

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.  
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Wolfe, Dishong, Binder, Koons, and Kostura

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Porter

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Street Commissioner Johnson, Building Commissioner Hocevar, Police Chief Rizzo, Solicitor Ondrey and Engineer Haibach

**VISITORS:** Greg Pike, Whitetail Dr.; Ann Dunning, Morningside Dr.; Ted Kruse, Bell Rd.; Deborah O'Connor, Geauga County Public Library; Lee Schiemann, Forest Dr.; Marie Masseria, Gates Mills Blvd.; Bob Pattie, Eastwood; Cindy & Jim Trigilio, Fairhaven Rd.; Doug Divita, Croyden Rd.; Dolores Divita, Croyden Rd.; Anthony Divita, Enfield Dr.; Ciara Mills, Glenvalley Dr.; Steve Marks, Havel Dr.; Cheryl Henschel, Gates Mills Blvd.; Carrie & Michael Roberts, Chillicothe Rd.; Nick Fatica, Roundwood Rd.; Jessica Sullivan, Wakefield Ave.; Ryan & Linda Patete, White Rd.; Andy Lustig, Maple Hill Dr.; Michael & Melissa Kleinknecht, Hemlock Dr.; Brandon & Danielle Savage, Ardmore; Daniel Schmid, Commonwealth Ave.; A Stanko, Middlefield P.D.

Mayor Brett called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Fiscal Officer Romanowski read the roll. Koons moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2013 council meeting, seconded by Binder. Roll call – Koons, Binder, Kostura - ayes, Wolfe abstained. Motion carried.

Chief Rizzo introduced and recommended new hires for part-time patrolman positions. He stated Nick Divita works full-time for the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department and previously with Middlefield Police Department. Michael Roberts works full-time for the Orange Village Police Department and was previously with Moreland Hills Police Department. Mayor Brett stated he thinks the two gentlemen being sworn in will fit nicely within the Police Department and the Village and he feels they will serve the residents well.

Binder made a motion to affirm hiring Nick Divita and Michael Roberts as part-time patrolmen for the South Russell Police Department, seconded by Wolfe. Roll call, ayes – all. Motion carried. Council affirmed the appointment of Nick Divita and Michael Roberts to part-time patrolmen and Mayor swore them in.

Mayor recognized and thanked Wyatt Kramer for his Eagle Scout project. Wyatt Kramer explained his Eagle Scout project of landscaping the front of the Village Police Department; he removed shrubs and put in new mulch, plants and gravel. He said he had to raise over \$1,000 for the project. Council told him it looks great and thanked him.

Deborah O'Connor addressed Council and stated she wanted to discuss the Bainbridge Library and the age of the building. She said it is 28 years old and the library is 1/3 size of a proportionally adequate size library and lacks meeting rooms. O'Connor stated the library receives numerous requests for meeting space and has to turn people away regularly. She explained they would need a levy in South Russell and will be forming a committee to approach the three communities to discuss. Koons asked O'Connor when she expects the levy to be on the ballot. She replied possibly November 2014.

Lee Schiemann addressed Council regarding the pavilion location in the park. He stated the western location has recently become the favored location but issues have not been addressed such as elevation, drainage and extreme situations. Schiemann also said that issues such as proximity to parking, blocking the view line for some Bell Rd. residents and that it is more costly than the Eastern location since an excavator/South Russell resident has offered his services for free for the Eastern site only have not been addressed. Mayor stated Council has heard the Park Committee's recommendation, and will consider resident's opinions, the Village Engineer's opinion, information from the excavator and the Building and Streets Commissioners opinions before a final decision is made.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor reported he received an updated cost estimate for Lake Louise sewers in the ballpark of \$32,000 per parcel to tie in, and if the rest of the Village moved forward the cost would be \$28,000. He stated that he spoke with Ann Dunning regarding the 71 homes included in their calculations; however homes along Bell will need to be included. Mayor asked Ann to circle back to those that weren't included as well as verify the residents votes are what they want them to be.

Mayor reported the issues with the cul-de-sac on Deerfield appear to be from a difference in the way the product was applied. He stated that bus and trash truck traffic and construction have impacted the road in an undesirable way. Engineer estimates the cost to address the cul-de-sac only is \$10,000 or \$25,000 for the whole street. Mayor recommends tacking on a change order for the approved road program. Engineer recommended going with a straight overlay and explained the proposed road repair. Dishong stated if home construction continues for a year as expected, and the road is fixed now, would it get ruined again. Rob Meyers, a resident on Deerfield, stated who can say when home construction may occur, and he believes this should not be a factor for action to be taken. Discussion followed regarding construction vehicles, the type of asphalt, timing of repair and the Engineer getting quotes. Mayor asked the Engineer to get a quote so that Council can take action at the next meeting.

Mayor reported that the village is looking into the potential of collaboration between South Russell, Chagrin Falls Schools and Geauga Water Resources to discuss extending a waterline from Bainbridge. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 13, 2013.

Mayor reported the signs are now in place at South Russell Village Park, and he has asked the Police Department to monitor the parking areas on both sides as well as enhance the way information is recorded. He stated he asked the Chief and Fiscal Officer to provide updates on reports and feedback received to Council. Binder asked if visitors not obeying the rules will be cited, Mayor responded it will depend on the situation and investigation of what occurred.

Mayor reported he received correspondence regarding Dominion East Ohio Gas work being done on Bell Road and has received many questions. He stated perhaps additional information should be sent to residents.

Mayor reported at the end of the meeting he would like to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

**FISCAL OFFICER:** Fiscal Officer reported that she distributed a copy of the real estate tax report received from the County. She stated the Finance Committee meeting is this Friday morning. She asked if Council would like to schedule a budget planning work session for November. It was decided the first Council meeting will be changed to Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and the budget work session would be scheduled for Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Fiscal Officer stated she sent the resolution accepting the amounts and rates from the County regarding the tax budget to Council for them to vote on.

**FISCAL AUDITOR:** Fiscal Auditor reviewed his report and said the balances are healthy at \$3.25 million and reconciled with the bank statements. He said the Village has received interest and income tax this month.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Engineer reported ODOT has scheduled September 26 to open bids for the Bell Road project. They will then find out who the contractor will be and their schedule to do the work. He stated he is happy with the quality of work on this year's road program and believes Specialized Construction does a good job and he is impressed with their crew. Engineer stated that the cost may come in around \$5,000 under budget. Mayor stated he has received positive feedback from the residents regarding the project.

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Building Commissioner reported there is a variance meeting scheduled for September 19 with two items on the agenda. He said one is for signage at the gas station across the street and a pole sign within the village. He said they will discuss the amount of square footage and banner issues. He also reported a variance has been requested for 105 Hazelwood.

Building Commissioner stated the drug-free workplace training took place last week and the Village receives a reduction in the Bureau of Workman's Comp premiums. He stated he will be attending 10 out of 12 safety meetings for another 2% reduction.

Building Commissioner reported he received a nice comment from a Manor Brook resident regarding the great visibility of the Police Department. Building Commissioner also stated the Engineer always does his job well and is very helpful.

Building Commissioner reported he has shown the rental property to several people. He said he was hoping before the next Council meeting, Council could take a look at the finished house. Mayor stated the Building Commissioner's hard work shows. Kostura recommended in order to finish the rental house project, Council will need to vote on approving \$8,000 more for the project.

Building Commissioner confirmed the pavilion project should come in under \$50,000.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:** Police Chief reported he submitted his monthly report and said he has received speeding complaints on Snyder Rd. He said the Geauga County Engineer put up a reduced speed ahead sign in Bainbridge and ODOT will be putting up a sign on 306 and Sherbrook within the next couple of weeks.

Chief reported the final items for the Police Department project, front and rear doors, will be completed in the next few weeks. He stated he has been working with the Engineer on the new parking area. Chief said he scheduled an open house on October 12 from 9 AM to 2 PM and it will be in the newsletter. Chief stated Panini's will be donating lunch items.

Chief reported Bruce Samsill is a committee member for the Turkey Trot and has requested a relocation of the starting location to Chagrin Falls High School.

Chief stated he and the Mayor discussed monitoring the South Russell Village Park and today the first warning was issued. The department will continue paying special attention to monitoring and educating people.

Chief reported the Department of Aging announced the South Russell Police Department will be meeting with senior citizens on October 14 at 10:00 AM at Panini's. He said senior citizens throughout the county will be notified in the Department of Aging newsletter.

Mayor stated the Police Department project was a great collaboration between the Streets Commissioner, the Building Commissioner and the Chief. He said he has received many positive comments.

**STREET COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Street Commissioner reported his department has been working on the Police Department project with minor items to be completed such as lighting, and minor landscaping. He said the Service Department has also assisted the Building Commissioner with the rental property.

Paper shredding day will be on October 19. He reported Blue Dog landscaping will do the last lawn cutting the last week of September. He said some in-house asphalt repairs will be performed throughout the village, updates to the website as needed and assisting parks with Fall Festival plans.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor reported he has all the signed documents regarding the settlement of the personnel issue and the appeals will soon be dismissed to close the case.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Wolfe had no report.

Dishong thanked contributors for the newsletter articles and said it will be going to the printer this week.

Kostura reported the Village Hall porch needs painted. He said the quote for painting is \$600 and recommended they proceed with the quote. Kostura also pointed out the shed needs repairs; the doors are rotting off of the frames and thinks the biggest issue is the wall at the south end of the service garage. He stated the options are replacing the wall outright or add an additional bay onto the service garage. Kostura recommended the Village authorize \$1,000 to get architectural

drawings for project costs. Kostura made a motion to approve \$1,000 for drawings for an additional bay on the service garage. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Kostura also said Council needs to consider a unified paint for the village campus, roof for the police department and salt dome, and replacing fluorescent lighting. Building Commissioner also mentioned the police department doors are rotted out and they are looking into a keypad for the back door. Discussion followed regarding budgeting for these items.

Kostura reported the Planning Committee meeting is cancelled for September and is scheduled for next month. Mayor stated a late candidate for Planning Commission has come up and Dave Hocevar may see if they can schedule a Planning meeting.

Binder reported the Street Committee discussed the damage to the service building and whether there is value in running security cameras.

Koons reported the pavilion cost is \$46,000 and that does not include a fireplace or electricity. He said the goal is to get the pavilion up as soon as possible.

Koons stated the South Russell Trails committee bought a flagpole and has \$3,800 left for picnic tables perhaps. He reported the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party people will be meeting at 6 PM on Wednesday and Park Committee will meet at 6:45 PM. Koons stated the VFW will be attending the Fall Festival and raising the flag, and Chief Brosius will be setting off the canon.

#### **ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

Kostura introduced a motion to amend appropriations for the rental house improvements by \$8,000, and declaring an emergency. Kostura moved to waive readings, seconded by Koons. Roll call, ayes, all. Kostura made a motion to adopt, seconded by Koons. Roll call – ayes, Koons, Kostura, Dishong, Wolfe. Nays, Binder. Motion carried. **Ordinance 2013-34**

Dishong introduced a resolution to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them with the county auditor, and declaring an emergency. Roll call – ayes, all. Dishong made a motion to adopt, seconded by Kostura. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **Ordinance 2013-35**

**BILLS LIST:** Dishong made a motion to ratify the bills list dated 8/15/13 in the amount of \$5,712.48 seconded by Kostura. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to ratify the bills list dated 8/30/13 in the amount of \$35,574.65 seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to ratify the bills list dated 9/13/13 in the amount of \$59,009.03 seconded by Dishong. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Koons made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Kostura. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being that there was no further business before Council, at 10:43 p.m. Koons made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kostura. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

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Matthew E. Brett, Mayor

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Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer