facebook live" **(ask Kelley - TBD)**
5. Reminded us that the Village can't pay for promotional material. Individual residents and councilman, as residents, can
6. We should consider placing inserts in resident's doors.
7. We should consider creating a polling handout for use on election day in November **(near final)**
8. We should review Monroelevy.com and springfieldlevy.com to insights into what they did.
9. We should be clear in our message who our Police, Fire and EMS Departments provide services to and emphasize there isn't much mutual aid readily available, should we not have adequate services.

**Mary's initial list of potential Town Hall audience questions
(list was revised and questions answered)**

1. What do you do with all the money you already have in the budget?
2. Why don't you cut costs vs. just ask for more money?
3. I thought we already have a police and fire levy? What's that money being used for?
4. What do you do with the RITA money?
5. If you're short of money, why did you give raises?
6. Why can't you use the money you're spending on Liberty Landing?
7. Why can't you just get more grants?
8. According to the news, Clermont Co. property taxes will increase with the upcoming assessment. Won't you get more money with that?
9. What are you going to use the additional money for?
10. If passed, how long will it be before you ask for more money?
11. If passed, how long will it be before you ask for more money?
12. Why can't you outsource the Police Department and use other community emergency service organizations?

**HELP US HELP YOU
VOTE YES!**

**Monroe Township
Fire & EMS**

for FIRE-EMS

www.monroetwplevy.com

- 1.5-mill continuous levy would generate up to \$220,248
- For a home valued at \$150,000, the levy would cost \$78.75 a year
- Call volume from 2018 to 2021 increased by 277 runs
- MTFD Firefighter/Paramedic pay is \$15.89/hour
- Clermont Co. Firefighter/Paramedic average pay is \$22.35/hour
- Staffing issues all across Ohio due to lack of certified personnel
- Continued rising costs of medical supplies, fuel & electricity

**LEVY MONEY GENERATED WILL GO TO
DAILY OPERATIONS COST & COMPETITIVE PAY**

**HELP US HELP YOU
✓ VOTE YES!
For Police/Fire/EMS**

**Village of New Richmond
Police / Fire & EMS**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Responds to approximately 3,800 calls per year
- For a home valued at \$150,000, each levy will cost \$210 per year
- There are staffing issues across Ohio due to lack of certified personnel
- There are continued rising costs of medical supplies, equipment, and fuel

Levy money generated will go to daily operations costs and competitive pay.

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

- Responds to approximately 800 calls per year
- For a home valued at \$150,000, each levy will cost \$210 per year
- There are staffing issues across Ohio due to lack of certified personnel
- There are continued rising costs of medical supplies, equipment, and fuel

Levy money generated will go to daily operations costs and competitive pay.

	Clermont County	New Richmond
Police Officer Pay Rate	\$36.00	\$21.54
Firefighter/Paramedic Pay Rate	\$30.00	\$20.50

Mary Allen

Mary Allen's Sample Letter

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Thanks for your support over my three terms on Village Council. As always, I'm very thankful and appreciative for it. This letter provides a quick update on the state of business in New Richmond.

It's a great time to live in New Richmond!

- In the past four years, we've attracted over 600 new residents and they're really engaged in the community!
- The US 52 business corridor is awesome. Front Street is busier than ever; there's activities down there all the time. And the Sunday Farmer's Market is wonderful.
- Our DORA (designated outdoor refreshment area) is attracting more festivals and visitors to our community, fueling growth and economic development.

Upcoming Election

I have two years remaining in my 3rd term, but the mayor and two other council members are up for re-election. We currently have a great team. We don't always agree, but we get things done! I encourage each of you to vote on November 7th and I hope you will consider giving the following individuals a second chance:

Glenn Ewing for Mayor	Richard Felikamp for Council	Larry Prues for Council
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With a consistent team we will continue to accomplish great things in New Richmond.

Village finances

The Village of New Richmond is experiencing budget issues. You may know that there will be two tax levies on the ballot in November; one for the Police Department and one for the Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department. With the current level of inflation and the recent property reassessments, I know this is not a good time to ask you to consider approving two tax levies. For a discussion with the Clermont County Auditor's Office, the millage in the tax levy will be on the current valuation of your home vs. the new assessment. This comes to \$140 per year on each \$100,000.

Why we need the tax increases:

- We receive significantly less tax revenue from the Backford Power Plant than we did ten years ago.
- The State of Ohio has reduced the amount of money in the Local Government Fund. All municipalities are receiving about 50% less tax revenue from the state than they did 5-6 years ago.
- We've been operating off of tax levies that were passed in 2003. We have had to use the General Fund to supplement the levies we've been working with for both the Police Department and the Fire/EMS Department for a number of years. Using the money from the General Fund reduces the amount of money we have for road repairs, water and sewer, and miscellaneous other things.

