

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – April 14, 2025
7:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Mayor Walls swore new council member Shaun Wenrick in to fulfill Steve Numbers unexpired term.

Mayor Rick Walls called the regular meeting to order and lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Solicitor Jim Hearn was absent

Present: Mayor Rick Walls, Council Members: Eric West, Dorance Thompson, Shaun Wenrick, Stacey Cook, and Dylan Lauck were present. Also present: Police Chief Nathan Fried, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser, Darci Motter Fiscal officer in training, Taylor West.

It was moved by Thompson and seconded by West to accept the minutes from March 10th, 2025, regular council meeting (with one correction Steve numbers term was stated to end 2027 but ends 2025) Motion passed 6-0.

The mayor informed the council that the May council meeting will be May 6th 10am at Cridersville Elementary.

The June meeting will be on June 2nd at 7:30pm at the Village Hall

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole: No Report

Utilities & Surface Water: Bailey stated: Our village administrator has signed a maintenance program agreement with Leary Construction which is a 10-year contract that includes both of our water towers. This agreement includes exterior and interior repainting's/recoating's as well as annual inspections and any other maintenance that may be needed within that time frame. This contracted amount is \$30,000 annually. Previously we had a 10-year agreement on just the big water tower, and it served the village well. Also, our administrator has been in discussion with engineers about a future project and plan to replace our lift pumps at our wastewater treatment plant.

Village crews installed a catch basin and cleaned out a storm line along the 100 block of E. High Street. An update on the Village Café water issue; the Village Café has signed an agreement with Allen County Water District to connect into their water main. This new line installation is dependent on Allen County's schedule but should be done shortly.

Jarid stated our previous contract was only for the big tower it was \$13,000 and was increasing in cost 4-5K so he added the small tower to the quote. The EPA likes to see this done yearly and it covers all the maintenance of the towers inside and out.

Planning: Lauck stated There was just one zoning violation for the month which has been brought into compliance.

Josh from Crossroads was present to give an update on the Crossroads project. He explained they had secured a 26-million-dollar loan from the USDA. To close on the loan, they had a few steps to finish including written approval to build the urology center and deliver final blueprints. Expect that to be in 100 days. They look to be breaking ground in 2025. During phase 1 of the urology center they look to create 35 jobs in Cridersville and at final build well over 100 jobs including 5 physicians and 35 Physician assistants.

Josh stated that RD Jones will be doing a 7-month roadway project that will act as a construction roadway and once the urology center is built, they will pave and curb the final road. During this time, they will also be doing the water and utilities to make sure each parcel is shovel ready.

Finance: West stated our Village Administrator is working on submitting a grant through our county's CDBG program. That grant filing is forthcoming as some more information is needed before submittal. West stated that there was a finance meeting on March 24, 2025 to discuss funding for potential land purchase which the finance committee decided to bring to council.

Park: Cook stated Henderson Concrete Construction completed sidewalk repairs at Legacy Park as well as installed two new memorial park bench pads. Those park benches will be installed in the next few weeks. Village crews tore out the old fence and removed some stumps that divided 307 E. High St. and Legacy Park to combine the two properties. Much more work is yet to be done to clean up the area and much dirt remediation will be needed when the weather allows.

Cook further explained they had decided to name the new shelter house the Legacy Park Pavillion. Cook encouraged us to keep an eye on the parks, asking family members to help as well. Encourage the kids to help take care of the park and keep it nice or the things we have will not last forever.

Cook scheduled a **Park Committee meeting Tuesday April 29, 2025 at 5:00pm** it will be held at the new Legacy Park Pavillion.

Streets: Thompson stated Henderson Concrete Construction also completed sidewalk and curb/gutter repairs throughout the village and just a reminder that part of N. Gay St. will be blocked off this Sat., April 19, for majority of the day to allow space for the McElroy Estate auction. The area blocked off will be from Main Street north to the alley-way.

Properties: Thompson stated that grass mowing season is here and reminded villagers not to mow grass into the streets for safety and to help prevent clogging of storm drains.

Chief Fried added that at the auction this Saturday there will be a food truck parked in front of the Bears Den on Main Street, he saw no problem with allowing them to park and serve food.

Chief Miller stated maybe to put a few safety cones out, so no one hits the food truck when driving through.

Safety:

Fire:

80 EMS 5 Fire 87 Monthly 253 YTD

Chief Miller reported the old Ambulance was sold (\$14,000) and made it to Florida. The checks for that have been given to the fiscal officer.

Chief Miller stated they applied for a Fire Marshall Grant they were awarded 11,041.00 of the \$12,000.00 he asked for. This money has purchased a thermal imaging device, 2 portable generators for new trucks, a Honda generator for lights inside the homes and 4 gas meters.

Chief Miller stated that Jeep and Food Truck event is ready to go for April 26, 2025, 11am they do have 8 craft vendor spots available you can apply on the event on Facebook.

Police:

167 Calls 24 Tickets 15 warnings 2 Arrest & Mayors Court total \$2,820.00

Chief Fried stated we had a big storm come in the first of the month thanks to Chief Miller for coordinating a safe shelter at the school 7 people came to shelter, some being mobile home residents as well as a teacher and children. Chief Fried has been working on an Emergency Action Plan. This will help officers know what to do in each case of an emergency.

Earlier this month they were involved in a county wide pursuit when Chief was informed their stop sticks were outdated. Chief reached out to Back the Blue and they are providing new stop sticks for our officers, they should be here next week. Furthermore, he reassured the Flock cameras are doing what they were intended to do. Chief Fried was alerted of a stolen car. The Flock cameras detected the license plate and Chief was able to apprehend the suspect and stolen car.

