

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 12, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin Gilmore called the May 12, 2008 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council to order at 7:32 p.m.

Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell took roll with Council members Robert Reichert, Norma King, Jim Walter, and Jack Straub present. Also present were Mayor Kevin Gilmore, Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson.

The audience included Yarko Kuk from the Village Voice and Nasrin Afjeh. Absent from the meeting but expected momentarily was Council member Rex Decker. Council member Jeff Gibbs was absent and not expected at the meeting.

Mayor Gilmore then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no citizen comments.

Mr. Reichert made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2008 meeting of the Village Council. Mr. Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. King reported that the Human Resources Committee met on May 6 and reviewed a proposal that would include a salary continuation program in the employee handbook. Mrs. King described that a salary continuation program would be an option for the Village to consider related to loss time injury for Village workers. Such a program may have financial benefits for the Village related to Workers Compensation rates. Before salary continuation was used a staff recommendation to the Human Resources Committee would occur and each recommendation would be reviewed by the Committee on an individual basis.

Mrs. King made a motion that the employee handbook be modified to provide a salary continuation program, at the option of the Village. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion.

Mr. Decker entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Reichert commented that most private sector companies have a provision for salary continuation because it is often beneficial to the employer.

After brief additional discussion the motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Decker provided a finance report stating that April revenues were slightly better than anticipated. He also mentioned an upcoming meeting of the Marketing Committee and some efforts that were being considered to encourage property owners to make improvements to their property. The Finance Committee will be looking at the potential tax incentives for home improvements.

In the absence of Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Thompson reported that the Safety Committee had recently reviewed proposals to purchase two vehicles, one in the Police Department and one in the Fire Department. He also reviewed discussions at the Safety Committee regarding the Forestview curve. As a result of the Safety Committee discussions, plans will be drawn

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 12, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

showing the pavement in the Forestview curve to be widened and showing the inclusion of sidewalks on both sides of the pavement. Once the plans are drawn a subsequent review will occur to determine whether sidewalks are necessary on one or both sides.

Mr. Walter, a member of the Safety Committee meeting commented that most people seem to walk on the inside of the curve but safety benefits may be improved by having the sidewalk on both sides.

Discussion then focused on the potential for placement of a stop sign on Indian Road at Westchester Road. This was not a topic discussed at the safety committee meeting but safety committee chair Jeff Gibbs suggested that the entire council should have a discussion about placement of a stop sign at that location.

Mayor Gilmore commented that he is frequently on that portion of Indian Road and did not see a great deal of traffic in question whether a stop sign was necessary.

Mr. Decker commented that the stop sign on Talmadge Road at Brookside seemed to be effective at slowing Talmadge Road traffic. Mr. Reichert commented that residents on Indian Road have expressed concern about traffic speed and volume on Indian between Central and Talmadge Road. He then made a motion to prepare legislation to classify the Indian Road/Westchester Road intersection as a four-way stop. Mr. Straub seconded the motion which passed unanimously. That legislation will be on the agenda at the next meeting of the village council.

Mr. Walter reported that the Services & Environment Committee will meet on Thursday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. to commence discussions regarding the deer population in Ottawa Hills. Brief discussion followed regarding the Ohio State University Extension Service and any actions undertaken by the metro park which is so close to the Village of Ottawa Hills. Comment was made that Village resident Leah Hileman has had success in protecting her vegetation through use of spray products. Mrs. Hileman has been invited to attend the meeting.

Mr. Reichert reported on the recent Street Committee meeting involving the Pembroke area paving projects. He commented that there was obvious interest in speed humps on Pembroke Rd. and that there was a strong consensus that there should be four speed humps on Pembroke and two on Halifax.

Mr. Straub stated that it was one of the few meetings where the consensus of the group was very clear.

Mr. Reichert also stated that a letter had been sent to the City of Toledo regarding a left turn arrow on northbound Talmadge to westbound Central.

Mr. Straub reported that due to unavoidable circumstances two members of the Equipment, Utilities, Buildings & Grounds Committee were unable to attend the recent meeting and therefore it will be rescheduled in the near future.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 12, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

Solicitor Sarah McHugh stated that things were generally quiet on the legal front. The Geresy Field arbitration is scheduled for June 18 and 19.

Mr. Thompson described a meeting which he attended involving use of the stadium field. Mr. Thompson left the meeting early to attend another meeting but Council member Walter also was in attendance.

Mr. Walter stated that there are long-term problems with the field at the stadium primarily due to the intense use and the lack of a growing season. A normal grass field should have no more than 25 to 28 events per year. There will be 60 events on the field in 2008. Therefore, a group of citizens and the Boosters Club is considering artificial turf on the field. He reported that a local company has offered to install a new system of artificial playing surface for approximately \$400,000 as opposed to a typical \$700,000 cost. The Boosters Club and the citizens wish to proceed and have the turf installed this summer so that it would be available for the upcoming football season in the fall. A fundraising flier will soon be sent Village wide to aid in the financing of the program. In order to have the field be available for the fall sports it must be completed by August 15. Some fundraising has already occurred and it is anticipated that the group will be coming to the Village Council and to the school board for funding in the near future.

