

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL MEETING – 2020 BUDGET WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019 - 5:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Koons, Canton, Carroll, Nairn, Porter, Schloss
Galicki (Arrived 7:25)

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Solicitor Matheney (Arrived 6:55)

The Mayor called the meeting to order and the Fiscal Officer read the roll. She noted Galicki would be late. Nairn stated that during the Budget Work Session, Council would be working on the 2020 budget.

Police Department

Police Chief said the department's dispatch costs would be going down. He said currently, the department is at \$52,000 and should be just under that amount for next year. The budget request for dispatch is \$55,000, but the Chief stated he would be comfortable with \$54,000.

The significant reductions for 2020 would be \$23,000 less in part-time wages; going from \$83,000 to \$60,000. He attributed this to the 12-hour shifts, which have worked well and have resulted in only \$281 in overtime. Both overtime and part-time have been significantly reduced. The department is requesting \$4,700 less in overtime and will leave it at \$10,000. He wanted to be sure there were funds budgeted, however, in case of a significant event.

The only increase the department would be requesting is for the new cruiser. The bid opening is set for October 9, 2019 at noon. He estimated the vehicle should come in around \$36,500. The rest of it would be equipment, installation, and graphics. He reiterated that the new vehicle contains hybrid technology, which ultimately will result in cost savings in fuel consumption. The Fiscal Officer asked if the gasoline budget would go from \$20,000 to \$22,000, and the Chief stated yes.

The Chief advised that the previous year, he had proposed a radio project at \$25,000 a year over the next four years to get the department up to speed on updating the radios. With utilizing a grant and the recommendation to drop the number of radios, it would instead be a three-year project totaling \$75,000. Nairn complimented the Chief for his fiscal responsibility.

The Mayor asked the Chief why part-time hours had dropped and why the department was not needing part-time help. The Chief replied that the department now has the coverage with the 12-hour shifts. If no one is on vacation, there are two officers around the clock. He explained that there are two officers on each platoon, with four platoons. The officers confer with their partners on vacation and time-off. Only one of the two officers in the platoon can take time off at a time. The peak hours are supplemented with the part-time officers, not the entire 12-hour shift. The Mayor asked how many officers are on duty on a Saturday night, and the Chief replied, two. The Mayor asked if there are always two officers 24/7. The Chief stated that there are two 24/7 unless someone is on vacation, in which case the person is covered with a part-time officer who

supplements a portion of the shift. He advised it is rare that shifts go uncovered, and that there are such small gaps now. The 12-hour shifts have worked out well for the department. Nairn again complimented the Chief on instituting the 12-hour shifts and noted how it has saved the Village money.

Carroll stated he noted that Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) is purchasing a Communications Truck and wondered if this would impact the Village's annual fee. The Chief stated it would not and explained that CVD would be taking funding from each of the three dispatch centers, and it would not affect the Village's cost whatsoever. The vehicle would be replacing one owned by Orange Village. He stated that this vehicle would be like a six-position dispatch center.

Carroll also questioned whether the Village had taken advantage of the State Homeland Security Grants and added that there is a law enforcement element as well as a 'general fund' element. All five counties can submit requests for the grants. Carroll told the Chief that the Geauga County Emergency Management Association (EMA) or the Sheriff's Department can submit something for mobile data terminal, radios, etc., and there would potentially be an opportunity to get grant funds through the county that are State Homeland Security Grants. The EMA directors of the five counties prioritize by county what will get funded. In the past, Geauga County had not asked for anything, and Cuyahoga was getting the lion share. He reiterated that the Chief should contact the Geauga County EMA director to potentially get the radios funded.

The Mayor asked the Chief about the quality and number of applicants for the Police Department. The Chief said the department has not had any. In the past, there would be applicants monthly, but this has not happened recently. In response to ads that have been placed, he stated there were about a half dozen last time. The Chief added that the big cities are facing the same situation. Carroll confirmed that it is a problem industry wide.

Schloss asked about the fluctuation on the Prosecutor Budget line. The Chief explained that what drives the Prosecutor's fees are the nature of the police cases. Some cases are quick, but some of the higher profile felony cases can drag out. He added that it has been a mild year for lengthy cases for the Village.

Streets Department

Interim Street Commissioner, Tim Alder, presented the budget request and stated that he wanted to bring the grass-cutting back in-house and would need another mower. Since the contract for outsourced lawncare ended, the Service Department staff have been able to get the cutting done in a day or less with two mowers. Porter asked if this was with five people in the department, and the Street Commissioner replied four, and added he would be in the field. Porter clarified that Adler would then be the Street Commissioner and would have three workers with him. The Street Commissioner stated his motto is "boots on the ground, eyes in the field." Porter asked if this meant hiring another full-time employee, and the Street Commissioner agreed.

Carroll asked about part-time summer help, and Street Commissioner said no part-time summer help was needed. Carroll asked if the Service Department staff would have the time in the summer to cut the grass and attend to the other responsibilities, and the Street Commissioner said

they would. When Carroll was recently walking back from the Fall Festival, he wondered why the Village would not ditch (clean out) all the culverts. He noted that surrounding communities included this as regular maintenance along the roads. Carroll thought it could help the stormwater issues. He observed these as he walked home from the park and noted that many of them were filled or blocked. Schloss said that 25 years ago, it was done annually. Carroll brought this up in relation to ensuring that the Street Commissioner was not shortchanging himself in not asking for summer help. The Street Commissioner stated that he thought the ditch cleaning should be as needed. If the water flows during a rain event and was not collecting it would not be required. Carroll illustrated the issue by explaining the problem of water sitting in a front yard versus flowing away. He was aware that other communities cleaned out the ditches, and from a stormwater standpoint, if this would help keep the water flowing to where it needs to go instead of sitting on residents' properties and causing flooding, it should be considered. Carroll asked if the Street Commissioner was certain about not needing the summer help, and the Street Commissioner explained that the Street Department had gotten along with three people in the field for the last 20 years; now, there would be four.

Schloss clarified that there would be no more contracted grass cutting. The Fiscal Officer explained that the Village would buy a lawnmower for \$13,000. The summer help had been previously paid \$5,000, and outsourcing lawn care for \$17,000-\$20,000. Without having to outsource the lawncare, the mower would be paid off the first year.

Shloss asked if the Street Commissioner had budgeted lawn maintenance like weed killers and fertilizers especially for the Village campus. The Street Commissioner advised that he would explore doing this in-house in relation to not having a licensed employee. He thought, however, that he could work under someone who was licensed.

Regarding the 2020 Road Program, the Fiscal Officer advised that for the Tax Budget, she included the \$600,000 for repaving of Kensington Circle and Sheerbrook Dr. Because there is the Road and Bridge Fund, \$234,000 would be deducted from that, and the remaining \$366,000 would come from the Street Maintenance Fund. Council would need to decide if a larger Road Program was needed. Porter said that \$600,000 sounded low and that he thought it would be \$700,000. The Fiscal Officer advised these were numbers provided by the Engineer, and Nairn added that the Engineer usually overshoots the costs. Schloss said he was not comfortable with the Engineer's plan to do the work this year. He stated it was overkill on Ashleigh doing the in-place recycling. In his judgement, it would not be needed on Sheerbrook or Kensington. The Engineering firms interviewed by the Engineering Search Committee agreed, according to Schloss. It is a waste of money. Porter asked for clarification, and Schloss explained the process that he viewed was unnecessary. Schloss added that the Village could do more streets with less money. Nairn stated that Ashleigh Dr. was a 22-year-old road that had never had anything done to it. Schloss said the Street Committee needed to look at this matter. Carroll asked if it would be wise to budget the \$600,000 since that would be the most expensive method of doing it. Then, if the Street Committee and the Engineer came back to Council with something different, smaller roads could potentially be added.

The Mayor stated that last year, the Engineer quoted Kensington Circle as costing \$275,000 and Sheerbrook as \$309,000, which is \$584,000. He stated this did not provide wiggle room. Porter

stated that the Engineer has always been conservative on the number given to the Village, and then often comes in lower. The Mayor was asking Schloss if he was suggesting cutting back on the quality of the roads. Schloss stated he was not saying this. He was urging Council to look at the methodology and explained that more roads could be done for the money. Porter stated that if two inches were taken off the roads, it would be a third of the cost of doing the six-inch removal. Schloss agreed. Porter added that this was a lot of money. The Street Commissioner added that when Bell Rd. was done, and the rejuvenation was not done, the cracks came back within a year. Carroll stated that this is a heavily travelled road and was not sure that the reason for this was because of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) requirements. Carroll's recommendation was to continue with the \$600,000 budgeted for the program and have the Streets Committee look at a different methodology with regard to impact, longevity, etc. Schloss stated that Chagrin Falls does not use the method. Schloss explained that a better pavement maintenance program was needed with a better strategy. The Mayor asked Schloss what Chagrin Falls does, and Schloss explained they grind and pave. They take off a couple of inches and pave it. He explained that the Engineer is not taking the pavement off, rather he is grinding it in place and rejuvenating with a liquid and then rolling it. After, two inches of asphalt are applied. The initial in-place recycling is extremely expensive. The Mayor then asked Schloss if he was saying the Village should not recycle. Schloss and Porter reiterated that the Village should not do in-place recycling. The Mayor clarified that Chagrin grinds and paves and they also use CT Consultants. Additional discussion of the process was addressed by the Street Commissioner, Porter and Schloss. The Mayor again stated that Schloss wanted the Village to grind and pave and stop the recycling, which the Village had been doing for years. Nairn, Schloss, and Carroll reiterated Schloss wanted to discontinue the recycle in-place method. Carroll again explained that it was a different methodology. The Fiscal Officer explained that recycling in-place is expensive and that if the material is taken away it is not as expensive. She clarified that this was what Schloss was suggesting. Schloss stated, yes, that it be taken away, but used by the Village and that it be recycled in a different manner.

The Mayor stated that the grindings would be taken off, dumped on First Energy property, and then the Village would use it. He asked whether Schloss was saying that it would be taken and brought back. Schloss said nothing is brought back. He used Sheerbrook as an example. Schloss explained that two inches would be removed and taken to the dump. After the road is assessed for any pavement repairs needed, catch basins repaired, etc. then two inches of fresh asphalt are brought in. Nairn asked what happens to the material that is dumped. The Street Commissioner stated that material is then used for berming, parking lots, etc., so the material would be used. Carroll added that the savings were also the result of not going down an extra four inches. The Mayor said the Village has had great success recycling in-place, and Schloss agreed but added it had been very costly. Nairn asked why the Engineer had not suggested this. Carroll recommended the Street Committee and Engineer discuss this. The Street Commissioner suggested grinding the layer off, do the chip and seal, and then pave. The Mayor stated that this would mean taking off two inches and putting two back on. Schloss added that this is what Geauga County does on all the roads. The Mayor stated that the Village takes off four inches and puts four inches back, two recycled and two new. He asked if Schloss was suggesting skipping this step. Schloss agreed. Porter and Carroll suggested Street Committee discuss it. Schloss added that he suggested this because there are no streets that require terrific base repairs and that there is not a lot of water under the pavements. He said Ashleigh only had a couple of

soft spots, and Sheerbrook has a few too. Carroll stated that instead of doing the recycle in place for the entire project, just the repairs would be done where needed and then asphalt over it. Schloss agreed. He added that he would suggest putting a chip seal over the area after the two ground off inches, and then put the asphalt on it. Carroll asked if this would prevent cracks and aid in longevity. Schloss agreed. Carroll asked if, in high traffic areas, perhaps a more in-depth process could be considered, where the other methodology could be used in less trafficked areas. Carroll thought perhaps using the same process on all roads was a waste.

The Street Commissioner advised that during the Road Program, the Street Department comes in and does the berming but does not have adequate equipment. He thought it would be better for the contractor to handle this. Carroll asked what equipment would be needed, and the Street Commissioner stated a berming machine. Previously it had been done by the contractor, but more recently had been done in-house. The Mayor asked what the estimated cost would be to have the contractor do the berming for Kensington and Sheerbrook. The Street Commissioner did not know. Schloss suggested using the recycled asphalt for the berming by the contractor.

The Mayor asked the Street Commissioner if people would buy the material the Village has across from the park. The Street Commissioner said it had some value. The Mayor asked if the Village would use it, and the Street Commissioner said there is a stockpile at the dump that feeds that pile.

The Street Commissioner said regarding the Equipment Budget, it would be raised so more work could be done in-house. He stated the Village was behind on tree trimming. Although the Street Commissioner would like to purchase a chipper, there would not be room to store it. It would be necessary to rent one. Regarding Shop Equipment, the Street Commissioner stated an electric jack hammer was needed instead of the backhoe, which was currently being used to break the asphalt when taking out a driveway for a culvert pipe. The department rented this piece of equipment, and the job was done in a quarter of the time in comparison to using the backhoe. Nairn asked how much the electric jack hammer was, and the Street Commissioner stated roughly \$1,200. Porter asked about a hydraulic version, and the Street Commissioner stated it would be about \$2,500.

Nairn addressed road striping, and the Street Commissioner suggested instead of alternating striping as done previously, that it be completely done every year. Porter and the Fiscal Officer explained that this was a practice started in the recession to save money. The Street Commissioner also wanted to move the striping to spring. The Mayor stated that road striping would go up to \$18,000, and the Street Commissioner agreed. Nairn clarified that this would be annually and not biannually and would be \$18,000 per year.

Nairn addressed education conferences. She indicated that it was \$400 per year. The Street Commissioner said Street Department staff attended a salt conference every year. The Street Commissioner added that there were classes he wanted his staff to learn relative to maintenance on the police cars. The Mayor noted that \$150 had been spent although \$400 was budgeted, but now the new Street Commissioner was asking for \$1,000 because of the police cars. The Street Commissioner said there will be a new scanning tool that goes with the cruiser for which training

will be required. Carroll asked if there had been opportunities for the Street Department staff to attend training previously, and the Street Commissioner advised that it had not been offered.

Regarding salt, the Street Commissioner said this is set with the State bid. Nairn stated there appeared to be gouging that went on with this and asked if there was anything that could be done. The Street Commissioner said that the Village could control usage, like using sensible salting. The Fiscal Officer stated that the salt bid in the budget, \$98,244, is at 100% of what the former Street Commissioner budgeted. However, he wanted Council to know that with the ODOT bid, it is possible to only take 80% of the bid if it is a mild year and take up to 110% if it is a bad year. If Council wanted to budget for the larger amount, it would be necessary to change it to \$106,000. The Mayor asked what the price per ton this year was. It was decided to budget for the 110% usage.

Porter asked if the Street Commissioner required a part-time snowplow operator, and the Street Commissioner stated this would not be necessary because there would be four operators. Nairn stated they would be working in teams of two. Porter said he thought this was a lot to ask of four individuals if there is a bad storm. Porter said there was another driver years ago, and the Street Commissioner explained that this individual was the fourth person. The Fiscal Officer clarified that the Street Department has only had three the last few years, and the Street Commissioner stated that they have also only had two at times.

Carroll said he thought if the Village was in a pinch, someone from the Geauga water district could help. The Street Commissioner clarified that this was a truck that could be used. The Village has four trucks. The Street Commissioner further advised that there would be no time off granted while it was snowing.

Nairn addressed the Operating budget and advised she noted that going with four employees, the Village is saving \$80,000. Porter clarified that there would be no part-time employees, and the Street Commissioner agreed. Carroll again asked if the Street Commissioner wanted Council just to put in a 'place holder' in case he found he needed a part-time employee, and the Street Commissioner reiterated summer help would not be needed. The Mayor asked the Street Commissioner if he wanted another employee, and Nairn clarified it would be four full-time employees. Porter asked if this meant the Street Commissioner would be a working Street Commissioner, and the Street Commissioner agreed this would be the case. Porter asked what this meant, and the Street Commissioner explained it would mean he would not be in the office other than for the essentials. Porter explained that legally there is management, non-management, exempt, and non-exempt. Typically, if someone is the Street Commissioner, that person is an exempt employee, which means no overtime and just straight salary. On the non-exempt side, the employee is working with overtime and other benefits. The Street Commissioner stated he envisioned flextime, and the Fiscal Officer added it was hour for hour flextime. Carroll recommended checking with the Solicitor to clarify the classification.

Regarding budgeting for Street Sweeping, the Fiscal Officer said the former Street Commissioner would need to be consulted because he had budgeted \$3,500, and the new Street Commissioner believes \$1,500 would suffice with just doing the streets with gutters. The Fiscal Officer questioned if there might be an issue with the EPA and stormwater management.

The Mayor asked the Street Commissioner about the laser level, and the Street Commissioner said the Service Department currently has an 18-year-old laser level, which is nearly obsolete, and the Street Commissioner wanted to budget for a new one, which would be \$2,005 and currently on sale for \$1,419.95.

The Street Commissioner advised he wanted to put the white pick-up truck in the field, and not have it as a supervisor's car. To replace this ¾ ton 4X4 pick-up truck with a plow would be \$49,900, which would be a State bid. Regarding the one-ton truck, the Street Commissioner said it would be \$75,684. Carroll asked if the Street Commissioner needed this, and the Street Commissioner said they don't have to have it. Nairn asked what was wrong with the current one, and the Street Commissioner said it is necessary to plug holes in the bed with rags to haul stone so that they do not drop them all over the roadway. They have metal material with which to patch it and can get by with it for another year. He said mechanically it is not sound and needs work. The air conditioning does not work and there is an issue with shifting. The Street Commissioner said it is a 2012 and has 120,000 miles on it. The Mayor said it is used daily. Carroll said he appreciated the fact that the Street Commissioner did not want to get the truck now but did not want to put a lot of money into a truck that would have to be replaced soon. Porter asked if the truck needed a transmission. The Street Commissioner said the issue might be nothing, but it had not been examined. The Mayor said the Village needs to plan to dump the trucks when the warranty comes up. The Village has put \$4,000 into the white pick-up truck and it still cannot pass an E-check. He said the Village should dump the vehicles while they are under warranty. Carroll added that they should be disposed of during their useful life, and not just based on warranty. He thought it would be beneficial to have a plan, such as every five years, the Village would buy a one-ton pickup truck, for example. The Village could then get a higher trade in value for it and avoid putting \$5,000 into a vehicle just because the Village wants to get two more years out of an 8-year-old car when the useful life is only 5 or 6 years. The Mayor thought the Village should get rid of both trucks, and four years from now, get rid of one of them while it is still under warranty. Carroll added that there is a useful life identified for each vehicle, and the Village would want to stagger the replacement so that the more expensive vehicles do not have to be purchased at the same time. Carroll added that this all ties into the bigger picture. When the Village has a major project that requires money, it is more strategic in planning how funds would be spent. Porter said something like this was being done with the police vehicles.

Nairn stated that Council would want to budget \$125,000 for the two vehicles.

Porter addressed money left in the Shop Equipment budget, and the Street Commissioner said there are things that are still needed. The Fiscal Officer advised that the Street Department needed a generator, and the Street Commissioner agreed that one has been needed for years. The Street Commissioner was urged to make the necessary purchases with the remaining funds in 2019.

Schloss asked if crack sealing was a bid item. The Fiscal Officer said it was not because it was under \$50,000. Schloss said he understood but asked why the Village would not go out for bid. Porter and the Fiscal Officer said the Village could. Schloss said he did not agree with the work that had been done for the last couple of years by the contractor. Porter favored the idea of going

out to bid for it. Carroll advised the Village could also just get three estimates. Schloss suggested that the Village have a crack filling program and a tar and chip program with the same company doing both, which is how most communities do it. Porter recalled there were many complaints about the chip seal done on Fawn Ct. Schloss said Geauga County has such a program and takes bids. Carroll questioned if this were the case, perhaps the Village could piggyback on the bid.

General Fund

The Fiscal Officer asked the Mayor if the cost had been received from United States Geological Survey (USGS) for well monitoring and asked whether the county would be participating. Carroll explained to Schloss the significance of the service regarding the status of the aquifers in the Village and advised it was information that could be provided to the community. The Mayor stated that the Village had primarily looked at quantity of the water but thought that it should also focus on quality in 2020. Porter asked if there was potable water in Village Hall and questioned the need for bottled water. There is no potable water in any of the Village Buildings, because the well is disgusting. The Mayor suggested having Ayers look at it.

Regarding salaries, the Fiscal Officer stated she based them on the 3.5% increase. Health Insurance came in at 5.44% increase. The broker will be attempting to negotiate this increase with Medical Mutual. Carroll stated this is a phenomenally low increase.

With Worker's Compensation, the Fiscal Officer said she still had to budget for this because even though the Village benefited from the Billion Dollars Back program, the Village cannot count on the refund, so it must budget for the expense.

The Fiscal Officer reported that the Solicitor's costs have increased with the Village's grants and ordinance updates and changes, etc. The Mayor asked for the estimate and asked if it was double. The Fiscal Officer estimated \$95,000. In 2018, the Village paid \$49,000. As of the end of August 2019, the Village had paid \$78,000, and she suspected it would be close to \$100,000 by the end of the year.

Regarding assessments, the Village only paid property taxes on its rental house. Depending on what Council decides, the property can be made tax exempt if it is not rented, but the Village must wait a year from the time the last rent was received. There will be property taxes on it next year.

There will be no audit in the coming year. The Fiscal Officer was in contact with the auditor and is still awaiting receipt of the audit report from the audited that began in March 2019.

The Fiscal Officer added that she would have to attend more classes next year since she was too far behind this year to get all her required training done.

Building Department

The Finance Committee met regarding how to budget the Building Department. Because the Village currently has no Building Inspector, one was not budgeted. However, 10 hours per week was budgeted for a Zoning Inspector along with the Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk for 25 hours per week. Dave Hocevar's services cost the Village \$24,000 per year plus inspections, which range between 1,000 and 2,000 per month. She budgeted \$42,000. With this figure in mind and value to the community, Carroll pointed out that Hocevar is not available to Village residents daily and he added that residents could potentially receive same-day service from the county with inspections. The Village could be saving \$42,000 and residents could be getting inspections in a timelier manner. The Mayor said he thought Council was deciding this on October 28th. Carroll said he wanted to address it with regard to the budget. The Mayor stated that in the last four years, the Village brought in \$50,000 every year. Carroll stated that the Village will potentially be spending \$42,000 on an inspector who cannot be at the Village every day. The Mayor stated that the residents could still be provided with a Building Inspector and save \$8,000. Carroll argued that \$0 could be spent, fees not collected, and an inspector would be available daily. This service could be provided to the community. The Fiscal Officer advised that the budget would be introduced in November, which would give Council three meetings to come to a decision.

