

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki

MEMBERS ABSENT: Porter

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Alder, Engineer Haibach, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Kelly Kimball, Lakeview Ln.; Mark Vedder, CVFD

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order. Cavanagh stated that former Mayor Bill Young passed away. She provided a timeline of his involvement with the Village between 1988 until 2003 and then with Geauga County as a County Commissioner until 2013. She described him as kind, generous, and hard working. Cavanagh offered condolences to Young's wife and family. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence and then led the pledge of allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. Porter was absent. **Berger made a motion that Council approve the absence of Councilman Porter from tonight's meeting, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023, Regular Council meeting, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023, Special Council meeting, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

VISITORS: Kelly Kimball, Lakeview Ln., thanked Mayor and Council for granting her time to speak. She explained that she was raised in the area and worked for Chagrin Falls Fire Department for about 10 years. Kimball advised that she had prepared documentation of the treatment of her husband, Sergeant Eric Kimball, before, during, and after January 28th. However, she decided that this would not be her focus. Instead, she wanted to share with Council who her husband is. Had it not been for the events of January 28th, Eric would have been finishing up his third week of the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC), an intensive leadership program. What was paramount for Eric as he prepared for the course was not letting his Police Department or Village down. His efforts were focused on working through four drafts of his 14-page paper that was due before class started, all the while never thinking of asking to be compensated for this extra time. What he expected of himself was to do the absolute best job he was capable of doing. What had gone through her mind for the past 44 days was that the governance of the Village had gone above and beyond to hear all that the Chief and Lieutenant had to share about her husband, to include two Executive Sessions to hear their collective version of what they had to say. Not once was Sgt. Kimball given the opportunity as an employee to be heard by Council.

Kimball continued to describe that on January 5th, right before Sgt. Kimball was to leave for PELC, the person who was supposed to be his leader and mentor walked over to him while he was seated in a supervisor's meeting and told him he was nothing more than a glorified Patrolman and then proceeded out of the room. Kimball advised she was addressing Council as an upstanding resident of nearly two and a half decades whose family had been upended by Council's collective actions. Kimball concluded by saying that the Village Police Department and Village had not only done a deep disservice to one of its outstanding dedicated brothers, but also to one of its longstanding families.

Assistant Chief Mark Vedder, Chagrin Valley Fire Department (CVFD), addressed Council about ambulance billing. The practice of ambulance billing by CVFD began during Mayor Brett's administration in response to problems being experienced by the individual communities which were doing their own billing. The issue involved a determination by Medicare that since South Russell was not actually providing ambulance service, it could not bill for Medicare. In order not to lose the revenue from the billing, Mayor Brett and Council approached CVFD about taking over the billing. Ultimately, CVFD took this billing on for all of the communities it served. The billing is done through LifeForce Management. Quarterly, the Village's CVFD invoices are reduced by the amount of these ambulance billings in the form of an offset to the Village's EMS contract. As an example, over the past two years, the amount collected in 2021 was \$78,199 and \$79,289 in 2022.

Cavanagh asked what the cost would be for someone with Medicare and private insurance. Vedder said there are three levels of billing. The basic level would be \$350. If the call is considered life support, it would be \$500. If it were advance life support services, it would be \$600. The department does not actually get this amount, but instead gets the established Medicare rates. For an invoice of \$350, CVFD would get \$200, and this would be credited back to the Village. Cavanagh asked what percentage goes to the billing agency, LifeForce. Vedder said it was 7% and the CVFD adds 2% as well for its administrative costs. Berger referred to the three tiers of service and asked when these rates were last adjusted. Vedder said they had not been adjusted in about 12 years because it does not affect the amount they receive. He explained that CVFD balance bills after the insurance company pays its portion. If the insurance paid \$200, CVFD would bill the remaining \$150 of the total \$350. Most of the time, the balance billing goes unpaid. Berger clarified that the \$79,000 collected was a combination of all the sources and it is credited back to the Village. He questioned whether there is follow up on the unpaid balance billing, and Vedder said there is, but people often do not pay. Berger indicated this is lost revenue for the Village. Berger questioned how the collection of the balance billing could be more effectively done. Vedder explained that this would depend on how aggressively Council wanted to be. The unpaid balances could be turned over to a collection company. When the billing by CVFD was established, collectively, the Villages decided they did not want to do that. The Fiscal Officer recalled that years ago, insurance was billed and whatever the insurance company paid was accepted. If the individual was a resident, they did not have to pay the difference. Vedder said this was not correct. Every person, resident or non-resident must be treated the same in the attempt to collect. They can individually assess hardships, but do not write off residents versus non-residents. The Fiscal Officer asked if nonpaying individuals are sent to collections because she recently received a call from a resident who did not pay because they did not think they owed the difference and were then sent to collections. Vedder said there are very few that are actually sent to collections primarily because the collections companies do not feel there is enough money in it to pursue. CVFD has a collection company which is utilized in the instance where the person who is billed does not pay anything and ignores phone calls and/or correspondence. One other category that would be sent to collection are those instances where the individual was sent the check from the insurance company and failed to then pay the bill for the service. Berger asked for a total of uncollected funds, and Vedder said that last year, the total billed was \$99,000 for South Russell and \$79,000 was collected. Berger thought this topic should be discussed by the Finance Committee. Vedder said he would like to have a uniform policy for all the communities. Berger said after discussing the matter in Finance and Safety Committee, they would report back to CVFD. Vedder explained that if CVFD were a government agency, which they are not, they would be able to use the State Attorney General's Office for the collections, which have remedies to include holding up tax refunds for the unpaid bills. However, being a corporation, they do not have this option.

Vedder added that the Chagrin Valley has one of the highest pay rates and is doing much better with ambulance billing than any of the surrounding fire departments.

The Mayor said that once a year an advisory committee should meet. He suggested that in the fall the six communities could meet to discuss the operations of the CVFD, to include the ambulance billing. Vedder said this was well timed because there was discussion of gathering the communities to talk about increasing the rates because there are opportunities to collect more from some payers. The great majority of the patients CVFD sees are private insurance and Medicare.

The Mayor discussed with Vedder the frustration with the construction project having not begun. Vedder said it was not for lack of effort. The Mayor also commented on the front page article in the Chagrin Valley Times, but said he did not remember how many females are on the staff. Vedder said there are seven.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor addressed the employee potluck scheduled for March 16th. He also discussed the Special Council meeting scheduled for March 14th at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of touring the Manor Brook project. The Engineer would attend, but Kim Brewster from the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) would be doing most of the talking. It would provide closure to the project. The meeting would begin at the corner of Manor Brook Dr. and Chillicothe Rd.

The Mayor reported that a lobbying firm was hired by Ohio Municipal League to address House Bill 1 and the possibility that local income tax could be removed.

Letters of support addressed to Congressman Joyce and Senator Brown were discussed for several entities applying for the federal FY2024 Community Project Funding. Two such letters were distributed to Council pertaining to the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) request and the Mayor explained that Council would also need to approve support for requests by Chagrin Valley Dispatch for the building of a headquarters and Chagrin Falls Utility Department to improve the regional water and sewer systems, but these letters had not yet been drafted. The Solicitor clarified that the support that was being sought was to support the efforts and not monetarily. She further advised that there were two versions of the WWTP letter from which Council must choose for submission. One of the two has a paragraph added by the Mayor to the original form letter that talks about his public service. Berger clarified that Council had not seen this letter until tonight and likewise had no information about this process. The Mayor concurred. Berger verified that this pertained to federal funds that the legislature in Washington D.C. will approve for the county project for McFarland WWTP and are just saying for Council's support. The Mayor concurred. The Mayor reiterated that everyone is going after this money, and two of the letters have not been written. Galicki asked what Chagrin Falls was specifically asking of Council. The Mayor read an excerpt from a letter stating it would be in support of the Chagrin Falls Regional Water and Sewer System upgrade that would benefit the health, safety, and economic interests of residents and businesses in the Water and Sewer District including South Russell. A portion of South Russell has Chagrin water and sewers to include the business district. Berger verified there was a legitimate interest for South Russell to support the activities, and the Mayor concurred.

Regarding Chagrin Valley Dispatch, the Chief explained there was a center in Bedford, one in Brecksville, and one in Cleveland Heights. The Mayor explained that they would like to have one headquarters instead of three smaller locations. Galicki verified it was a request for support and not a

request for monetary support of the project. The Mayor answered that it was support for a federal grant to build a dispatch center. The Engineer explained that with the funding, the more buy-in the entity can get from the surrounding communities, the more attractive the funding request looks to those doling out the dollars.

The Mayor wanted a motion in support of all the requested letters. Berger asked about the timing for the letters, and the Mayor indicated the WWTP letter is due this week. Berger noted that two letters were distributed to Council. Although the other letters are form letters, Council should see the document before approving it. The Mayor concluded a Special Council meeting would be necessary. **Berger made a motion that Council approve the letters to Senator Brown and Representative Joyce regarding the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant and letter of support, seconded by Bell. The Solicitor asked which version was being accepted, and Berger amended the motion to specify that it is the letter that includes the paragraph added by the Mayor, seconded by Bell. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** The Mayor proposed having a Special Council meeting to approve the other two letters on Friday, March 17, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

The Mayor and Cavanagh discussed the sale of shirts with the 100th Anniversary Village logo on them. Cavanagh was investigating pricing.

The Mayor advised that the first Erosion Special Improvement District (ESID) meeting occurred at the Village on Monday, March 6, 2023. There were representatives from Russell Township, Bainbridge, and South Russell. Residents from the Parkland Dam neighborhood, Manor Brook, and Country Estates attended. There were also residents of Lake Lucerne. Manor Brook Gardens Homeowner's Association (HOA) was ready to go and had bids. They wanted to create an ESID to take care of the drainage and water issues around their condos. According to the Mayor, Parkland Dam is down from \$400,000 to possibly \$70,000. Kristina O'Brien of Bainbridge was elected as the Chairman of the Geauga County ESID, Porter will be the Secretary, Nancy Moran of South Russell will be the Vice Chairman, and Richard Sooy of Country Estates, will be the Treasurer. The Mayor gave credit to the County Auditor for making the ESID work. It was a good initial meeting.

Other topics discussed by the Mayor included a lecture he attended about ground water and storm water. He received nine responses for residents who wanted their water tested. Bell asked if these requests were disbursed geographically throughout the Village, and the Mayor said no, it was not what he wanted. However, they were in different neighborhoods.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. The Mayor stated that regarding the Village Wide Yard Sale, he had already notified the HOA Presidents. The Fiscal Officer addressed the advertising for the Yard Sale. She found that running the proposed color ad for four weeks would cost over \$1,300. Cavanagh said no. The Fiscal Officer further explained that a second proposed ad in black and white would only be \$340. She noted the importance in having more details in the ad and the color ad lacked detail which would result in a lot of inquiries. The black and white ad had more details. She asked for Council's input. The Mayor verified this quote was from the Chagrin Valley Times, and the Fiscal Officer concurred. The Mayor proposed advertising in the Spirit of Bainbridge. The Fiscal Officer also wanted Council's input in deciding how much advertising to do because there had been concerns expressed by residents about bringing people into the Village. The Mayor proposed giving the Fiscal Officer a limit of \$500 to advertise in the Chagrin Valley Times, Spirit of Bainbridge, and the Maple Leaf. Cavanagh disagreed with advertising in the Maple Leaf because then everyone would be coming down to the Village like a stampede to the rich people in South Russell. The Mayor

asked if \$500 were enough, and Cavanagh said it was fine with her. Bell verified that this would come out of the Fiscal Officer's advertising budget, which could present an issue with posting of legal notices. The Mayor offered that there was \$5,000 in the Mayor's fund and suggested taking it out of there. **Berger made a motion to authorize up to \$500 in advertising costs pursuant to the Village Yard Sale program April 22, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Regarding the ESID, the Fiscal Officer advised that she forwarded the Manor Brook Gardens petition to Kevin Butler with McDonald Hopkins. She asked him if Council would also need to pass legislation for it, and Butler explained that Council would no longer need to pass legislation. This was only to get the ESID established. The community came to the Village with the petition, she forwarded it to the county, and they are now aware of it and it is between the two entities. Council would not need to weigh in until the community decided to go forward with the project and there would be an approval for assessment.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Berger made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Credit Card Report from 3/13/2023, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Berger made a motion to approve a request by the Chagrin Falls After Prom Parent Committee for a donation in the amount of \$500, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Berger stated that the next Finance Committee meeting will be Friday, March 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Galicki advised that the Fiscal Officer had received an accolade for the best project for her municipal certification course. Not only is it indicative of the hard work that she put into the course and was money well spent by the Village, but she also chose a topic that will have lasting returns to the Village with respect to the five-year fiscal plan. Cavanagh asked what the title of the project was, and the Fiscal Officer said it was the Five-Year Financial Forecast for Transparency. She added that they will start working on it at the next Council meeting.

The Mayor said that he received a letter from the Village of Moreland Hills regarding the request for \$500 as one of the six different communities of the Chagrin Falls schools. They are putting the idea off until fall.

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor had nothing to report.

ENGINEER: The Engineer attended a Streets Committee meeting the week prior and the Road Program was discussed. The committee settled on the following roads: Woodside at an estimated cost of \$223,000; Maple Springs at an estimated cost of \$301,000; and \$50,000 for spot pavement repairs around the Village. This totals \$574,000 estimated for the cost of the Road Program base bid. Streets Committee also noted that the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of Southwyck was also low and among the worst. The estimated cost for this would be \$325,000, and it will be included as an alternate.

At the last Council meeting, an additional cost for the Traffic Signal Project was discussed, but due to a conflict with the gas main, there would be further additional cost in the amount of \$1,500 for a more substantial base to support the longer mast arm. This would put the total cost at \$3,700, not just \$2,183 for the mast arm itself as previously approved by Council. **Canton made a motion that the traffic control signal support project increase of funds no higher than \$4,000 of increase. Berger**

asked to amend the motion to state for specifically the extended arms of \$2,183 and an approximate amount of \$1,500 additional base work for the foundation and support of the stanchion not to exceed \$4,000, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor stated that the owner of DRY Insurance signed off on an easement for the Village, with the request that if the new post effects his DRY Insurance sign, the Village would cover the cost. The Engineer explained that the area of the 10' x 10' easement is not close at all to the sign. The likelihood of the Village's work negatively impacting the sign or necessitating the need to move it is unlikely. Galicki asked if there were an issue with the electrical feed to the sign, and the Engineer thought that feed came from the building itself. **Canton made a motion that if the traffic control signal support impedes the DRY Insurance sign that the Village will pay for the relocation of the sign, seconded by Cavanagh.** Berger asked what defines necessity. He asked if the issue was that the support stanchion would be physically interfering with the sign, or the support stanchion blocking the line of sight from northbound moving traffic along Chillicothe Rd. Who would decide before Council agreed to a blank check? Whose opinion counts? The Chief said that there are existing mast poles around all four corners of the intersection. He said the current one does not interfere and asked how many feet away from this would the pole be set? The Engineer said about 12 feet. The Chief thought it should make no difference. The Engineer thought that the intent of the property owner was to ensure that if the new signal support necessitated moving his sign, that the Village will put it back to where it was. The Engineer did not think there would be a physical conflict between the signal support and the existing sign. **Berger suggested amending the motion to say that if this is a physical necessity because the stanchion and the sign are in physical conflict, then the Village will resolve the problem by relocating the sign, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.** The Mayor added that the property owner asked that a stake be put in the ground at the location of the pole. The Solicitor said she would revise the acknowledgement based on the motion and the Mayor could provide it to Mr. Yert.

STREET COMMISSIONER: The Street Commissioner submitted his monthly report. The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District approved the Village's \$3,500 dumpster grant for Trash Day. He also reported that the delivery date of the loader had been moved up from March 20th. The manufacturer waived the \$1,450 charge for the tires. Cavanagh and Berger acknowledged the good job the Street Commissioner had done.

The Mayor verified that when the Street Commissioner gives mutual aid to Chagrin Falls with the roadside mower to clear line of sight, the Street Department takes the Village's equipment and does the work on the property of Chagrin Falls. The Street Commissioner said this was correct, that he borrows their sewer jet, and he always gets manpower with the sewer jet. So, he returns it with a mower or anything else they need.

The Mayor stated the stormwater report is due at the end of March and asked if the Engineer was rolling along with that. The Engineer thought within the next two weeks there will be the annual stormwater meeting and he will make sure it is completed.

STREET COMMITTEE: Bell stated that the Village received six bids for the Chillicothe Culvert Project that ranged from \$148,000 to \$288,000. The winning bidder was Grade Line, Inc. They intend to begin work in mid-June after school is out and should be done before Chillicothe Rd. is paved. **Bell made a motion to give authority to the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Engineer, and Solicitor to accept**

the Culvert Replacement Project Bid from Grade Line, Inc. for \$147, 918, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell addressed the committee's discussion of the Road Program. They recognized that when they did the budget in fall, they allocated a significant amount between the Road Program, which also included East Washington Street with the county. With increasing costs for other potential projects like the salt dome and other unexpected costs, they may want to be a little more fiscally conservative with the Road Program this year. As the Engineer mentioned, the committee is recommending going to bid for Woodside Rd. and Maple Springs with Southwyck being an alternate. With the uncertainty of prices, it is hard to say what will come in this year. The Engineer said he was less confident in his estimated costs this year than he has ever been.

Bell made a motion to allow the Mayor, Engineer, Solicitor, and Fiscal Officer to solicit bids for the 2023 Road Program which will include Woodside Rd., Maple Springs Dr., with Southwyck Dr. serving as an alternate, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell stated that the Engineer provided a site plan for the salt dome which is just east of where the dome is now. The Street Commissioner has asked permission to start clearing the land for the project, and the committee wanted the opinion of Council. The Mayor suggested staking out the area for Council members to view. Galicki referenced a recent news article about a salt intrusion problem in Parkman into the surrounding wells because of the runoff from their salt dome. Because of contamination at the 100-foot level, they are having to go down to 300 feet in the surrounding homes to get potable water. Galicki noted the issue with unpotable water in Village Hall or the campus and wondered what the source of the contamination was. He questioned whether the design of the salt dome incorporates any kind of layer abatement system so that adjacent properties like Kensington Green will not have their wells potentially affected by salt dome runoff. The Engineer said this was a great question but could not completely answer it. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all salt storage to be covered to prevent runoff. The new building will not provide any more or less protection than the current one. As long as the Streets Department keeps the path of the loading pad of the new salt storage building as clean as they do with the current one, he could not anticipate any additional runoff. Galicki noted that EPA's requirements get tighter over time and the existing structure may have been grandfathered. It might behoove the Village to take a look at the specs for the new construction to see if it complies with all EPA requirements. The Engineer assured him that they would not design or recommend a building that was out of conformance.

Cavanagh asked about the use of barrier materials to prevent seepage. The Engineer did not know the details of the Parkman situation but speculated about two possible scenarios. Galicki concluded that his objective was to raise the question so that as the Village goes forward, it is compliant with any existing and anticipated EPA standards since it is relatively close to residential housing. The Street Commissioner explained that this design is used by Orange Village. Additionally, they are mandated to keep the area clean in front of the salt dome. Galicki asked when the Orange Village structure was built, and the Street Commissioner thought possibly 2014. Galicki said in 10 years a lot could change and he was asking for due diligence. Cavanagh questioned whether it was determined to be the result of the Parkman salt dome since they have other water issues. The Mayor said yes, that it is right behind their town hall and has been there for 50 years. Galicki added that the structure is similar to the Village's. The Mayor concurred.