Mr. Walter indicated that a specific advantage to the Village would be that field hockey would move into the stadium on the new turf which would provide substantial relief for Geresy Field.

Mr. Reichert commented that one of the proponents for the new field, Sandy Brown talked to him earlier today stating that the field could last up to 20 years.

Mr. Walter mentioned that the school board had made no commitments regarding the proposed field at this time.

Mayor Gilmore expressed concern about maintenance of the new field stating that many of the concerns related to the maintenance of the elementary school fields are becoming a reality. He expressed concern about the ongoing maintenance of those fields. Mr. Reichert reminded everyone that the Village volunteered to take ownership of those fields and maintenance responsibilities a few years ago.

Mr. Walter said that the discussions about a joint recreation board or joint recreation district may help in that regard. Mrs. O'Connell commented that she did not think the elementary school fields were in that bad of condition.

Mr. Straub said that he was sympathetic to the notion of artificial surface on the stadium field and pointed out that the Village received a higher than expected estate tax revenue this year.

Mayor Gilmore stated that he was inclined to help with the effort but was very concerned about ongoing maintenance after such a large investment.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 12, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Decker commented that a governmental agency, either the school board or the Village Council would need to be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the field.

In response to a question from Mayor Gilmore, Mr. Walter stated that the estimated cost was approximately \$400,000 and he envisioned an equal amount of contribution from the school and the Village looking at each for approximately \$100,000. He also commented the maintenance costs would be a responsibility of the Board of Education.

Mr. Reichert commented that with the very short fundraising time line it might be appropriate for the Village to make a pledge now with a series of stipulations or conditions to assure that Village funds were properly used. Brief review followed regarding Village funding contributions to school board projects. In past projects, contributions were made by the Village to the Board of Education when certain milestones on any project were completed.

Mrs. Afjeh asked if the Village ever said no to a request for funding assistance. Mr. Reichert responded that the requests in the past have been for improvements to facilities and each of those facility improvements have benefited the community at large, not simply the Board of Education.

Mr. Decker asked about the effect on the community fundraising if either the Village or the school board makes a large commitment.

Mrs. O'Connell stated that in a conversation with Athletic Director Tim Erickson, she understands that the school is prepared to undertake the maintenance on the new turf if it is installed. The athletic director commented that there is a substantial amount of existing maintenance that takes place on the field and they would see it simply as a substitute of one type of maintenance for another.

Mr. Straub asked that Mr. Walter explore with Sandy Brown and John Day what the plans with the Board of Education are and what is likely to occur from other groups. He recalled that regarding substantial contributions from the Village in the past there was some bad publicity directed at the Village.

Mayor Gilmore commented that without substantial assurances and specific conditions there should be no contributions by the Village.

Mr. Walter stated that he would report back to the group the nature of the meeting and that the Village was open and amenable to further consideration.

After additional discussion Mr. Straub made a motion to agree in principle to consider a donation of up to \$100,000 for the purpose of installing artificial turf on the high school stadium field with the contribution being paid from estate tax revenues after the Village receives assurances that 1) the Board of Education will also participate financially in the purchase of the turf, 2) the Board of Education will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the turf, 3) the Board of Education will receive and be responsible for the Village contribution in accordance with all legal requirements, 4) further information on the

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 12, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

fundraising efforts, the manufacturer and the installer of the turf and warranty on the turf is forthcoming to the Village and 5) that sufficient funds are being raised from private contributions to assure that the project will go forward.

Mr. Reichert seconded the motion commenting that the school contribution should be equal in nature. There was a unanimous vote on the motion.

Mr. Reichert made a motion to authorize receipt of bids for paving the municipal parking lot and driveway. Mr. Straub seconded the motion.

Mr. Decker made a motion to contract with Todd Alspaugh for repairs to Bonniebrook Rd. Mrs. King seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Discussion of the marketing program budget through the first year of the program followed.

Discussion also occurred related to a request for assignment of a telecommunication easement from CenturyTel to Zayo, LLC. Mr. Reichert made a motion to approve the assignment. Mr. Walter seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Attention then turned to legislation.

Resolution 2008-10	Authorizing the purchase of two 2008 Dodge Durango's from Charlie's Dodge, authorizing the trade-in of one police and one fire vehicle and declaring an emergency.
--------------------	--

Mrs. King moved to dispense with the rule requiring a Resolution be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. King moved for the passage of the Resolution as an emergency measure. Mr. Reichert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. King moved for final passage of the Resolution as an emergency measure and Mr. Reichert seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 5 Yeas, 0 Nays.

There was no need for an executive session.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Village Council would occur on June 2, 2008.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Kevin Gilmore, Mayor