Chief Fried had put a hiring ad on Facebook and he reported he has received 1 application from this ad.

Lauck asked Fried if the Emergency Action plan was for the residents or the police officers. Chief told him for the Officers. Lauck then suggested we may add a link to our text gov that would tell the residents where they can go in the case of an emergency.

West asked Fried if we had a full time opening currently in the police department, Mayor Walls replied no we do not. This ad was to see what interest there was. Lauck said we can hire part-time officers.

Bailey continued with our police department's biggest problem is lack of interest and not being able to pay top dollar amounts, and they must want to be part time.

West stated the council expressed they wanted 24/7 coverage back in December, then the Mayor reiterated that desire in January. West asked Fried if the village was covered 24/7. Fried replied the village is covered 24/7, West redirected the question and asked are our officers covering 24/7 coverage. Fried explained our schedule is confidential discussing his officers schedule puts them in danger, it is about safety as well as having 2 officers per shift dispatch is not checking on us every 15 minutes when on a call and someone needs back up we aren't waiting for county to assist another officer is there and if someone is sick or has to call off we still have the shift covered. Chief Fried said his goal is to have 2 officers per shift for safety.

West stated the village has already increased full-time officers from 3 to 4 from previous pay packages. Bailey asked Chief Fried if he was working extra hours that do not accumulate comp time, Chief Fried said no.

Lisa Fried 723 Woodridge; Stated as a police wife she has been aggravated how many times the schedule has changed to try to achieve 24/7 coverage. No matter how many ways it works on a spreadsheet people get sick people use vacation and when you are wearing thin from constantly working you get sick more often and what are you going to do when someone calls in, call an off-duty officer in to cover the shift? Lisa stated I can tell you Chief Fried is working more than his 40 hours with all of the calls he takes at home regarding the job. Lauck stated phone calls are part of many management positions.

Bailey stated that begin right of 75 and having the businesses of the exit ramp they are not safe he wouldn't want to work in that environment. Bailey would like to get to a point where council and police job can be enjoyable.

Fried stated that through executive order they are running 24/7 but it is not sustainable. Mayor Walls stated that it cannot be sustained long.

Bailey stated we are lucky to have the years of service in our police force that we do. Many times Cridersville is a stepping stone in a police officers career and they are here for short periods the Cridersville departments has officers with many years of experience.

Angela Knotts 313 West main Stated the need for a fundraiser to raise funds to support the police department like the jamboree does for the fire department.
Cook stated that is what the 250,000 a year levy does currently.

Bev Wood 100 B West Sugar stated Fried cannot be on the road full time and keep up on his desk duties and reports when this was brought up it was a goal to work to full time coverage not for it to be immediately implemented.

Lauck asked Chief Fried if there are any grants that could be applied for and then funds could be reallocated to the personal service account Chief Fried said he would have to get with his grant rep.

Bailey wanted to remind the council Chief Fried came from being a Lima street cop and he didn't have any knowledge of a budget, we need to teach him how to understand a budget to be a better police chief.

Lauck stated the Chief has not come to anyone to ask for help, help must be wanted to be given.

Bailey asked to table this until safety meeting.

Safety meeting Monday May 5th 12:15pm at Village Hall

Angela Knotts 313 West Main stated she has heard there are 3 inmates living in the Cridersville Nursing Home. She stated these inmates came from a mental hospital in Toledo and came in shackles, but nurses must take them outside for their smoke breaks. She stated one of the inmates' records stated he was a sexual predator. Chief Fried stated he knew of one of the inmates and thought he was unable to walk. Angela said they can walk and if she had a family member in that facility, she would be very mad they are putting other residents in danger by housing these criminals.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion for Jarid to hire 2 summer help employees up to \$13.00 An hour made by West seconded by Bailey.
Motion passed 6-0.

Motion was made by West and seconded by Lauck to renew town liquor permits. **Motion Passed 6-0**

Motion was made by West and seconded by Bailey to allow Chief Miller to **sell Freightliner Rescue for \$55,000 to North Baltimore and reimburse the fire department for expenses that were from the ambulance and Freightliner Rescue.** **Motion Passed 6-0.**

Resolution 2511: A Resolution to amend Resolution #2508 #2501 Making permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Cridersville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency. Motion to approve resolution #2511 made by West seconded by Cook **Motion passed 6-0**

Cook stated the Nazarene church helped clean out the flower beds and next to the Bears Den on April 5th.

Cook asked council to approve a \$500 donation from the village to the Garden Club. Lauck made a motion to pay \$500.00 for the flowers to the Cridersville Garden Club. **Motion passed 6-0.**
Cook also stated there would be a beef and noodle fundraiser on May 1st to benefit the historical society.

Thompson wanted to thank the police for the speed sign out front of Otterbein and to encourage residents to vote yes on State Issue 2.

West made motion to enter executive session for the accusation of land with action to be taken Lauck seconded **passed 6-0.**

Enter executive session 9:25pm

Exited executive session at 10:00 pm

West made a motion to exit executive session Wenrick seconded **passed 6-0**

West made a motion to allow the village to participate in Jerry Meyer Auction on April 19th for the acquisition of land seconded by Lauck **passed 6-0.**

Motion to adjourn was made by West and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Meeting minutes were taken and recorded by Darci Motter

Darci Motter, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor