

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON NOVEMBER 3, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin Gilmore called the November 3, 2008 meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council to order at 7:31 p.m. Roll was taken with Council members Rex Decker, Jim Walter, Robert Reichert, Norma King, Jack Straub and Jeff Gibbs present. Also present were Mayor Kevin Gilmore, Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson.

Nasrin Afjeh was in the audience.

Mayor Gilmore then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no citizen comments, Mr. Gilmore called on Mr. Decker to provide a Finance Committee report. Mr. Decker reported that the Finance Committee met on Friday as a prelude to the annual budgetary process. That meeting focused on a variety of topics including revenue projections and a variety of finance related policies.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was that a Committee of the Whole meeting take place to discuss the 2009 budget given the substantial amount of uncertainty in the financial markets and the effect of that uncertainty on our traditional budgeting approach. He reviewed the relationship between the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee and also reviewed the revenue assumptions identified by the Finance Committee. Those assumptions include no increase in income tax, no increase in property tax and estate tax revenues at \$500,000 in 2009.

It was also acknowledged that the financial uncertainty may result in a change related to future capital improvement projects. Discussion followed regarding potential dates for a Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mrs. King reported that the Human Resources Committee met on October 29 and discussed in detail all aspects of employee compensation. Included in those discussions was an anticipated approximate 10% increase in health insurance costs for 2009.

The Human Resources Committee also discussed changing the structure of salary increases in an effort to avoid the compounding effect on salary expenses. That discussion involved keeping the base salary the same and providing one time or periodic payments outside of the base.

The Committee also recommended that the existing split between the Village and employees remain the same regarding the health insurance premium payment.

Mr. Gibbs reported that the Safety Committee met on October 23 and reviewed the Hillandale related issues that were mentioned at the most recent meeting. He reminded Council that they received a report of traffic counts and speed surveys done recently in that area. That report indicates that 60% of the vehicles maintained a speed of between 20 and 30 miles per hour and does not indicate a significant problem. Mr. Gibbs suggested that a copy of the study be sent to Mr. Schalles who had expressed the concerns.

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The committee also reviewed ice and snow removal efforts for the coming winter. Discussion included the higher cost of salt and the treatment with the beet extract. The beet extract should result in less usage of salt and a greater effectiveness of the salt at lower temperatures.

The Village has committed to purchase 500 tons of salt from the Lucas County engineers this year.

The Safety Committee also reviewed revenues from the medical transport operation which totaled about \$41,000. Expenses year-to-date have been less than \$4,000. Brief discussion involved a recent injury in a soccer match and the successful Halloween program this past year.

Mr. Walter reported that he hopes to have another meeting regarding deer and deer related problems in December.

Mr. Reichert reported that paving on the side streets of the Pembroke project has been completed and that the project has gone well so far. He reminded everyone that Pembroke and Hawthorne should be completed in the next couple of days which will bring the project to conclusion.

Mr. Straub reported that the Equipment, Utilities, Buildings & Grounds Committee would be meeting on Wednesday to review several issues including a discussion with Hans Gottgens regarding the wetlands mitigation issue. Also on the agenda will be a brief discussion regarding the sanitary and storm sewer analysis.

Solicitor Sarah McHugh reported that there is a February trial date for the Boice issue and that the Comte mediation was postponed.

Mr. Thompson reported that leaf pickup began on an overtime basis this past weekend. He also reported on a notice received from AT&T regarding their intention to provide cable television service in the Village of Ottawa Hills.

Mr. Reichert made a motion to prepare legislation for the next meeting related to franchise fees for cable television providers. Mr. Gibbs seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Under the heading of old business, Mayor Gilmore asked Mr. Walter to give a report of the Recreation Task Force. Mr. Walter reported that Council has received two pieces of information, one a report from an initial survey done several months ago and a second report highlighting the efforts of the Task Force. He reminded everyone that the Task Force included John Buckey and Gretchen Rohm of the Board of Education in addition to Mr. Decker and Mr. Walter.

Mr. Walter reported that the committee has been working for almost a year studying how there may be better coordination of recreation activities in the Village of Ottawa Hills and

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trying to identify one umbrella organization under which various recreation and lifestyle endeavors could be accomplished. The committee reviewed three types of structures allowed under the Ohio Revised Code: a Recreation Board, a Joint Recreation Board or a Joint Recreation District. The committee recommends creation of a Joint Recreation District although it recognizes that there are considerable tax implications for creation of such a district.

Mr. Decker commented that he was initially against creation of a Joint Recreation District as were several members of the School Board. A primary reason for the initial opposition was the concern that creation of a district might create competition for the Board of Education which receives most of its funding through property tax levies. This was a lengthy topic of discussion at several meetings.

Eventually, the Task Force concluded that creation of a Joint Recreation District is probably the best way to start with the understanding that a Joint Recreation District would not be able to put tax issues on the ballot without the prior approval of both the Board of Education and the Village Council.

Mr. Decker commented that the school representatives would be taking the issue to the School Board at their meeting later this week.

Mr. Reichert asked if the Village would turn over title to property, such as Geresy Field if such a district were created. Mr. Decker said he did not think so, noting that this is more of an administrative structure intended to develop a community wide program for recreation and other lifestyle activities that were not part of the school sports programs. He envisioned that the Board and the Village might lease property to the district.

In regard to discussion about staffing, Mr. Walter said that a full-time director of a Recreation District would be necessary in order to make the project successful. Mr. Decker said that the Task Force was reviewing costs currently as well as various potential contributions from the Board of Education and the Village.

Mayor Gilmore expressed concern about increasing costs to citizens through creation of a new bureaucracy. He asked if it could be established as a Recreation District and thereby not create another layer of governmental bureaucracy. Mr. Gilmore continued stating that hiring a full-time person and spending more public dollars would create a greater burden on the Village taxpayers. He expressed concern that governmental agencies have a tendency to grow in size and cost.

Mr. Decker said that he did not believe there would necessarily be new costs involved. Mrs. O'Connell asked if there are recreation districts that exist that do not collect a tax, even though Recreation Districts are permitted to seek tax increase.

Mr. Walter said he did not know but imagined that there may be some that do not tax. He stated that the proposed structure would allow a Joint Recreation District to seek a tax only with the approval of the Board of Education and the Village Council.

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Mr. Straub stated that he shared the Mayor's concerns noting that two people are currently involved, Dorothy Figy and Bev Gottlieb at an amount of about \$28,000. Someone would need to be in charge of a new structure and that would likely be a full-time person which would probably increase costs.

Mr. Walter agreed that it will likely be a full-time person because there will be lots of weekend and evening hours given the nature of the position. Mr. Reichert commented that Bev Gottlieb is scheduled for approximately 1,300 hours annually.

Mr. Decker reiterated that if such a Joint Recreation District is created no tax issues could be put on the ballot without the consent of both the Village and the Board of Education. He also said that either party could withdraw from the district with one year's notice unless there was a long term contract for services or some other type of long term commitment incurred by the district.

Mr. Reichert asked about outsourcing some of the work in order to keep costs under control, such as the Village contracting for services at Geresy Field. Mr. Decker responded that union contracts make difficult any such outsourcing for school property. Mrs. King asked about the possibility of acquisition of additional property at some point in the future. Mr. Walter stated that everyone recognized the need for additional land but there have been no discussions about the acquisition of additional property.

Mr. Decker commented that the proposal was to put in place to address a number of concerns and to benefit the entire community. Mr. Gibbs stated that a common problem now is that there is no enforcement of schedules, rules, etc. and a limited amount of facilities.

Mr. Decker said that the group did not want to add costs to the taxpayers but that everyone agrees that improvements are necessary to the existing structure.

Mayor Gilmore asked to see a detailed proposed budget before the next step in the process. Mr. Reichert speculated that it would double costs from the existing. Mr. Walter said that the executive director would be required to enforce rules regarding usage and other requirements and that a volunteer would not be willing to do that.

Mr. Decker stated that the committee would come back to the Council with a detailed budget and additional supporting information.

Attention then turned to legislation.

Ordinance 2008-9	Vacating portions of Hasty Road in the Village of Ottawa Hills, Ohio.
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Mr. Reichert moved to dispense with the rule requiring an Ordinance be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Straub seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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Mr. Reichert moved for final passage of the Ordinance and Mr. Straub seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Resolution 2008-23	Expressing appreciation to the Lucas County engineer for much needed assistance in procuring road salt for the 2008/2009 winter.
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Mr. Gibbs moved to dispense with the rule requiring a Resolution be fully and distinctly read on three different days. Mr. Straub seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

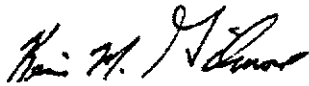
Mr. Gibbs moved for final passage of the Resolution measure and Mr. Reichert seconded, the roll being called the vote thereon was as follows: 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Brief discussion followed regarding the success of the recent Halloween program.

It was agreed that the Committee of the Whole meeting would take place during the week of the tenth of November.

There was no need for an executive session.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Kevin Gilmore, Mayor