Our employees, along with Council, have spent the last 4-5 years looking for every possible cost savings and cost avoidance opportunity. Further cuts will result in fewer services. I don't know about you, but I don't want to live in a community without adequate emergency services (police, fire, and emergency medical services). As a fellow resident, I ask you to strongly consider voting "Yes" for the two tax levies.

This following page provides a little more background. We will have town hall meetings in Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30th and 24th for Council to answer any questions you have. We also have a website for you to view. We've tried to provide as much information as possible on that site.

Most sincerely,

Mary Allen

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS (dated 9/12 but should be 9/26)
Village Administrator Bob Lindhorst

Had (2) replies regarding the Brown Field and Demolition Projects

- 324 Quarry
- 218 Congress Street
- I have some interest from the owner of 512 Center Street

Received a letter from the Clermont Prosecuting Attorney of commencement of tax foreclosure for the property located at 515 Front Street. If we should have any intention to acquire the property, I need to get back with them. I did email Scott the documents and he said, we should definitely look into. 515 was one of the identified demos. (Attached with the Admin Report)



MARK J. TEKULVE
CLERMONT COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Jason A. Fountain
Assistant Prosecutor
Civil Division
jfountain@clermontcountyohio.gov

101 East Main Street
Batavia, Ohio 45103
P: (513) 732-8193
F: (513) 732-8171

September 11, 2023

Greg Roberts
New Richmond Village Hall
Light-Ashburn Memorial Building
102 Willow Street
New Richmond, Ohio 45157

RE: Notice of commencement of tax foreclosure pursuant to R.C. §5722.03(B)

Dear Mr. Roberts:

This letter is to inform you of the Clermont County Treasurer's commencement of a delinquent tax foreclosure relating to real property identified below, which is located within the Village of New Richmond:

515 Front Street
New Richmond, OH 45157
Parcel No. 26-09-02-.010B

A copy of the Complaint in Foreclosure against said property is enclosed. Such notice is required pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §5722.03. Please notify me of any intention to acquire the property pursuant to statute, and do not hesitate to contact me at the information above with any questions or concerns.

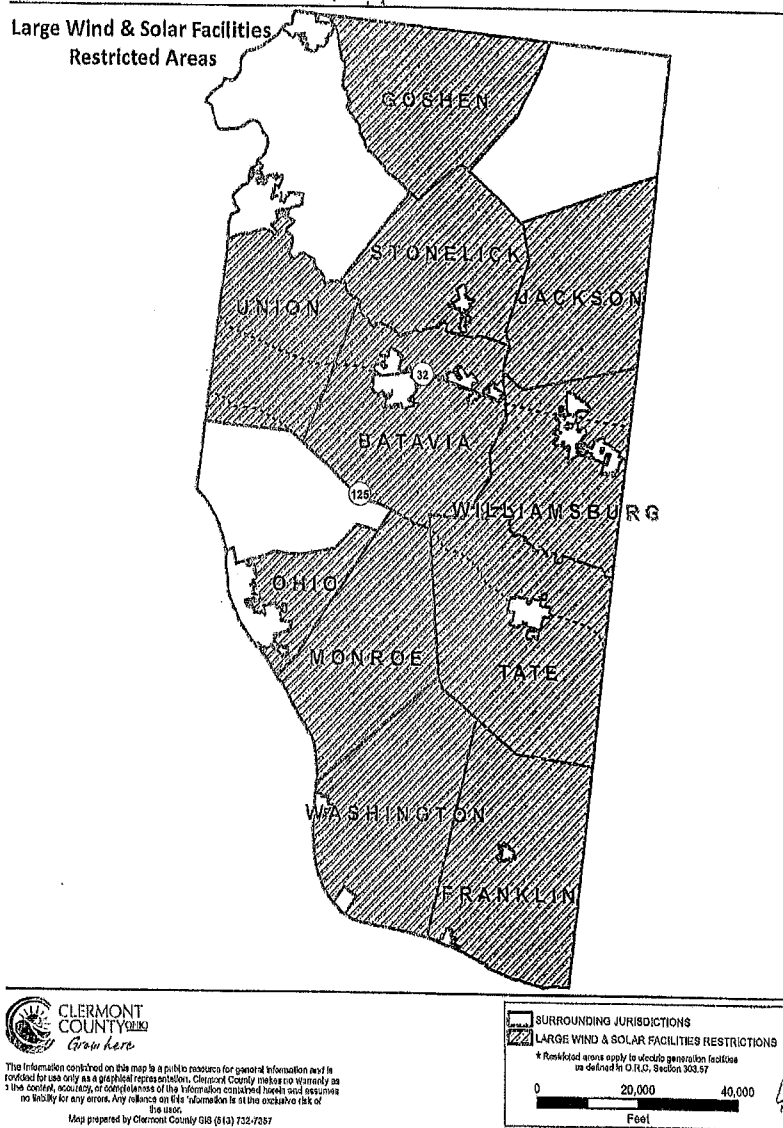
Best regards,

Jason A. Fountain
Jason A. Fountain
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

