Special Meeting Council June 3, 2021

Present for this special meeting of the Village of West Liberty Council was: Mrs. McKelvey, Mr. Keller, Mrs. Griffith, Ms. Kauffman and Mr. Hyland. Absent: Ms. Yoder and Clerk Boyd. Guests: Mr. Leach was also present.

Mayor McKelvey read Fire Chief Conrad Hostetler resignation letter and effective July 31, 2021. There was a new development. He will be retiring June 30th.

Interviews for new fire chief were done by Mayor, Mr. Keller, Ms. Yoder, and Bellefontaine Fire Chief Andy Fissel. Darin Leach has agreed to become the next fire chief. A MOTION was made by Mr. Keller seconded by Mrs. Griffith to hire Darin Leach for next fire chief taking office July 1st. Motion Carried. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0.

Mayor McKelvey and Mr. Keller discussed some changes to job description for fire chief. Handouts were given to all council members. They discussed hiring a Fire Chief, Chief Deputy and Assistant Chief and all these positions would be a one year contract. Mayor McKelvey talked with Darin Leach to be chief and Steve Rabenstein to be Deputy Chief. A MOTION was made by Mr. Keller seconded by Mr. Hyland to hire Steve Rabenstein as deputy Chief. Motion Carried. Yeas: 4 Nays: 0.

Mr. Leach explained the difference between Level 1 and Level 11 and 36 hour training. The 36 hour training fire fighters are not allowed to go into an actively burning building. Level 1 and Level 11 are national standards and fire fighters are allowed to go into actively burning buildings. Mr. Leach said nationwide 70% of fire departments consist of volunteers. This is declining. The budget is a concern and Mr. Leach will be working on cost reduction.

Larry Reed will be offered the assistant Chief and will need to follow new job description. Mr. Reed is set to return June 13th and will officially start July 1st.

Mr. Hyland is concerned about the cost of the extra position and impact on the village. He was told finance met last week and they crunched some numbers. We will wait for Clerk to write up Ordinance before it will be discussed.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hyland seconded by Mrs. Griffith to adjourn at 7:35 PM.

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Clerk Cindee M. Boyd Mayor Jill C. McKelvey