**VILLAGE OF MOUNT STERLING, OHIO**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING FOR AUGUST 27, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Martin at 7:00 pm

Attending the meeting: Mayor Billy Martin Village Solicitor-Mark Pitstick

 Fiscal Officer- Courtney Bricker Council Member- Pres. Pro Temp Rebecca Burns

 Council Member-Lowell Anderson Utility Clerk- Misty Vance (absent)

Council Member Tom Ward Sheriff- Jack Dill

Council Member David Timmons

Council Member Becky Martin

Council Member Tammy Vansickle

Motion to approve minutes from August 13, 2018

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** | David  | ***COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:*** |
| **2 ND** | Lowell |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom**  |  **X** |  |
| **David**  |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

**Sheriff’s Report:**

Jack Dill- No report

**Village Solicitor:**

Mark Pitstick – No report

**Utilities Clerk:**

Courtney reported for Misty in her absence. Reported the volume payments accepted for July $100,615.71, August $79,269.80. Continuing to shows that ordinance is being following with shut off notices and collecting on delinquents.

**Village Administrator/Fiscal Officer/Clerk of Council:**

Courtney Bricker- Asked block watch how the cancer run event went during Aug. 24 & 25, Tom advised that they were out during those nights. Not much to report, continuing to mow grass, and working with nuisance and abatement. Waiting for test results from a build up on a water membrane at the water plant. Membrane was sent out last week and should have results soon to correct issue. Tyler is working on the asset management completion on the water plant. Dennis is working on studying to obtain his sewer license I and taking test Oct. 1. David asked about the update on the repairs on the hydrants. Courtney advised that there is one left in Wingate and also still continuing to get bids on the water line on S London repaired.

Mayor Martin made statement: There is a lot going on with employees. The guys handle shut offs, checking leaks, issue at Tidd Porter and a storm drain issue, Dr. Young put a new sewer line, Beale Ave a sub pump running in alley on how to repair, 2 curbs that have to be cut out, continuously maintaining the equipment, replacing a sidewalk on Jefferson.

***Motions for Acceptance of Financial Reports:***

Motion to accept Appropriation Status Report

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** | David | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**  Courtney Discussed report details  |
| **2 ND** | Tammy |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

Motion to accept Payment Listing Report

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** | Becky | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:** Courtney Discussed report details |
| **2 ND** | Tom  |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell**  |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

Motion to accept Receipt Listing Report

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** |  David | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**  Courtney Discussed report details |
| **2 ND** | Becky |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

Motion to accept Cash Summary by Fund Report

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** | Tom | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:** Courtney Discussed report details |
| **2 ND** | Rebecca |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

Motion to accept Revenue Status Report

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** | Becky | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:** Courtney Discussed report details |
| **2 ND** | Tom |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

Motion to accept RITA Reports

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** | Lowell  | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:** Courtney Discussed report details |
| **2 ND** | Rebecca |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

Motion to accept Comparison of Budget and Appropriated

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  N/A |
| **Motion** |  David | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**  Courtney Discussed report details |
| **2 ND** | Rebecca |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  **X** |  |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  **X** |  |
| **Tammy** |  **X** |  |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: X Failed:**  |

***Committee Reports:***

**Finance:** (Council Member Rebecca Burns reporting): Has scheduled recurring finance meetings every 1st and 3rd Monday’s of each month at 2:00pm. The Gordon Flesch contract/program will be discussed for a recommendation. Waiting to hear about the adjustments if any will be made to the general fund, street fund and or state highway fund for the fiscal emergency. Lowell asked about pay off on printer, was advised it was paid off and how to manage the cost.

**Pleasant Township:** (Council Member Becky Martin reporting) Twp nuisance and abatement is working with health dept. on a house that is being looked at. The United Church has approved a recycling program to happen every 4th Monday for 2.5 hrs. an attendant with a truck will collect the recycled goods. A road sign needed replaced on Hicks Rd. There was a resident that had asked Twp. if they could look into getting better internet in the area in the country. Twp. will talk with Spectrum. Resident asked for better communication, Becky suggested that maybe the Village could help advertise communications/meetings on the Village’s website. Also offered Madison County Chamber assistance. Next meeting changed due to Labor Day to Sept. 4 7:00pm.

**Sterling Joint Ambulance District (Squad):** (Council Member Lowell Anderson reporting) Next mtg. Sept. 12

**Tri-County Fire District:** (Council Member Tom Ward reporting) Next mtg. Friday Aug. 31

**Water/Wastewater (Utilities):** (Council Member Rebecca Burns reporting) Waiting to review and discuss the rate study being conducted by Environmental Engineering Services (EES). A work session will be called once dates and time are determined before next council meeting. The committee continues to monitor the PO.

**Streets:** (Council Member Rebecca Burns) Fund is in the negative due to fund adjustments that were required to be done. Waiting for auditors to determine if any others would be done. If there are items and projects that need to be done we are still operating out of even though fund is in negative.

**Record of Retention:** (Council Member Lowell Anderson reporting) No report

**Parks and Recreation:** (Council Member Rebecca Burns) Next meeting TBD for the end of Sept.

**Nuisance and Abatement:** (Council Member Tammy Vansickle) Next meeting Aug. 26 at 3:30pm. The mowing of grass that is over 8 inches will be tagged and the Village will come and mow and charging the owner. Each complaint that is received will be looked into and addressed if needed.

**Block Watch:** (Council Member Tom Ward) Held meeting Aug. 18 and safety was the first topic discussed. Ensuring that the participants are safe and stay in groups of 2. Discussed the illegal drugs in the community and if you see something say something to the law enforcers. Advised council that cancer run that was held was nice. Next mtg. Sept. 20 at 7:00pm

***Ordinance/Resolutions:***

Resolution 2018-50: A motion to suspend rules on resolution authorizing William Martin, Mayor or his designee to approve a pay adjustment to Andrew Curtis for obtaining his Water Operator I license and declaring an emergency.

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  2018-50 |
| **Motion** | Lowell  | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**   |
| **2 ND** | David  |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  |  **X** |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  |  **X** |
| **Tammy** |  |  **X** |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: Failed: X** |

Mayor Martin statement: That previous administration agreed that if employees progressed in experience and achieving a license they would be rewarded. Tyler has done that. This resolution was brought to the finance committee to take care of the village greatest asset the village employees. The employee’s operator the plants, equipment and other job duties. We should show that we are about our employees. There are other communities that are trying to offer job opportunities to our staff. We have experienced and hard-working employees that are under paid. This is why this resolution was brought to council to bring to equal pay to other operators.

Resolution 2018-50: A motion to place resolution on 1st reading authorizing William Martin, Mayor or his designee to approve a pay adjustment to Andrew Curtis for obtaining his Water Operator I license and declaring an emergency.

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  2018-50 |
| **Motion** | Lowell | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**   |
| **2 ND** | David  |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  |  **X** |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  |  **X** |
| **Tammy** |  |  **X** |
|  | **Becky** |  |  **X** |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: Failed: X** |

Discussion: Becky asked if the vote was being done on the dollar amount for Tyler. Mayor Martin advised this was brought up to the finance meeting and the dollar amount was not offered by Mayor. During the discussion the finance mtg the finance chair recommended the amount. The other 2 members agreed on the amount during the meeting and Mayor Martin left meeting. Mayor Martin then had heard that there were second thoughts about giving the increase. Becky Martin confirmed that if half of council has voted no then she concluded that there would be a need for additional discussion. David Timmons stated that if there is a license obtained then employee should get a pay raise. Becky agreed but the village is still under a fiscal emergency she stated. Becky advised that raise is large but questions amount of raise. Rebecca Burns stated that when dollar amount was determined that there were other items that were received such as the rate study that could have an impact to the water/ waste water funds. Rebecca stated that the employees do an incredible job but there was no pay scale created or promised for pay increase. She goes to say that she will do her due diligence on paying attention to how the resident’s money is spent after some upcoming meetings. David states that while during the finance meeting these topics were never mentioned. But email was sent out after meeting. Mayor Martin voiced that he brought topic up to the finance committee because we cannot afford to lose any employees. That these employees deserve this adjustment because of the extra duties that they complete and that he knows what it takes to run this town as that is what is job is to do. Mayor Martin reminded council that their job is 95% of financial responsibility. Mayor also stated that auditor quoted “if you can’t take the heat in the kitchen stay out”. Mayor also went to say we have winter approaching and 2 employees and 4 vehicles and asked council for volunteers, no response. The village has equipment that needs to be maintains and there is a need for another employee. Thanked council on a job well done and to continue working well. Tammy spoke saying that there is no question on the employees deserving the raises but it is the amount that is questioned. There are big decisions that need to be made and that we are spending the resident’s money not villages and careful on how we are spending it, more discussion needed. Mayor Martin stated that new administration is cleaning up a mess from previous administration and cannot afford to clean up the issues with new help or no help. We are not giving a big pay raise but to be comparable to other operators. David mentioned that we have been living in the past too long and we need to move forward. Mayor Martin stated that village has a reputation that we do a lot of talking and get nothing done. Becky asked if employees knew of the dollar amount and Courtney advised yes as this is an open meeting and employees asked about discussion. Becky asked if once discussion is done if we could have a new resolution to vote on for next council meeting. Resolution has died. Mayor Martin advised if employees quit he will come back to council and ask what they are going to do.

Resolution 2018-50: A motion to suspend the rules authorizing William Martin Mayor, or his designee, to approve a pay adjustment to Dennis Case for the operating the sewer plant and declaring an emergency

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  2018-51 |
| **Motion** | David  | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**  Mayor Martin advised that this is a adjustment for the hours accomplished not that he has obtained his license.  |
| **2 ND** | Lowell |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  |  **X** |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  |  **X** |
| **Tammy** |  |  **X** |
|  | **Becky** |  **X** |  |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: Failed: X** |

Resolution 2018-50: A motion to place on 1st reading authorizing William Martin Mayor, or his designee, to approve a pay adjustment to Dennis Case for the operating the sewer plant and declaring an emergency

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| **Ordinance:** N/A **Resolution:**  2018-51 |
| **Motion** | Lowell | **COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**   |
| **2 ND** | David  |
| **Voice Vote** | **YES** | **NO** |
|  | **Lowell** |  **X** |  |
| **Tom** |  |  **X** |
| **David** |  **X** |  |
| **Rebecca** |  |  **X** |
| **Tammy** |  |  **X** |
|  | **Becky** |  |  **X** |  |
| **Result of Vote: Passed: Failed: X** |

***Round Table:***

**David-** Recognized and thanked Jack Dill for writing a booklet on the “68” Blue Devils and is at the museum if anyone would like to look at it.

**Tom-** Cancer relay that was held and runners were thankful that Mt. Sterling townhall was available and was very professional and took care of facilities. Tom spoke to a volunteer that they do this every year and same path each year. Tom suggested that maybe next year we could have the villagers out there to root them on. Is a very good cause

**Rebecca-** No report

**Lowell**- No report

**Tammy**- No report

**Becky**- No report

**Mayor Martin**- Stated that we are staying true to form and while a hour into meeting we have not accomplished anything.

***Public Comments/Questions:***

Resident came in and wanted to talk about ordinance that does not allow cars to be parked in yard. Resident stated that he has insurance and tags and people come and stop and look at these vehicles. Tammy stated that there is an ordinance against those cars over 48 hrs. complaint is in violation. Becky stated that it may be beautiful in owners’ eyes but not in someone else’s. That yard is not a car lot it is a yard. Becky stated that we are responsible for the enforcement. Resident was not happy and stated that he is not abiding by law and does not care. Resident stated that they tag the ones they want to tag.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Martin at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted:

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Courtney Bricker, Fiscal Officer/Clerk of Council William Martin, Mayor