

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, February 24th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Barth, followed by an invocation. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Kent Miller, Toni Egly, Eric Bassett, Charlie Martin, Rob Bailey and Ron Beverly; Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith was absent.

Also present were Police Chief Mark Denning, Sergeant Craig Doctor, K9 Officer Shane Balsler, Bob Fisher and Amanda McAlexander from Hicksville Bank.

The meeting was called to make a final decision on the question of constructing a new pool and pool house or not.

In order to make an informed decision, Council was provided copies of bid results, engineering and construction costs for the splash pad project and the projected pool project, the engineer's letter recommending the bid from Rupp/Rosebrock Inc., the potential price change from Rupp/Rosebrock due to recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health and Department of Industrial Compliance, and written answers from 4 local banks after receiving RFQ's (Request For Quote) from the Fiscal Officer. The Finance Committee had discussed how best to pay for the project if it was approved. Their recommendation was to use funds already set aside, to use the \$750,000.00 grant awarded by the State of Ohio and the rest in the form of a loan for 10 years. The final number for the pool was \$3,551,042.00. The interest rate varied between 4.50% and 5.95%.

Ron Beverly began the discussion by saying the pool was nothing to go into debt over. It is a luxury we don't need. It is crazy to build a pool that won't make any money. He was told it never has made money and is not expected to. He dared any council member to go to their bank and ask to borrow \$350,000.00. Would they do that?

Chief Denning said we don't need a pool, we have a splash pad. Toni Egly answered saying that is for a specific age range, mostly toddlers and young children.

Beverly said "fly over Hicksville and count all the pools." There are plenty of pools already. Egly answered that she has never been invited to swim in any of them.

Sergeant Doctor said he considers a pool as a "want", not a "need." The village should pay for needs first. Chief Denning spoke up and said he thinks the village needs to look at different insurance. He said he has asked for a committee to be formed to look at different options.

Mayor Barth said this issue has been "kicked down the road" long enough. We have been talking about it for 2 years.

Cory Wann reminded the council of the thousands of dollars they have already spent on engineering and bid processes. He also said sending \$750,000.00 back to the State of Ohio may mean we would be out of the running for awards in the future.

Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith did the reading of the Resolution in place of the Solicitor.

Second reading of **Resolution 2025-05** by caption only to enter a contract with Rupp/Rosebrock Inc. for construction of the pool and pool house in Hicksville Ohio and declaring an emergency. Kent Miller made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

Final reading of **Resolution 2025-05** by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Rob Bailey. Bailey, Bassett, Beverly and Miller voted no. Egly and Martin voted yes.

The measure did not pass.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob Bailey. All answered yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer