

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh (7:01 p.m.), Galicki, Porter

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Solicitor Matheny

VISITORS: Patrick and Mayson Holtz, Garden Park Dr.; Valarie Mariola, Hemlock Rd.; Melissa Nykulak, Bell Rd.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. **Porter made a motion to approve the October 24, 2022, Regular Council meeting minutes, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

VISITORS: The Mayor stated that Melissa Nykulak would address Council with a request to waive permit fees. Melissa Nykulak, Bell Rd., explained that her newly built home burned down in July and the home is being rebuilt. She had been charged twice for the building permit for the first build and then for the second. She requested reimbursed for the second one or to have it waived. Canton explained that it had to do with the \$3,143.63 permit. Porter asked if this had already come before Council, and Canton said it had been discussed and was up in the air. Porter asked if the Building Committee was prepared to make a recommendation on the topic, and the committee said no. The Mayor said the next Building Committee meeting will be on December 1st and there will be a Council meeting on December 12th at which time he thought there would be an answer.

Patrick Holtz, Gardenpark Dr., offered strong concerns related to the Bell Rd. and Chillicothe Rd. paving project he said was submitted by South Russell Village for consideration to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) TIP program. He provided the narrative of his concerns, which is attached.

Mayson Holtz, Gardenpark Dr., stated that since the no left turn sign was put up, the life in the MC Art Studio building had faded. She enjoyed having been an assistant preschool teacher at MC Art Studio and was saddened at the children's reaction to the closing. She explained how the sign negatively effected their business.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor distributed his report and addressed the 20 items on it. Updates were provided on the following: efforts to protect Charlie Cimperman's Eagle Scout project in the park; the possible monetary donation for a lighted flagpole in the park; screening for the Central Retention Basin; the contractor needing fill dirt; the Village wide yard sale; the planting of 1,000 daffodils in the park by the Cats Den Garden Club; and a proposed tree purchase in memory of Greg Pike. Additionally, he reported on individuals interested in the condition of the Rarick Cemetery, potential historical presentations in the Cemetery; the need for volunteers to assist Wreaths Across America on Sunday, November 20th, public records training, and the possible development of a database of all the businesses in the Village.

The Mayor and Berger met with a candidate for the Treasury Investment Board who would attend the November 29th meeting and would be appointed in December if he is a fit.

The Chagrin Valley Dispatch Council of Government (CVDCOG) will meet December 2, 2022, and Galicki will attend as Chair of the Safety Committee.

The Mayor also reported he was informed through a Zoom meeting with mayors that the Village could go through State Bid for a restroom and would not need to go out to bid. The Mayor said the restroom he was considering was \$49,900 and the price will increase in January. He asked what was necessary to get on to Sourcewell. The Solicitor asked if this was a consortium like with the playground, and the Mayor did not know but said Chagrin Falls had just done this. Council discussed the design of the facility, and the Mayor said that both Parks and Properties committee had looked at it. The Mayor wanted it to be purchased this year. The Fiscal Officer advised that it would be necessary to amend the budget at the next meeting. Porter asked if the price included delivery, and the Mayor did not know.

The Mayor also reported on a request by two Cleveland State students who wanted to film in the park over Presidents' Day weekend and will be providing the Village with paperwork dealing with liability. They will not be reserving it so that they have the flexibility to use it when the weather is good.

Davey Tree replaced trees that had died in the wetlands.

The Mayor proposed holding an open meeting with the community regarding stormwater issues, to include what projects will be next, and the Erosion Special Improvement Districts (ESID) on January 17th at 7:00 p.m.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer reported that another Village Hall use request was received from Southwyck Homeowners' Association (HOA) for November 30, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. with approximately 20 attendees. The request needed Council's approval. **Canton made a motion to allow Southwyck HOA to meet in Village Hall on November 30, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. and waive the \$25 fee, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Fiscal Officer reported that she met with the State Auditor last week to finish up the 2019-2020 audit. Once it is complete, Council has the option to meet with the Auditor. According to the Auditor, there were no problems or issues.

Another application was received for the Treasury Investment Board volunteer position, and the information for both interested candidates was forwarded to the Treasury Investment Board for review.

For accuracy, the Fiscal Officer asked if the planting in the park consisted of daffodils or tulips because both had been reported. It was clarified that it was daffodils.

The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. Galicki asked the Fiscal Officer to share the State Auditor's comments about the audit process the Village has in place in the absence of the Fiscal Auditor. The Fiscal Officer explained that the Fiscal Auditor position was started because per Ohio Revised Code (ORC), there is a Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, Administrator, and public board. The Village does not have the public board or administrator. Additionally, the Clerk and Treasurer were combined into one position. By law, she, as Fiscal Officer, is legally responsible for all the Village's funds. She had concerns in looking for a new Fiscal Auditor because she did not want to be the one responsible for the funds while someone else had access to move money around. The State Auditor said that per ORC, it is the Fiscal Officer's legal responsibility and no one else should be touching the money. If the Village gets another Fiscal Auditor, his/her job was to audit, not to move money. He also said that it was not a position that was required by ORC as long as the process was followed. In the past, on Council's behalf,

the Fiscal Auditor reviewed and made sure all the checks were accounted for and he did a separate bank reconciliation. The Fiscal Officer explained to the State Auditor the process the Village is currently using with the Finance Committee reviewing the bank reconciliation monthly, the checks that went out, the outstanding checks, the reconciled checks, and then signing off. The Auditor felt this was more than adequate and the Village was meeting its legal responsibilities.

Berger addressed the increased tax collection and said with December pending, the Village is 22% ahead of last year. He thought the Village would have an increase of 25%-30% over 2021 in terms of Income Tax Collection. The Fiscal Officer concurred. She spoke to the Central Collection Agency (CCA), and it appears that from the sources from which the Village receives its revenues, things look steady. If residents cease to work from home, the Village may lose some of the additional funding, but it was not thought to be a big hit. A lot of the increases will be here to stay. In terms of the first swipe of the budget, the Fiscal Officer explained that it is necessary to go by what was predicted in July. After this, the Village can amend what it is expecting in revenues. Bell asked if the confidence is attributed to the increases in wages by Village employers and not necessarily people working from home? The Fiscal Officer concurred that it has to do with across the board raises.

Porter said that a \$1.3 million budget deficit was predicted for the end of the year and asked whether it would even be remotely like that, or whether the Village could be in the black at the end of the year. The Fiscal Officer said that the Village is down \$200,000 from the beginning of the year. How the Village will end the year depends on what bills the Engineer provides for the Central Retention Basin, the Manor Brook project, as well as the final payment for the Road Program.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Galicki reported that the Finance Committee met on November 14, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. The minutes will be provided in the next Council packet.

Galicki made a motion to approve the construction progress payment to Mr. Excavator, Inc. in the amount of \$47,537.77, seconded by Porter. Berger asked what project this was for, and the Fiscal Officer said the Central Retention Basin, and it was not the final payment. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Galicki made a motion to approve the fund balances, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Galicki made a motion to approve the credit card report, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes all. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

STREET COMMISSIONER: The Street Commissioner submitted his monthly report for October. He reported that 10,000 pounds of material were received on Shredding Day.

STREET COMMITTEE: Porter stated the Streets Committee met and the minutes were distributed. A number of topics were brought up and Patrick Holtz and his family attended the meeting. It was nice to see the community involvement.

Porter wanted to address the question of the Family Life Center detention pond. He explained that from what he understands from the Street Commissioner, the cost could be split between the Village and the Family Life Center half and half. The total cost will be \$7,400, and the Village's share will be \$3,700. Porter explained that the reason the Village would want to do this is because the detention pond feeds

into Chagrin Lakes and is part of stormwater control in this area, even though it is not in the Village. It is in Bainbridge, but it is in the Village's interest and the residents' interest to split the cost and get the job done. Porter thought the Street Commissioner was ready to do the project and the Streets Committee recommended going forward. Galicki asked for a reading by the Solicitor given that this property is not in the Village and is private property. Did it merit the expenditure of public funds to do this project? The Solicitor said yes if Council found that it was abating a public nuisance after following the process under the Codified Ordinances. She recommended making a motion that this was the way the Village was abating the nuisance. She concluded that it can be outside of the Village. The Fiscal Officer asked how the Village would be doing the funding. Porter said the Village would be paying the whole amount and then seeking reimbursement from the Family Life Center. With the recommendation that the Village pay the bill in full, Galicki asked if there should be a contractual agreement between the owner of the Family Life Center and the Village. He was concerned the Village would pay the bill and then have to determine how to compel the other party to pay. The Solicitor thought when the process was begun, there was going to be some sort of agreement. She understood the Village opted to take the route of nuisance abatement, but if the Village were going to take on the whole bill and pay it in full, she did not know how the Village would enforce the reimbursement from Family Life Center unless the Village pursued civil action. Porter suggested including language in the motion about an agreement. Galicki said he would be concerned absent that agreement. Porter said the contractor would not get to work until the Village had the agreement with the Family Life Center. The Solicitor asked when the agreement could be executed and asked the Mayor if an agreement had been prepared. She agreed that before work began, the agreement would have to be executed. Porter said the Village has had communication with the Family Life Center Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on this topic and may have indicated that they would pay half upon demand. The Mayor clarified that in the motion, Porter would make sure the Village had something in writing that the Village could have the Family Life Center sign. Porter agreed and reiterated that the Village will not engage the contractor until that happened and the Village did not pay the contractor without an agreement in place.

The Solicitor also advised that the Village should obtain a release for the work being done on the property for the contractor and/or Village personnel who may be assisting. The Street Commissioner explained that the Village will do the trucking and hauling, which cut the costs drastically. The topsoil will be going to Lowe's Greenhouse. The Solicitor verified that this was okay, and the Street Commissioner concurred. The Fiscal Officer asked if this would be coming out of the stormwater budget, and the Street Commissioner said he would check. The Solicitor suggested that the Family Life Center agree that this is a public nuisance in the agreement. She suggested this would be to ensure that the process was being followed. Porter agreed but said that the Village found a nuisance from the Building Inspector. The Family Life Center was notified. They had 90 days to take action and did not. The Village had found that it created a public nuisance and was moving to correct the public nuisance in a fiscally prudent manner by obtaining half the cost from Family Life Center rather than all of the cost. The Solicitor agreed as long as Council approved it. Cavanagh asked if something could be declared a public nuisance more than once. Porter said he would not be surprised if it became a public nuisance five years from now then the Village would go through the process again. Galicki clarified that once it is declared a public nuisance, this does not give it ongoing public nuisance status. Porter agreed and said that it allows the Village to fix the problem without their permission. The Solicitor stated the Village is abating the public nuisance.

The Mayor asked if Council could go through all of the points of the agreement. **Porter made a motion that the Village abate the public nuisance found in the Family Life Center detention pond by engaging a contractor to clean out the detention pond and thereby abate the public nuisance so long as an agreement between Village and the Family Life Center is entered into and executed prior to the start of any work that specifies the reimbursement of half the cost from the Family Life Center to the Village and provides for a release such that the contractor selected, the Street Commissioner, and the Street Commissioner's employees can enter and exit upon the property of the Family Life Center without liability, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, Porter, and Berger. Bell abstained.**

Porter stated that the Street Commissioner wants to sell two leaf blowers that are no longer of use to the Village on GovDeals. Porter made a motion that the two leaf blowers are no longer useful to the Village and should be sold on GovDeals. The Fiscal Officer asked if this could wait until January when legislation was passed and there is a list of items to be sold. The matter must have legislation and is not done by motion. Porter agreed and withdrew the motion.

Porter reported that Country Estates has indicated they would like to form an ESID for the purposes of Pond 4 but had issues with the Modroo Pond and drainage. Regardless, they would like to explore the ESID for erosion control similar to what Parkland is doing.

The next Streets Committee meeting will be December 2, 2022, at 7:30 a.m. in the Street Commissioner's Office.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Canton reported that the minutes of the November 3, 2022, Building Committee meeting were distributed. Berger asked if there were an update on the software installation, and Canton said no. The Building Department Administrative Assistant reports that what she has is working well and she is patiently waiting. They do not know the reason why it is taking so long. Berger asked if there will be an annual report from the Building Department in terms of the total dollars collected for fees and permits. He saw the October report, which seemed significantly higher than previous years, but would like to see an annualized document. Canton agreed there would be one.

Canton commented that the Public Hearing was carried out quite well. He thanked Mayson Holtz for sharing her reflections.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief submitted his month end report. He announced that the hybrid police cruiser arrived at the dealership that day and there will be no need to carry over funds to next year. One of two is under construction at the Police Department right now and should be done in a month.

SAFETY: Galicki reported that the committee met on November 3, 2022, and the minutes were distributed.

HR COMMITTEE: Berger advised the next HR Committee will be Thursday, November 17, 2022. As part of the Finance Committee meeting that morning, there was discussion about increases in compensation for the employees. At the last Council meeting, Berger provided Council with applicable documentation about various communities by size, location, and union/non-union status in the State of Ohio. The recommendation from Finance and HR is that Council offer a 4% raise based on the information available. Porter asked if this was enough given the CPI this year. Berger said the recommendation took into account the increase in insurance costs, 16.1%, which the Village bears. **Berger made a motion that the compensation to the Village employees effective January 1, 2023,**

shall be increased by an amount of 4%, Galicki seconded. Porter asked if this pertained to both full and part-time employees, and Berger said they did not differentiate. Canton verified that the insurance would stay the same where the employees do not pay anything. Berger concurred. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** The Mayor asked the Fiscal Officer to spread the good news the following day.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Canton stated that the minutes of the October 27, 2022, Park Committee meeting were distributed. There was a Special Properties Committee meeting on November 8, 2022, and the minutes were distributed. The subject pertained to pavilion rental and Village property usage. Canton spoke with the Building Department Administrative Assistant who handles the pavilion rentals. She had no problem with the current form and said it was working great the way it is. Canton also reported that he would introduce legislation for the Village of South Russell usage form, which was distributed to Council. Cavanagh said the committee had spent a lot of time getting to that point and it seemed to be the best compromise in getting things done and streamlining.

The Mayor showed Council a picture of the Double Rocky Mountain restroom, which Moreland Hills purchased for \$49,190.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: Porter reported that the Public Utilities Committee meeting scheduled for the previous week was cancelled due to conflicts. He advised that the Parkland petition was distributed to Council and all 11 households appear to be on board with establishing an ESID to address the Parkland Dam issue. They may be getting an estimate of \$65,000 to fix the dam. This would be 80% less than their consultant originally forecasted. The next step was for Council to pass legislation which would go to the county for creation of an ESID for the purpose of repairing or replacing the Parkland dam. This would be the first community to pursue ESID for erosion control and sets the template for other communities. It is not that difficult in comparison to how it would have been if the Village had done it and then billed the Parkland residents.

The next Public Utilities Committee meeting will be December 2, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Berger said that Bruce Hendricks, who is coordinating the Parkland dam project, contacted Mr. Excavator after seeing the work the company did for the Village. Mr. Excavator provided the quote that was significantly lower than expected. Given the quote, the residents are discussing their options with utilizing the ESID or paying out of pocket. Porter verified that after Council approved the legislation, that the Parkland dam residents could back out if they wished. The Solicitor concurred.

The Mayor again referenced the purchase of a restroom for the park, and said that some of the mayors bought their restrooms with ARPA funds. The Solicitor said she would have to determine whether it was an eligible project. The Solicitor asked if it was one of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Mayor thought the other mayor was using sanitary.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Berger provided a third reading of a resolution of appreciation for L. Adam Lechman. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2022-88**

Berger continued to table the ordinance repealing Ordinance 2022-17. He hoped to have it for Council by the next meeting.

Porter introduced a resolution approving a petition for the creation of the Geauga County Erosion Control Special Improvement District (The “District”) and for the levy of special assessments for

erosion improvement projects and declaring an emergency. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Porter made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2022-89**

Porter introduced a resolution declaring the necessity for and authorizing the transfer of funds by the Village of South Russell from the Headwater Restoration Project Fund to the Income Tax (General) Fund, directing the Fiscal Officer to prepare and forward a petition for said transfer to the Ohio Tax Commissioner, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 5705.15 and 5705.16, and declaring an emergency. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2022-90**

Canton introduced a resolution declaring the necessity for and authorizing the transfer of funds by the Village of South Russell from the Natureworks Playground Fund to the Income Tax (General) Fund, directing the Fiscal Officer to prepare and forward a petition for said transfer to the Ohio Tax Commissioner, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 5705.15 and 5705.16, and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2022-91**

Galicki introduced a resolution declaring the necessity for and authorizing the transfer of funds by the Village of South Russell from the Lake Louise Bridge Fund to the Income Tax (General) Fund, directing the Fiscal Officer to prepare and forward a petition for said transfer to the Ohio Tax Commissioner, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code sections 5705.15 and 5705.16, and declaring an emergency. Galicki made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Galicki made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2022-92**

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance to approve current replacement pages to the South Russell Codified ordinances and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2022-93**

Porter introduced a resolution authorizing payment of costs of Village Engineer's planning and assessment activities in pre-project development of the Central Retention Basin Project, an eligible stormwater management project, from the ARPA Fund, and declaring an emergency. The Fiscal Officer explained that it was necessary to include an 'up to' dollar amount in the resolution, but the information was not available since the Engineer was not in attendance.

The Fiscal Officer offered that for the Family Life Center project, the Village could use the ARPA funds because it is a stormwater issue. This way, Council would not have to amend the budget. Porter concurred. The Solicitor said Council would have to pass an ordinance or resolution at the next meeting.

Porter introduced a resolution authorizing payment of costs for revegetation and reforestation of the Village Hall Headwater Section 319 NPS Restoration Project from the ARPA Fund and declaring an emergency.

Bell introduced an ordinance amending Chapter 1066 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Russell and declaring an emergency. Bell made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Cavanagh.

Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Bell made a motion to adopt, seconded by Cavanagh. Motion carried. **ORD 2022-94**

BILLS LIST

Galicki made a motion to ratify the bills list of October 30, 2022, in the amount of \$63,721.47, seconded by Cavanagh. Roll call – ayes, Cavanagh, Galicki, Porter, Bell. Berger and Canton abstained. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Canton and Galicki had no new business.

Cavanagh had a lengthy discussion with Joan Demirjian, who will take over the history part of Village coverage for the Chagrin Valley Times. The Fiscal Officer said she would also forward information to Cavanagh provided by Polly Reiss Churchill.

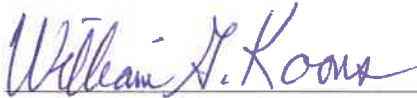
Cavanagh complimented the Mayor for the Veterans Luncheon event.

Porter said that turn out for the midterm election for South Russell was almost 70%.

Regarding the restroom in the park, Bell said an Ohio Municipal League update recently reported that there was a \$1.7 million grant through the State for the Natureworks program. Included in it were restrooms, and offered this may be something for the Village to consider.

Berger thanked the veterans of the Village for their service.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, Porter made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Cavanagh. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**



William G. Koons, Mayor



Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki

Full Statement

Patrick Holtz, Co-Owner MC Art Studio
1208 Bell Road
South Russell, Ohio 44022

NOACA Executive Committee Meeting: November 4, 2022

Good morning Chairman Bibb, Executive Committee Members, Director Gallucci.

My name is Patrick Holtz. I am a resident and business owner in South Russell Village.

I rise today to offer questions and strong concerns related to the Bell & 306 project submitted by South Russell Village that is under consideration for FY 2024-2027 TIP Development.