The Fiscal Officer addressed the increases proposed by Chagrin Falls Suburban Fire Department (CFSFD) for Fire and Ambulance. She indicated there was an 8.4% increase. At the last Council meeting, Nairn said she asked if South Russell was subsidizing other communities. She felt this increase was outrageous in a 12-month period. She said adding up the increases, it came to over 14% in 36 months. Carroll stated his budget in Lyndhurst had never gone up 14% in any 36-month period. He said typically it had been 1-2% per year. Porter stated they are buying a lot of equipment. The Fiscal Officer added that they said they added personnel. In the past, the fact that decisions that impacted the municipalities had been made without the input of the municipalities had been questioned. Porter said they do not ask permission because they are essentially a private company that contracts fire services to municipalities. The Mayor stated there is a review board. Carroll said there is a review board where the Mayor can ask to meet with the board. He did not think any review had ever been done. The Mayor agreed. Carroll said he would be interested to see how the raises of personnel with CFSFD had gone up, since the Village has never seen this. Carroll felt further exploration was needed. The Mayor said he would ask for a review. He added it might be the equipment too. Carroll said CFSFD personnel alluded to the EMS calls being down and fire calls being up, but wanted to know what was really up 25%. He wondered if it was an 8.4% increase for all five communities, or just South Russell.

Porter advised that the Village had explored going with Russell and Bainbridge for fire but stayed with CFSFD due to proximity. Carroll said this was not true. Porter said that was his take. Carroll said he did the review and said that 70% of the community is closer to the Russell Fire Station. Nairn said three years ago, Council reviewed the numbers and it was 11 minutes from Chagrin Falls, and 3 to 6 minutes from Russell to South Russell. Canton recalled that Russell could get to the east side of the Village quicker than Chagrin Falls, but Chagrin Falls could get to the west side quicker. Carroll said that ultimately, the Village made a good choice and that CFSFD has done a better job of auto aid and have improved their response time. Despite

the level of service, however, the communities involved should have a part in the decision to such an increase.

At 7:02, Porter made a motion to go into Executive Session for personnel compensation, seconded by Carroll. Roll call, ayes, all. Motion carried.

At 7:40, Council exited Executive Session.

Galicki arrived during Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. Porter made a motion that Tim Alder's rate of pay be raised to \$33.07 per hour in recognition of the fact that he is currently serving as the Interim Street Commissioner, and that it be retroactive to October 1, 2019, seconded by Schloss. Nairn asked if he should be called the Director right now. The Fiscal Officer stated that he is the Interim Street Commissioner. Carroll said he wanted to note that if Alder is not made the permanent Street Commissioner, he would return to his original rate of pay. Porter agreed and asked the Fiscal Officer what the current rate of pay was. She said it was \$28.40 per hour. Porter added that Alder would return to the \$28.40 per hour if he was not the successful candidate for the permanent position. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor said he would ask for a review with the other communities and to sit down with the CFSFD. The Fiscal Officer asked if the Mayor would inquire about the history of personnel compensation and obtain a five-year history. Carroll stated that although they brought the new contract earlier than in past years, it was necessary to have it earlier so there is time to have discussion. Historically, there is a 90-day backout clause, which does not leave any time to look at anything.

Cemetery

The Fiscal Officer budgeted for a new cemetery computer and explained that the Village had allowed individuals to use the computer to do presentations in Village Hall, and the computer became corrupted. Because the Cemetery records are permanent, the computer will be dedicated for the Cemetery and will be locked up. The old computer can be used for presentations.

For the Special Land and Building Fund, the Fiscal Officer listed a couple of projects that had been mentioned. She asked the Properties Committee to determine what projects they might want to do for next year. She added that the Village is eligible for a \$15,000 Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) grant it did not want to lose. She added that the Street Commissioner wanted to put LED lights in the service garage, but this was done in-house in the other buildings, and it was not very costly. The roof on the service garage and the generator for the police station were also discussed. She asked that the Property Committee provide her with this in the next couple of weeks.

The Fiscal Officer said with all of the big purchases, Council needed to keep in mind the Manor Brook project, which will be \$188,000. Additionally, there were projects budgeted for this year that were not started. After the year-end balances get certified by the county, they would need to

be budgeted next year. Porter asked if she was referring to the Lake Louise Bridge. The Fiscal Officer said it was that and the Village Hall project.

Schloss asked if the \$188,000 was the entire cost of the project, and the Fiscal Officer said that the portion under the road is about an additional \$121,000. The Fiscal Officer said the Manor Brook Stream Enhancement project was not in the budget. She wanted to bring attention to this in combination with the doubling of the Road Program and the purchasing of the trucks.

Carroll stated that although the Road Program will be doubled for next year, he wanted to be clear that this would not be a permanent situation because of stormwater issues, for which the levy was passed. He asked when the Village began to receive funds from the levy. The Mayor stated it passed in November 2017. Carroll asked if the Village had collected \$450,000 so far and added that not much had been spent on stormwater issues with it. For a point of clarification, he wanted to say that the purpose of the road levy was to allocate at least \$200,000 specifically towards stormwater and not to double the Road Program. The Road Program will be doubled next year, but the road/stormwater money was not used in 2018 and 2019. He did not want Council to lose sight of what the money was for. Porter added that the Village has \$3.5 million in the bank and are in a position to do a double Road Program and address stormwater all within three years. Carroll advised that there were still stormwater issues to address. Porter said the current projects are the two big ones. Carroll advised that they were two projects, but that the Village still needed to deal with Sugarbush and Chagrin Lakes. Galicki added that until the two projects are done, the Village would not be able to gauge the impact of the projects. Carroll added that there were projects addressed in the 2013 study that have not been done. He emphasized that Council could not take its eye off stormwater issues. Porter agreed.

Park

The Mayor addressed the parking lot expansion at the South Russell Village Park which is being developed by the Engineer. Nairn asked if the Western Reserve Land Conservancy agrees with the type of expansion. The Mayor said they were because it was not a hard surface.

The Fiscal Officer asked Canton if the Park Committee would be providing numbers for the budget. She reminded Canton that the funds for the blinds must be used this year. Canton stated that Ted Kruse gave him information about the blinds a month ago. He said the cost would be \$1,621.60 after a discount, which expired August 8th. Canton spoke to a representative for the company who provided him with a pre discount quote of \$1,737.70. \$1,000 had been budgeted. He thought he would know the total cost by October 8th.

Carroll asked if the wind could be mitigated by plantings and added that the Village might be better off spending money on trees instead of the windscreens that would need to eventually be replaced.

The Mayor suggested doing half, with the Southwest corner. Canton said there was also a lot of wind from the west. Canton said using plantings was discussed. Nairn suggested a landscape windscreen. She suggested deer resistant Arbor Vitae. Galicki asked what happened to the

proposal with the committee. Canton said it just disappeared. All the emphasis had gone to the playground. Canton was asked to get the numbers and present them to Council.

Regarding the Street Department, the Fiscal Officer asked if Council would be going with the Street Commissioner's recommendations for the budget. The Mayor said he was fine with the budget but did not know if the Village wanted to hire the full-time worker in the wintertime. He added that the Service Department staff look for things to do in January and February. Nairn stated that when there is no plowing, there are other things they could be doing. Carroll said he would rather have the individual hired sooner rather than later. Schloss added that it should be someone with mechanical ability.

Carroll asked if there were not more items for the Park Budget. Canton said that the committee wanted an extension of the parking lot, to do something special with the outhouses, and the Committee did not feel it needed additional funds for the Fall Festival. They would like the screens, but if they don't get them, the trees would be fine. Carroll asked if Canton could bring a plan back to Council for budgeting purposes for the next meeting. Usually, there is a plan for each year. The Fiscal Officer asked if Council wanted the Park Committee to come a half hour before the October 28th Council meeting. Canton asked if the Village had a cost on expanding the parking lot. The Mayor said the Engineer would provide this at the October 14th Council meeting. Canton said if a really super outhouse is wanted, it would cost between \$43,000 and \$50,000, and the committee does not know if that is what it wants. Nairn asked where these numbers came from, and the Mayor stated that this had been previously considered. The Fiscal Officer asked Canton if he could provide the numbers.

Nairn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Schloss. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki