



Minutes of the Village of Galena Council Meeting May 12, 2004

On Wednesday, May 12, 2004, the Village of Galena Council's special meeting was called to order by Mayor Tom Hopper at 11:02 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 9 West Columbus Street.

Roll Call

Present

Ed Collinsworth-Village Clerk
Tony Hamilton-Council Member
Betsy Hildebrand-Council Member
Tom Hopper- Mayor
Roberta Miller-Council Member
David Simmons-Council President
Jim Slifko-Council Member
Chris Underwood-Council Member

Also Present

Ken Molnar, Village Solicitor
Robert Jablonski, PDG
Dave LaValle, Public Service Director
Jeanna Burrell, Administrative Assistant
Dana Wilson, Columbus Dispatch
John Sheridan, Big Walnut News

Special Meeting

Mayor Tom Hopper announced it would be necessary to go into executive session to discuss real estate acquisition and pending litigation. David Simmons made a motion to recess to executive session. Chris Underwood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 6-0 in a voice vote. Council went into executive session at 11:04 a.m.

David Simmons moved that Council adjourn from executive session. Betsy Hildebrand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously in a voice vote. Council returned to regular session at 11:32 a.m.

Mayor Hopper said Delaware County built the sewer plant in 1994 for \$399,996 and it is now considered aged technology with a history of maintenance problems that have led to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) violations. He clarified that contrary to one news report, "We have never claimed in a press release that they were dumping raw sewage in the stream!"

The Delaware County Commissioners' made a counter offer to Galena's offer to purchase the County Sewage Treatment Plant that serves Galena. The Commissioners countered with an offer of \$370,000.

Mayor Hopper said the \$370,000 price tag is 92.5 percent of the original value and "We consider that to be a very high price for a plant that is basically halfway though it's estimated life of 20 years."

Hopper added that, "The original sewer agreement entered into between Galena and Delaware County ten years ago was a marvelous example of regional cooperation. It's very unfortunate, and has become apparent to us, that we are not able to continue in that same spirit with the County. We have made them multiple offers of different ways to work together to take care of Galena's needs and some of the regional needs of the area."



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Hopper acknowledged that Galena’s needs are immediate and may conflict with other immediate needs in other parts of the County and with other future regional needs. “We have attempted to sit down and work with them on reaching solutions that would handle everybody’s problems and unfortunately those were all turned down. We’ve been given several conflicting plans from the County. But basically there was never a commitment to move forward in any kind of reasonable time frame,” Hopper said. “We have been dealing with this for approximately three years and we tried to work with them ahead of time so we did not get into the current situation where we are now completely sold out of taps. And, they were made well aware of that well in advance so that we should have been able to plan to avoid this day.”

Hopper also expressed frustration with the County’s Sewer Master Planning process saying the Village submitted information for the plan regarding Galena’s growth and sewer needs but none of that information was included in the draft plan. “The minimum timetables discussed in that plan for improvements to a county facility are in 5-10 years which obviously does not meet the immediate needs the Village has today,” Hopper explained.

To arrive at a price, Galena’s engineering firm, Poggemeyer Design Group (PDG) conducted a very thorough evaluation of the age, technology, and maintenance of the plant as well as the plant’s history of OEPA violations and they consider the value of this plant to be \$220,000 which is a legally defensible price.

David Simmons made a motion to offer \$220,000 for the plant with all Galena sewer tap deposits to be returned to the Village. Jim Slifko seconded the motion and it passed 6-0 in a roll call vote as follows: Miller – yes Hildebrand-Yes Underwood-Yes Simmons-Yes Slifko-Yes Hamilton-Yes

Village Solicitor Ken Molnar will formally make the offer to the County Commissioners and will request an answer by Tuesday, May 18.

Adjournment

With no other business, David Simmons moved for adjournment. Tony Hamilton seconded and the motion passed unanimously 6-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be Monday, May 24, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Village Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanna Burrell, Administrative Assistant

Clerk

Mayor