

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Dishong, Flaiz, Koons, Porter, and Wolfe
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Police Chief Wetzel, Building Commissioner Hocevar,
Solicitor Ondrey, Engineer Foley, Fiscal Auditor Lechman,
Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Johnson
VISITORS: Steve Latkovic, Safe Routes to School;
Ed Pyle, Cemetery Committee

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Fiscal Officer read the roll. Wolfe moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2009 Council Meeting, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes: Porter, Wolfe, Binder, Flaiz and Koons; Dishong abstained. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Steve Latkovic gave an overview to Council on the Safe Routes to School program. This is a federally funded program which is administered by the State's Department of Transportation to provide safe routes for children walking to and from school. The Travel Plan has been approved by ODOT. The grant application is due November 2nd. ODOT has been consulted to obtain additional information regarding how South Russell's plans will fit into the region as a whole. At the next Council meeting Steve will provide an update of timing issues and projected costs. Mayor asked Engineer Foley to get up-to-speed with the application and research what will be involved so that the Council has the information needed to make an informed decision.

Steve distributed a handout explaining a potential NOACA project. The intention is to extend the paths in the Safe Routes to School program. NOACA's planning study would look at ways to connect surrounding communities with bicycle and pedestrian trails with the possibility of connecting to the greater MetroPark system in the future. The addition of this project would offer a regional perspective and provide many benefits to Village residents. The application is due October 9th. At the Council meeting on September 28th, Steve is planning to provide a completed application and have a firm plan in place. At that time, he would need to know the Village's decision on their involvement.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Ed Pyle gave an update on the cemetery initiative. He plans to have the final design, and rules and regulations for the Council meeting on October 12th. The final design and construction drawings of the cemetery will be at the Fall Festival for residents to view.

Wolfe introduced an ordinance authorizing the use of Permanent Parcels #29-706410 and 29-706407 for the Municipal Cemetery for the Village of South Russell. Public Hearing

is set for October 12 at 6:30 pm. Mayor will draft an ad stating the possible dedication of land parcels for the municipal cemetery at this hearing. Any residents wishing to give feedback should attend. Fiscal Officer will post.

Mayor reported that former Councilman Bob Martin passed away and thanked him for his service to the Village.

Mayor reported that the County Commissioners asked Geauga County Department of Water Resources to hold on the Maple Hill sewer project for the next couple of months until there is greater clarity on the pending legislation.

Finance Committee met along with Fiscal Auditor and Fiscal Officer to work on projections for a Strategic Planning meeting to be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, October 11th.

There was a Tax Board Hearing held earlier that evening and a conclusion was reached.

Chief Wetzel and Mayor met with the Chagrin Falls Superintendent regarding the preparation for a possible outbreak of the H1N1 virus. The school has sent out preventative information to homes in the district.

The Village's tornado siren was activated twice during the month of August for weather events in northeast Ohio.

Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Council will be meeting September 26th to evaluate health care.

Farmers' Market proceeds are down a little from last year due to inclement weather on Saturdays.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer introduced Becky Peterson, the new Administrative Assistant for the Village.

Fiscal Officer mentioned ODOT's 2009 Construction Guide is available and distributed a monthly report.

Tax Administrator Romanowski reported that the gross distribution for the month of September was \$57,411.20; after refunds and overhead the net distribution was \$45,436.34.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor Lechman distributed the Cash Management Report as of August 31, 2009. Lechman also presented the Fiscal Auditor's report for 2006-08. Historical data was presented at the meeting. The next step is to pull together numbers to project revenues.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Cemetery and Park planning projects are both active. According to Mike Stone, at the County Engineer's office, it doesn't appear South Russell received funding in Round 24. Mayor stated the significance of how this will impact the Bell Road West resurfacing project. This information will be considered during the 3-5 year planning project.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner Hocevar reported that the supervisors attended a class for a Drug-Free Workplace. Other employees will be watching a video as well. Two random drug tests will be given to meet the requirement to receive the 20% discount. This is the last year this discount will be available.

Hocevar stated that the drawings for a Panini's on East Washington are at CT Consultants for commercial reviewing and will go to ABR. There was a variance at ZBA last week for a front yard set-back on Paw Paw Lake Drive due to a house addition. The green house proposed for the Marshall property on Bell Road has settled on a contract; a site plan will be prepared to go to CT; construction drawings will go to the Building Commissioner's office and then on to ABR.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wetzel submitted a month-end report. Chief reported that the automatic wireless download of the in-car camera system has been resolved. Chief stated that the Police Department has complied with a request for public records. The Chief and Solicitor Ondrey spoke about the request that night, and Chief is to meet with Dennis Coyne to deliver those documents on Wednesday.

On September 2nd the Chief met with the Bramble Farms Homeowners Association to discuss South Russell Village business.

The Valley Enforcement Group (VEG) audit has been completed. The Auditor and VEG Finance Committee will meet September 15th to go over the results of the audit. The cost of the audit is \$4,000.

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER'S REPORT: FPO Huddleston gave an update on inspections done so far this year. Metro's Life Flight will attend the Fall Festival this Sunday arriving at 1:30 pm.

Huddleston reported that Ted Batchelor will be holding an event on Saturday, September 19th. He has complied with all permit requirements. The event is being held on private property and admission will be charged. Huddleston has put Life Flight on notice. Ted has yet to produce an insurance policy.

Huddleston was selected to attend the National Fire Academy for two weeks in November for a government-sponsored class in Maryland.

FPO reported that approximately 80% of fire inspections for the Village have been conducted for the year.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Johnson supplied Council with a monthly report. The Salt Dome/Village Hall landscaping project has been completed; this is the end of the Village Property's Enhancement Phase III. Two additional Village entrance signs have been purchased and installed on Rt. 306. One of the old signs was installed on Snyder Road at the Bainbridge line. Improvements were made at South Russell Park installing a ditch culvert to the west side of the property. Signage has been agreed upon to designate the property line for the Maistros property. Everything associated with the Road program has been completed for 2009. Preparations for the Fall Festival have been ongoing getting ready for this weekend. Street Commissioner will meet on Thursday with David Von Wagner and his son regarding the placement of the kiosk, the Eagle Scout project. The plan is to have this finished by the Fall Festival.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Ondrey had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Porter made a motion to enter into contract with BWC for 2010 payable in 2011; Koons seconded. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Porter informed Council that the Village would stay with the current plan for employee's health benefits.

Porter made a motion that the Mayor and Fiscal Officer be authorized to put out bids for salt for the winter of 2009-10, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Porter stated that there is currently a discussion going on with Troop 150 about information that will be in the kiosk at the South Russell Park; possible items would include a map and information about bob-o-links.

Porter reported that the Fall Festival will be held this Sunday from 12-4. John Dishong will provide sandwich boards for parking. There will be three businesses represented at the festival this year.

There was an archery event and the Rocket Club shot off rockets at the park; both events went well.

A flyer was recently distributed by the school announcing the Booster Club will be holding another Turkey Trot this year.

Wolfe had no report.

Binder reported that the Building Committee met on August 18th.

Dishong reminded Council that it is time for newsletter articles. Dishong will send an Email to inform everyone of the deadline. Mayor suggested that the October and holiday newsletter may be combined depending on the number of articles.

Flaiz reported that the Safety Committee meeting on October 15th has been moved to October 14th at 7:30 am.

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on fences last Thursday evening. The Planning Commission had voted against adopting an additional zoning regulation regarding fences. The issue is being shelved until further notice.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Porter introduced a motion that the Mayor and Fiscal Officer be authorized to enter into contract with Gates McDonald for purposes of providing Workers' Compensation coverage for 2010 payable in 2011, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons introduced a resolution accepting the amounts and rates that were determined by the Budget Commissioner authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor, declaring an emergency. Koons moved to waive readings; seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Koons moved to adopt; Binder seconded. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

BILLS LIST: Koons made a motion to ratify bills that were paid on August 14th, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to ratify bills that were paid on August 31, 2009, in the amount of \$26,871.17, seconded by Binder. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to approve the bills to be paid on September 15th, in the amount of \$40,744.99, seconded by Flaiz. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS: Flaiz attended the centralized trash meetings hosted by the Russell trustees on August 26th. Representatives from three of the main waste haulers (LandMark, Universal and Waste Management) were in attendance at the Public Hearing. There are a lot of benefits to move toward centralized trash pickup. Flaiz suggested that the Village seriously explore this option.

Koons asked if residents would be notified that there would not be a Trash Day this fall. A note will be put on the website. Fiscal Officer asked about the date of Shredding Day; it is thought to be set for October 10th or 17th. Wolfe will double check.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, Flaiz moved to adjourn, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

9/14/09 Council Minutes.doc
prepared by: Becky Peterson