

THE BRADNER VILLAGE COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

July 13, 2017

Members in attendance:

Mayor, Virgil Shull, Jr.
Council President, Ron Roth
Councilmember, Shawn Hall
Councilmember, Lori Johnston
Councilmember, Mike Gudakunst
Councilmember, Linda Wildman

The purpose of the special meeting was to pass Resolutions 06-2017 and 07-2017.

The Bradner Village Council met on the 13th day of July at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Village Hall. The joint meeting was called to order by Mayor Virgil Shull, Jr. and all in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Fiscal Officer Kerstan Kaminski, Solicitor and Guests Chris Lahman and Michelle Lahman were also present.

Resolution 06-2017 to replace Resolution 04-2017

A resolution of the Village of Bradner of the necessity to replace the existing permanent and continuing three (3) mill levy in excess of the ten (10) mill limitation which was passed November 3, 1981 in order to provide funds for purchasing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, and buildings or sites therefor or sources of water supply and materials therefor, or the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire alarm telegraph and for the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer fireman to operate the same or to purchase ambulance or emergency medical services operated by the Fire Department of firefighting company and declaring an emergency.

Linda Wildman made a motion to suspend the rules for Resolution 06-2017. Shawn Hall 2nd.

Roll Call:

Yes: Hall, Johnston, Roth, Wildman & Gudakunst
Motion Carried

Linda Wildman made a motion to pass Resolution 06-2017. Shawn Hall 2nd.

Roll Call:

Yes: Hall, Johnston, Roth, Wildman & Gudakunst
Motion Carried

Resolution 07-2017 to replace Resolution 03-2017

A resolution of the Village of Bradner of the necessity to replace the existing permanent and continuing one (1) mill levy in excess of the ten (10) mill limitation which was passed November 6, 1984 in order to provide funds for purchasing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances and buildings and for the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer fireman to operate the same and declaring an emergency.

Linda Wildman made a motion to suspend the rules for Resolution 07-2017. Shawn Hall 2nd.

Roll Call:

Yes: Hall, Johnston, Roth, Wildman & Gudakunst

Motion Carried

Shawn Hall made a motion to pass Resolution 07-2017. Mike Gudakunst 2nd.

Roll Call:

Yes: Hall, Johnston, Roth, Wildman & Gudakunst

Motion Carried

Chris Lahman is upset the public was not given the opportunity to voice their opinion on these resolutions before they were passed. He also questioned why Council is raising taxes and why it hasn't been done before and why now. Linda commented that this has been talked about for years. The original resolutions are from 30 years ago. The millage is not changing, but the valuation will be current, which means that taxes will go up slightly. The valuation has to be raised to be current with the times. This will only happen if the levy is approved on the ballot. The reason for the urgency now is so it can be put on the ballot this year. It was supposed to have been done already. She's not putting blame on anyone, just that it was lost somewhere in the transition between the previous and new Fiscal Officer's and the previous and new Solicitor's. The reason for the special meeting is due to confusion with the wording in the paperwork. Chris noted that if not for the mistake, no one would get to voice their opinion at all. He understands the Village needs to come up with the times. His issue is that everything is "rubber stamped" and not done properly by giving the public their right to express their opinions. Linda asked why they are on Council to which Chris replied to represent the community. He feels they are not representing the community. Mike replied that it was just put into the hands of the voters by being placed on the ballot. Chris again made the comment that everything is passed as an emergency because Council waits until the last minute. Virgil said they've tried not to use emergencies, per instruction of their Solicitor, unless it is absolutely needed, which this is. Chris asked whose idea this levy was and who brought it up. Linda replied they've been talking about it for years. Items are needed at the Fire Department, i.e. cots, etc.

One resident wanted to thank the Village for the website and the facebook page. She works and cannot usually make it to the meetings. She now understands the reason is to bring the levy up to the current cost of living. She asked about the idea of Fire and EMS being centralized. It is hard to maintain so many departments and equipment that are all so close together. Linda does not feel that the villages around here are willing to work together to be able to have a

centralized Fire Station. Fewer volunteers would be needed since the township would have full-time employees but this is for EMS only. She has pushed for a new fire station for 20 years. She has pushed this and raised money and done fundraisers. Michelle Lahman commented she feels the reason Bradner is doing the levies now is because the township is trying to get EMS. Linda said that is wrong. Mike is on the committee with the township and they would not be doing anything until at least March. He agrees it sounds conflicting but they have nothing to do with each other.

Chris feels the Village always passes Ordinances and Resolutions as an emergency therefore this does not give the residents a chance to voice their concerns. It is not the levy itself; it is the way it is being done. A resident commented that it would be nice if the Resolutions and other information put out were in layman's terms.

Michelle commented that if the township gets EMS and the levy goes through, this means the Village could have a surplus since they won't be spending money on EMS any longer. A resident asked what would happen with that surplus. Linda commented that the millage is so low already. It would not be given back.

Virgil stated nothing is being taken away from the people; everyone is being given the option to vote on it on the ballot. If the levy doesn't pass, the old resolution will still be in place.

A resident asked if something can go out to the public to explain the levies and what Council is trying to do and in layman's terms. Facebook is really helpful along with the website. They would like to know how much extra this levy is going to cost them a year. Virgil stated they will find out after these resolutions are certified to the Board of Elections.

Linda asked if she could make a motion to only get paid for ½ of a meeting rather than the full meeting pay. Corey suggested this be done in a regular meeting.

Chris asked about discussion on the Park Pool renewal and it being done as an emergency. Virgil stated that it was passed. There was nothing wrong with that one. Chris is questioning it because he is against it and again did not get to voice his opinion. Mike commented that they just gave everyone the opportunity to vote whether they want it or not. Chris replied that they don't know why he is against because he is not given the chance to voice his opinion. Lori mentioned how much of a struggle it was to get the pool open this year because of last year. People were so upset that was closed since they pay taxes on it and it was not open. This year, there was a huge push to get it open and it was done. It opened. They want to keep it open so the levy needs to be put back on the ballot. She commented how many complaints they got due to the pool not opening. Chris said he knows how she feels; he was on Council before. He would listen to the public's opinion and give them the opportunity. He said it's all on the ballot and his name will be too.

With no further business, Linda Wildman made a motion to adjourn at 7:32pm. Mike Gudakunst 2nd.

Roll Call:

Yes: Hall, Johnston, Roth, Wildman & Gudakunst
Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

ATTEST: *Kerstan Kaminski*
Fiscal Officer

SIGNED: *Virgil Shull*
Mayor

Council Approval: 8/3/2017

SIGNED: *Ren Roth*
Council President