JAR/ani

Enc. - Complaint

Received a letter from the Board of Commissioners, that they will consider individual requests submitted by resolution from the Board of Township Trustees of various Townships in Clermont County requesting the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution to declare the totality of the unincorporate portion of these Townships as a restricted area for construction of economically significant wind farms, large wind farms and large solar facilities. Discussion on adopting the resolution will be held during the Boards regular meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 10am. I have attached said letter in your packet, the Public Notice and site map of restricted areas. (Attached with the Admin Report)





CLERMONT
COUNTY OHIO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DAVID L. PAINTER • CLAIRE B. CORCORAN • BONNIE J. BATCHLER
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Clermont County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 303.58, will consider individual requests submitted by Resolution from the Board of Township Trustees of various Townships requesting that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution to declare the totality of the unincorporated portion of these Townships as a restricted area for construction of economically significant wind farms, large wind farms, and large solar facilities, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 303.57 through 303.58. Discussion on adopting the resolution will be held during the Board's regular meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held at the Clermont County Administration Building, 101 East Main Street, 3rd Floor, Batavia, Ohio 45103, and is open to the public.



CLERMONT
COUNTY OHIO

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DAVID L. PAINTER • CLAIRE B. CORCORAN • BONNIE J. BATCHLER

September 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Clermont County Board of Commissioners will consider individual requests submitted to resolution from the Board of Township Trustees of various Townships in Clermont County requesting that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution to declare the totality of the unincorporated portion of these Townships as a restricted area for construction of economically significant wind farms, large wind farms, and large solar facilities, according to Ohio Revised Code Sections 303.57 through 303.58 and as outlined by Senate Bill 52.

Discussion on adopting the resolution will be held during the Board's regular meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Please find a map enclosed for reference. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Gael Fawley

Gael Fawley
Clerk, Board of County Commissioners
Clermont County, Ohio

Enclosure

Gael Fawley
Gael Fawley, Clerk
Clermont County Board of Commissioners

513.732.7825 101 East Main Street Batavia, OH 45103 www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

513-732-7300 101 East Main Street Batavia, OH 45103 www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov

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Other

Stormwater issue at the corner of Caroline and BNR, wall and ground has eroded requiring a new concrete wall to be installed to prevent further erosion, it is located just a few feet from a major power pole.

Police Chief Williams: Nothing to report.

Fire/EMS Chief Tim Feldkamp: Reminder about Safety Night Out next Tuesday in the IGA Parking lot.

Mayor Glenn Ewing: Nothing to report.

Solicitor, Scott Sollmann: Will be requesting an Executive Session.

Clerk of Council, Kelley Snider: Nothing to report.

LEGISLATION read by Mayor Ewing / None

First Reading: / NA

Second Reading: / NA

Third Reading: / NA

CALL OF MEMBERS:

Larry Prues – Asked our Solicitor Scott Sollmann to look into sidewalk damage – is there anything in the Ohio Revised Code stating the homeowner is responsible – can we assess this to residents' taxes if they do not get sidewalks repaired. Yes, but Scott will look into this further. This is something the village never enforced.

Dennis Dalton – Nothing to report.

Richard Feldkamp – Nothing to report.

Ryan Woodruff - Absent

Mary Allen – Reminder about the Ohio Riverway Summit in Madison October 26th and 27th. Councilperson Dalton and Prues plan on attending as well.

Jon Tharpe – Absent

ORC 121.22 (G)(3)

Requested a motion be made for Village Council to go into executive session in accordance with Ohio Revised Code § 121.22 (G)(3) to discuss pending or imminent litigation with the Village attorney.

Councilperson Prues made a motion to go into Executive Session, second by Councilperson Dalton

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Absent

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to come back from Executive Session, Second by Councilperson Prues

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Absent

Councilperson Dalton made a motion to come back from Executive Session, Second by Councilperson Prues

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Absent

Councilperson Dalton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm, seconded by Councilperson Prues. **Upon roll call the vote was as follows:**

Mary Allen Yes

Larry Prues Yes

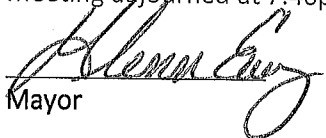
Dennis Dalton Yes

Richard Feldkamp Yes

Jon Tharpe Absent

Ryan Woodruff Absent

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm


Mayor


Clerk of Council