In December of 2021 South Russell Village placed a "No Left Hand Turn" sign into my family's property at Bell and 306—destroying my wife's livelihood within 6 months—a twenty-three year old business called MC Art Studio—a pre-school (with an arts based curriculum) and art gallery. Art classes for seniors were also offered. While my wife leased the property, my parents owned the property.

My mother and father, Gary and Carol Holtz, are pioneers. They helped bring rural health care to South Russell in 1980. They owned and operated a longtime dental practice at Bell and 306. There was very little in South Russell. It was my dad's office, a Sohio station and Augie's Pizza. Our adjacent neighbor—was South Russell Village. A second building on the property served as a laboratory of sorts for other businesses to develop a beachhead there. This included the Cleveland Clinic.

We have been proud stewards of our community.

Currently we have placed the damages caused by the "No Left Hand Turn" sign at over \$700,000. But it is really the lives—that have been impacted: the kids who don't have a school. Seniors who don't have a creative outlet during the day, the 5 jobs lost, and 60 artists, mostly Geauga residents, who lost a venue.

South Russell did not follow their own ordinances for the placement of traffic signs. No engineering study was done. No economic impacts analysis was done. No safety studies were done.

Yet the Village has the temerity to say that we **asked** for the sign because we expressed concerns (as citizens) about drivers passing us as we drove into our business.

This would be like saying to a doctor that you have a headache and the doctor prescribes a guillotine to alleviate your issue. No doubt your headache is gone, but you can't walk or stand afterwards.

But safety is a pretense. South Russell has had a desire for many years to purchase the property (which is at the heart of the Village) but at the lowest cost possible.

No notice was given to my parents of the sign—who own the property—which is inexcusable on a personal level, nevermind a legal one. My family had taken care of the very people who made this decision. For example, my family has known South Russell Solicitor, Bridey Mathenev, for 40 years! And we had radio silence.

Meanwhile my wife and I didn't find out about the sign until a full month after it was placed as our family was in quarantine recovering from COVID.

After the sign was put in—the Village then recommended that our patrons could get access to 306 by turning around in a public cemetery at the edge of town. I will repeat that—South Russell's transportation plan was to direct patrons to a cemetery. Could there be a better metaphor for what happened? And they watched it too as our neighbors. They did nothing. They were cruel in their indifference. And now they want federal funding at that very corner!

A regulatory taking is as offensive as bulldozing a house under Eminent Domain. The result is the same. And it is an all too familiar part of transportation planning history. The TIP historically was created to protect families like mine.

All that said—I do want a regionally significant project in South Russell. This project can serve as an important sandbag against the tide of sprawl caused by 442. That 422 tide is ebbing on East Washington Street. Bell Road in South Russell is next unless there is active transportation planning. We stand to lose our semi-rural nature if this happens. But the Village must embrace the 3 C's of Transportation planning—which is at the heart of what the MPO and TIP does: ***continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative planning.***

Moreover, the TIP process historically is intended to provide a voice against government overreach like this—while protecting and minimizing transportation impacts to property owners and our most vulnerable citizens—the children and the elderly. I believe the NOACA TIP process can provide my family relief and our community a regionally significant project through active and engaged scoping over the next several months. The TIP can be justice and forgiveness.

All and all, I think December's NOACA Board meeting will be an exciting time. It is essentially the start of Spring Training. The projects that ultimately are chosen to break camp and play on Opening Day within the TIP—represent answers to regionally significant questions we have as a region. It is a big deal. And for that reason alone—not everyone gets to play or if they do play they have to be Major League material. Our Guardians were successful this year because Tito asked our Guards to hustle (who are competing against larger cities—which is what we do—our

projects compete nationally)—Get on base. Play good defense. Run out every grounder. Ultimately Tito asked his players—to play the game ***RIGHT***.

If South Russell plays the game right—and they incorporate the 3C's, and they care about private property rights, kids, and the elderly—they can make it to spring training with this project. ***But*** they should not make the Opening Day roster if that no left hand turn sign is still there in March when the TIP is finalized. No way. Sometimes the TIP says no, because you have to play the game RIGHT.

South Russell—take down that sign!

I yield the floor.