

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dishong, Koons, Porter, and Wolfe
MEMBERS ABSENT: Binder and Flaiz
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Police Chief Wetzal, Building Commissioner Hocevar,
Solicitor Ondrey, Fiscal Auditor Lechman,
Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Johnson
OFFICIALS ABSENT: Engineer Foley
VISITORS: Joyce Bond, CT Consultants; Steve Latkovic, Safe Routes
to School; Jon Von Wagoner, Eagle Scout;
David Von Wagoner; Jim Adams; Moe Vitantonio;
Lisa Vitantonio; Ryan Pierce; Lee Schiemann and
Larry Wise

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 September 14, 2009 Council Meeting, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Jon Von Wagoner, Eagle Scout who constructed the kiosk at the South Russell Park, gave a final report on his project.

Larry Wise is the President of the Homeowners Association in White Tail and is responsible for the water plant that services 109 families. Mr. Wise spoke about the impact fertilizers and chemicals have on our water. Larry asked Council what their role is in this matter and is looking for assistance in looking into it further. The Mayor reported that Eckstein & Associates has historically tested the quantity of the Village water. BioSolutions tests the quality. Larry Wise will follow up with Building Commissioner Hocevar.

James Adams, Geauga Board of Mental Health, addressed Council. Mr. Adams reported that Geauga County took a 40% cut from the State of Ohio. This was the largest departmental and county cut in the State. The Board has a .7 replacement mill on the ballot this fall. After 10 years of remaining at the same level, this is an increase of \$6.88/\$100,000 property valuation per year. As of July 1st, 37 programs have been cut. The Board is desperately seeking to bring these programs back. Geauga Board of Mental Health serves 12,000 residents every year. Mayor asked what the impact will be if the fall levy doesn't pass. Mr. Adams reported that if that, in fact, happens the additional loss will be approximately \$2 million.

Steve Latkovic, Multipurpose Trails group, attended the meeting to give an update on the Safe Routes to School program. Mr. Latkovic reported that there will be a Walk to

School Day on October 8th. Meeting places and times will include the Cleveland Clinic on East Washington at 6:50 and 7:30 a.m. and the Library on Orange at 6:40 and 7:40 a.m. The school day will end with a walk to Riverside followed by a party. Steve extended an invitation to anyone who wants to attend.

Steve Latkovic stated that the Safe Routes grant application is due Nov 2nd. It needs to be completed in the next four weeks. It was reported that only one application will be accepted for each school travel plan. Whoever applies will be responsible for maintaining the routes. It is hoped that South Russell Village and Chagrin Falls will be able to partner to ensure maintenance is kept up-to-date. There is no required match, so these funds can be used for engineering and/or construction costs. The project will hopefully start this year and possibly continue over the next few years. A rough rule of thumb is that each mile will cost approximately \$500,000. Porter asked, and Steve confirmed, that this is a reimbursement grant which means funds will need to be disbursed with the reimbursement occurring later. Wolfe stated that she had heard that the school still needs to approve the plan. Mr. Latkovic said that is true, however the grant application process can go ahead prior to this approval.

Steve Latkovic reported that the NOACA grant to fund a Regional Alternate Transportation Study will probably cost approximately \$70-75,000. The applicant and co-sponsors will be asked to match roughly \$15,000 each. There is support from other villages for this project, but it is unknown if there will be financial contributions from the neighboring villages. The Foundation will be a co-sponsor and will contribute up to \$5,000. If approved, NOACA will award the grant around December with the study to begin in the spring. Koons made a motion that South Russell Village allocate a maximum of \$5000 to the South Russell Trails Committee in 2010 to secure the grant from The Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency for the Alternative Transportation Study as a co-sponsor; seconded by Wolfe. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated that CSA and CAA went through a process of doing a study for the active parcel of the park to evaluate putting in playing fields. Mayor asked that the Park Committee, CSA and CAA discuss the original scope of what was planned compared to the status to-date, and then make a presentation to Council.

Mayor reported that the fire stunt by Ted Batchelor and sixteen other individuals occurred on September 19th. Although the Mayor and Council were initially concerned with safety and the event in general, it was well prepared and went off without a hitch. Their world record was achieved.

Mayor attended the quarterly meeting of the Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Committee (CVIGC). They are attempting to organize a group effort to go after healthcare. They will continue their efforts into 2010 getting some different options together. After hearing from other Mayors, it is clear that other local communities are trying to get their arms around how to forecast and deal with the revenues and expenditures moving forward. There has been a challenge to the slot machine issue at the State level, and it is now being held up. This would have a \$1 billion effect on the State's

budget. The Undivided Local Government Fund (UDLG) has been ok. Based on the budget that was passed it's been secure. This Fund might be decreased because of revenues that feed it. There is a real concern that this will get hit hard.

Mayor attended the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers meeting. The effort for regional revenue sharing was discussed. The group is attempting to come up with a plan modeled after a plan that's been in place in Minneapolis that tries to create a formula that shares future commercial increases regarding their taxes. The biggest benefit of this type of plan is it would control tax abatements, etc., to encourage businesses where to locate. Mayor stated that, by the early part of 2010, the Village will probably be asked to pass a resolution that the Village is in favor of this type of plan. Under this proposed formula, the Village would come out ahead financially.

Mayor forwarded a version of the legislative update that comes from Squire, Sanders. Mayor has asked the District's Legal Council to weigh in on the septic legislation and give us some insight on this topic.

In regard to the ambulance billing, we wouldn't be doing anything yet. One of the purposes of making this change would be to be able to go after the back billing for Medicare. They have yet to send out letters, but that should be happening soon. They have just started the process of switching over from billing from South Russell to billing being generated from the Chagrin Falls Fire Department.

The 3-5 Year Planning session is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th, to be held in the Village Hall from 9-12 noon.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Fiscal Officer had no report.

FISCAL AUDITOR'S REPORT: Fiscal Auditor Lechman reported on budgeted line items and the status of the year-to-date numbers through August 31st. Lechman projected the budget through the end of 2009. The Village started the year at \$1.45 million; the projected balance at year-end is \$1.3 million. This is \$67,000 short of what was budgeted; however, due to certain line items, it is really down about \$126,000.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Joyce Bond stated that the Cemetery Committee will attend the Council meeting on October 12th.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Building Commissioner Hocevar reported that the Village has finalized the Drug-Free Self Assessment Progress report with three random drug tests on employees. The Village will be receiving a 10% discount from Worker's Compensation.

Hocevar stated that the residential sprinklers were not approved at the State level.

The Village will be moving ahead with the Police Department's chimney removal.

Solicitor Ondrey asked whether Panini's were given a time limit on variances. Building Commissioner will revisit that and see if an extension is necessary.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Wetzel stated that residents from Fairview Road have contacted the Police Department asking permission to close the road for a block party. This has happened previously and was uneventful.

Chief reported that Officer Rank was injured early Sunday morning. Rank remains in Hillcrest Hospital at this time.

STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Johnson reported that the Service Department helped out with the Fall Festival.

Johnson made Council aware that there is a Salt Bid Opening on Friday, October 2nd.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Ondrey brought up the possibility to consider zoning regulations for residential wind turbines and/or wood furnaces outside houses. These regulations could be designed to restrict where these two items could be located.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Wolfe and Binder met regarding trash removal. The Public Utilities Committee is considering the inclusion of a survey card in the October newsletter and would like Council's input. Committee would like to get feedback from residents followed by a Public Hearing on November 9th or 23rd.

Dishong asked whether fall and winter newsletters are needed or if one would be more appropriate at this time. It was decided to move ahead with a fall newsletter.

Koons reported there will be a Finance meeting on October 11th. This will be a strategic meeting to discuss a 3-5 year plan for the Village.

Porter passed along appreciation from the Parks Committee to everyone who was involved in the Fall Festival. The Parks Committee will be putting together a 3-5 year plan over the next several meetings.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Koons introduced an ordinance amending the appropriations transferring \$11,750 from the Income Tax Fund to the Parks and Recreation Fund.

Fiscal Officer did a second reading on the ordinance authorizing the use of Permanent Parcels No. 29-706407 and 29-706410 for a municipal cemetery for the Village of South Russell.

BILLS LIST: Koons made a motion to ratify bills that were paid on September 15th, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to approve the bills to be paid on September 30th, in the amount of \$18,066.61, seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS: Koons reported two instances over the weekend about unleashed dogs. The Village will consider a leash law.

Mayor reminded Council that there will be a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Council meeting on October 12th.

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

Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

9/28/09 Council Minutes.doc
prepared by: Becky Peterson