Bell reported that the Geauga County Department of Water Resources (GCDWR) attended the Streets Committee meeting. They are asking for support for upgrades to the McFarland WWTP as previously explained by the Mayor. In preparation for the upgrades, the WWTP is examining data from the communities it serves, specifically pertaining to an exorbitant amount of stormwater that comes through the sanitary lines into the treatment plant. The system was not built to process this much water, and the result is the water flowing right through. In preparation for changes, they are trying to find the source of the stormwater, to include surveying South Russell. They have flow gauges in sewers and rain gauges at the west end of the Village to aid in finding the problem and fixing it. This may include engaging homeowners through the water district. It is a 90-day study that began on March 1st. The company conducting the survey is ADS of Valley View.

The next Streets Committee meeting is April 7th at 7:30 a.m. in the Service Department Office.

Cavanagh asked if it were true that Woodside Dr. had not been paved since 1997. Bell and the Engineer attributed the longevity to the fact that the road does not get much traffic, and the Engineer added that drainage effects the longevity of pavement more than any other factor.

The Mayor advised that Kensington Green and Bellwood are the last neighborhoods in the Village with sewers. The neighborhoods east of this like Lake Louise, Paw Paw Lake, and Maple Springs are on septic.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Bell advised that the Building Committee met on March 2nd and the minutes were distributed. The next meeting is on April 6th at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department. At the last meeting, the Building Department Administrative Assistant provided a recap of the last few years of permits filed. In 2022, there were 491 permits filed, which was a small decrease from the 560 in 2021, but higher than 2019 at 301 and 2020 at 333.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief submitted his month-end report. He reminded Council that the Police Department will be holding its Scams Targeting Seniors presentation on Monday, April 17th in Village Hall. Canton observed a Flock Camera on the corner of Manor Brook Dr. and Chillicothe Rd. and asked when it was installed. The Chief said this occurred on March 9th. Two more will be placed; one on Sheerbrook Dr. and Chillicothe Rd. and one on Snyder Rd. at the Bainbridge line.

SAFETY: Canton stated that the next meeting will be held at the Police Department at 9:00 a.m. on April 6th.

HR COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that the committee met on March 2nd and went through a number of things. She provided her notes and the Fiscal Officer added hers because Cavanagh missed some things.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Cavanagh stated that the committee met on March 2nd and minutes were distributed. She is frustrated with the bathroom conversation that keeps going on and on. Regarding the flag, she spent some time looking this matter up, and she knew how Galicki would react to it. However, she stated that the flag being lit is not law. It is a strong recommendation at dark. Galicki said for the record, he takes exception with Council Member Cavanagh's statement. It is under the U.S. Flag Code, which is a codified law. Cavanagh asked if it, the Flag Code, is law. Galicki verified it is law. She asked if it was Federal law, and Galicki said yes. Canton added that the group that wanted to give the Village the funds for the flagpole, the Goldengate Lodge 245, brought up the fact that it would look great being illuminated in the night. With all due respect, Canton said he had

never served in the armed forces, but he agreed that the flag should be illuminated without question. He said, however, that the flags on the telephone poles are not and asked if there were a reason behind that. Galicki said that the Village had chosen to put flags on telephone poles. It is a decoration. Canton asked if this meant there was no need to light them. Galicki said there was no need to have them, although it looks nice on July 4th. Are they being displayed properly? Absolutely not. Does Council do greater good by not displaying the flag properly or having a lot of color flying during the day? Canton said he believed the flags should be illuminated. Cavanagh said this was to her point. Does the Village do greater good by having the flag there but not illuminated? How do they solve the cost issue? Galicki emphasized that the flag cannot be there but not illuminated unless they wanted to take the flag down every day at sunset. If they want a flag flying 24/7, it needs to be illuminated.

The Street Commissioner said he looked into the cost of the meters associated with the Village flagpoles, which are \$92 each at the Cemetery and corner lot. The electric bill itself is \$7. He investigated hiring a company to bore from the side of Village Hall under Chillicothe Rd to the meter at the Cemetery as well to the corner lot. This could eliminate two of the bills. The first quote he received was \$14,000, which would mean in six years it would be paid off. He clarified that this quote did not include the wire. Bell asked if First Energy ever raised the cost of the utility boxes over the years, and the Street Commissioner did not know but said they were not going to change their policy.

The Mayor said he went through the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) and asked what they could do for the Village. They said they could give the Village a loan, but it would have to be paid back. They also said that if the Village went to solar, it would be \$10,000 - \$16,000. The Cleveland Foundation has a separate fund for certain causes that the Village could try. The Mayor thought they would keep looking at it and eventually have a decision to accept the donation or not.

Cavanagh addressed the individual, Pam Route, who did the nest boxes. The Mayor explained that Route has been volunteering for a year with the bluebird houses. She said they were 8 years old and should be replaced. She had spent \$500 of her own money on the blue bird boxes.

Regarding the Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market agreement, Cavanagh noted there were no changes and **made a motion to accept the contract between the Village and Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Canton addressed the 100th Anniversary plans and asked if it might be prudent to have a rain date. Galicki said this was raised at the last Council meeting. Canton was aware. The Mayor said it involved cake and ice cream, and the Fiscal Officer added that the refreshments could not be returned or stored. Canton realized that although difficult, the Fall Festival could be rescheduled. He also understood the issue with the refreshments but thought having a rain date might be a prudent thing to consider. The Mayor thought it would be possible to change plans in the event of inclement weather, and July 30th was proposed. The Mayor said a decision would be made at the Properties Committee meeting.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Berger said the committee will meet on Friday, March 24th at 8:00 a.m.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Berger introduced a resolution declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the 10 mill limitation because the amount of taxes which may be raised within the limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the Village of South Russell.

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

Bell thanked Mrs. Kimball for addressing Council. Bell said that he and likely most people on Council were empathetic with how she feels. That being said, he wanted to clarify that their lack of conversation did not mean they did not hear or were not listening to her. His personal opinion was that this was a Human Resources matter and did not think it should be aired in a public setting. He realized that Kimball might not agree with that opinion, and understood if she did not, but hoped that she could respect that Council was trying to stay with the process. He reiterated that Council hears her and thanked her for coming.

Cavanagh said she echoed what Bell said.

Galicki said he had three items of business. First, he noticed that the flag had not been flown on the Village Hall property for a couple of months and asked for the estimated date for replacement of the halyard. The Street Commissioner said the game plan was to have it done by Van Curen when they come to do tree work. The Street Commissioner did not know when this would occur.

Secondly, Galicki advised that Council discussed having all Village vehicles bear Village logos on them and asked for the status. The Street Commissioner said that the car did not, but he had a logo for it. Galicki asked if there were an intent to put it on in the near future, and the Street Commissioner said yes. The Mayor said for the Building Department car, it is usually put on when the Zoning Inspector starts, which will be April. Galicki clarified that it is a Village vehicle and should have identifying marks so that when it is parked in a place it should not be, people throughout the Village can see the violation.


Thirdly, Galicki asked his fellow members of Council to please consider giving to the Harvest for Hunger campaign. They come from a very affluent and abundant community, but have to realize that not far from here, not everyone is as fortunate. The donation boxes are located in each department.

At 8:36 p.m., Canton made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the possible purchase of property and conferring with the Solicitor regarding pending or imminent litigation pursuant to Sections 121.22(G) (2) and (3) of the Ohio Revised Code and inviting the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Solicitor, Police Chief, and Lieutenant, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, and Galicki. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council, **Bell made a motion to adjourn at 9:43 p.m., seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**


William G. Koons, Mayor


Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki