

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.  
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

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

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

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. **Bell made a motion to approve the Regular Council meeting minutes of November 27, 2023, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2023, Special Council meeting, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, Porter, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, and Galicki. Bell abstained. Motion carried.**

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** The Mayor discussed funds provided to the Village by the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) over the years totaling \$58,000. The money is from NOPEC profits and is provided for energy efficient projects. Currently there is \$16,000 available. In the past, the Village had purchased generators, the Village Hall roof, part of the Service Department roof, and insulation. Funds expire if not used. NOPEC also gives \$1,500 towards the Village’s Fall Festival each year.

The Mayor noted that the Centennial expenses were under \$8,000.

The Mayor asked Council to provide him with their committee preferences for 2024.

Regarding Wreaths Across America, the wreaths had been delivered and will be placed at noon on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

A notice will be put in the newsletter to see if people want to do something for the upcoming eclipse.

Money is available if the Village is interested in commemorating the Nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Mayor walked through the Manor Brook project with representatives from CT Consultants and Mr. Excavator and it was not a pleasant walk. The floodplain looks awful. There were things that were done incorrectly but are correctable. The Village has a timeline from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and this week the landscaper used by Mr. Excavator will try to make corrections. They may or may not be able to do it and the landscaper was unhappy that they were not informed that the work was unsatisfactory. The Mayor had been in touch with the Engineer about the matter.

Regarding the walk through of the Manor Brook project, the Solicitor asked if OEPA was aware that there would be something done to fix the issue. The Mayor said they were aware something would be done but were not present at the walk through. The Solicitor asked if the Village needed to have OEPA or Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP) review the plans prior to taking action. The Mayor said that CT had agreed to speak to Mr. Excavator and finalize what needed to be done and then bring it up to CRWP first. Cavanagh asked if the conversation fell through the cracks, and the Mayor said he was not sure but surmised that something should have been done last fall, but it was too late in

the year, and then the Village did not get on top of it quickly enough this year to say that it was unacceptable. OEPA had some disagreements when they were on the Zoom call. CT and Mr. Excavator will figure out what can be done by the end of the month because theoretically, the Village is done with the grant by that time.

**FISCAL OFFICER:** The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. She clarified that the deadline for the first quarter newsletter will be Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Fiscal Officer asked Council to consider creating a deadline for material to be included in the Council packet. For example, today there were revisions upon revisions of legislation that was then pulled from the packet. It seems a lot of things are coming in on the last day, which causes a lot of stress in the office in making sure accurate information is provided to Council. Additionally, it does not afford Council time to review the material before voting on it. Many municipalities have a hard cut-off time and anything past that time is only for a true emergency. The Fiscal Officer proposed the cut-off should be no later than 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday before the Council meeting. Porter suggested making it on Wednesday. However, Cavanagh used the example of the committee meetings that are held on Thursday and asked if the minutes would then be held for the next Council packet. Adjusting the committee meeting schedule was discussed. The Fiscal Officer explained that previously, the Department Heads were present at the first Council meeting of the month and covered their departments in the meeting. The committee meetings were after the first Council meeting but before the second. At the second meeting, which the Department Heads did not attend, the committees could provide reports. The Fiscal Officer added that the agenda is posted on the website, but by adding last minute items to the agenda, the public does not have the opportunity to know what will be discussed. Berger asked that the matter be listed on the agenda for the meeting in January with the preliminary deadline being Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. The Solicitor asked about preparing legislation and Porter indicated it should be prepared for the second meeting in January.

Berger noted that the financials in the Fiscal Officer's report indicated that cash balances as of November 30<sup>th</sup> was \$2,958,713.62, which was almost \$3 million.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Berger advised that the committee meeting scheduled for December 22, 2023, would need to be changed. He reported that there were concerns expressed about the 2024 Budget and how much certain projects would cost, etc. and that the budget is running at a negative \$400,000 for 2024. He reminded Council that based on the November 30<sup>th</sup> cash balances, even though there is a negative budget and the salt dome and other items must be considered, the Village should be able to handle it with the expected revenues and cash on hand while maintaining the \$1 million safety buffer.

The Mayor verified \$88,000 was available for the park restroom. Berger said it was in the 2024 budget. The Mayor advised the restroom would be ordered. Porter verified that the Parks Committee was still in favor of this, and Cavanagh said they were. The Mayor asked how the ordering would occur, and the Fiscal Officer explained it could not be ordered until January. The Street Commissioner said he would call and get the updated pricing.

**SOLICITOR:** The Solicitor advised that Council needed to consider redoing the contract with CT Consultants, which expires at the end of December 2023. The Engineer mentioned at a previous meeting that the terms would stay the same, but she did not know if a revised agreement had been submitted. She suggested Council take action on this tonight and further advised that a similar situation occurred last year where there was no actual submission of the contract until after the fact and it was for one year. The Mayor offered that CT will not be handling the MS4 report, which will have

to come off the contract since the CRWP will now be doing it. The Mayor said he would contact the Engineer about the contract.

The Solicitor advised that in some of the meeting minutes, there had been a question about whether consultants or others could participate in committee meetings or Council meetings via Zoom. She explained the answer is no. Consultants and others participating in a public meeting must be physically present.

The Solicitor asked when the Mayor wanted the sidewalk and the multiuse recreational path research completed. She understood there would be a Special meeting to discuss the matter on January 9<sup>th</sup> and wondered if the Mayor wanted it in advance by the end of the year or after the meeting. The Mayor said he would prefer to have it afterwards. Porter wondered if it was too soon to hold such a meeting and did not want to give the impression the Village was ready to move on with the project, when that is not something they know yet. The Mayor said he wanted to hear from the community to determine how much interest there really was. He notified the Rolling Ridge/Daisy Ln. residents and the homeowners' association (HOA) president did not know it was being discussed. His idea was for people to come to the Village January 9<sup>th</sup> to let Council know what they are thinking and really want. The Mayor did not want to spend a lot of time preparing for something that may not exist. As far as crosswalks, he put a link to a survey in the newsletter. There was a survey for the crosswalk at Gurney, but it never went out. Cavanagh offered that what Porter was thinking cost-wise is that the project could be huge and there was a matter of who would get hit paying for and maintaining them. The Village will want to have an idea of this. The Mayor did not want to get into that. Discussions of sidewalks could lead to too many variables. He wanted to hear what people have to say and then the Village can consider a crosswalk. Will the crosswalk be painted on the road or have lights? Will the path be along both sides of Bell or one? These are the things he wants to hear about because so far Council has only heard from four or five people. The Mayor did not know that the topic had much momentum. He thought the momentum would be to not do anything else.

Galicki offered that under the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), it basically states that the cost of sidewalks is born by the property owners. The Solicitor said that typically this is the case but there is another avenue. Galicki added that the property owner is also responsible to maintain it. The people who have to pay for them may not be the most supportive and people who do not have to pay may be enthusiastic supporters. The Solicitor said that there are municipalities that have a program for a fund to have the municipality maintain the sidewalks. This was part of the research she planned to do and felt that it would be necessary to have answers to the questions that will be asked. Galicki added that this is why municipalities have the issue of sidewalks on the ballot because trying to come up with a consensus might be a tough thing to do.

The Mayor advised that in speaking to the mayors of Pepper Pike and Orange, Orange had a battle over sidewalks and Pepper Pike's was easily done. The comment from both was to go slowly and let people know it was coming.

Bell added that the ORC also states that bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks. Some of the visitors were interested from the bicycle riding perspective, and one discussed multipurpose trails, which might change who pays for what. He thought they should hear from more people. Galicki thought a good research point would clarify the notion that if a sidewalk is called a trail, it means the municipality or some other entity picks up the cost. How these trails are defined, and what the allowable trail surfaces are would be great information to have as they go forward. Cavanagh addressed the paved shoulders provided by the Village along Bell Rd. and offered that other places do not have that. The Mayor

concluded that the information and survey are in the newsletter, and they will see how much interest there is. The Mayor added that for some areas, raised wooden platforms would be necessary, which could be hundreds of thousands of dollars to build.

Council discussed the postal delay of the last newsletter. Berger explained that the reason it went to the main post office was because mail is no longer sorted by the Chagrin Falls Post Office. Cavanagh concluded that this was why she received the Halloween newsletter on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Solicitor addressed recreational marijuana. She realized the Safety Committee wished to discuss it with her, but with all the changes going on at the State level, she asked that this be delayed until the new year. Galicki said that one question of the committee is that many municipalities are looking at a moratorium in terms of people establishing businesses in their communities, not to circumvent the desires of the public. The Solicitor explained that there will be nine months before licenses are issued and if municipalities wait until that time, they will have a difficult time prohibiting or regulating it. Regulating a specific applicant, in particular, who may come to the Village for development review for a dispensary, could be problematic. Cavanagh asked if the Solicitor would be able to research and advise Council of the choices. She said she could have before the State started changing things. She would prefer to wait until the new year to see what is decided at the State level. Galicki verified there had already been one inquiry within the Village for a dispensary, and the Solicitor and Mayor concurred.

Porter stated that if the Village were to add a prohibition ordinance, it would not stop a future Council from repealing that ordinance and substituting some lesser form of regulation. The Solicitor concurred. Porter suggested that Council could take action in January, and in a year consider a different approach. In doing so, it would forestall any dispensaries from popping up at the nine-month date, depending on the State not prohibiting Villages from doing what he was proposing. He offered that Council may want to consider a prohibition ordinance in January 2024. Bell asked if the Village should also consider pulling liquor licenses too. Should the Village stop selling beer at the corner? The Solicitor advised that the Village does not have a say on the liquor businesses. The Solicitor suggested waiting until the end of the year to see what the state legislature does. Porter asked that the Solicitor draft the ordinance and it could go through three readings to allow public input.

The Mayor would distribute the slides from OML presentation regarding this issue.

Galicki asked how medical marijuana dispensaries would differ from the proposed recreational marijuana dispensaries. The Solicitor said there will be some controls through the bureaucracy being created for the licensing. She added that the Village previously prohibited the cultivating, processing, or dispensaries of medical marijuana. The Village could take this action with recreational marijuana and can also regulate the number of dispensaries allowed in the Village. Medical marijuana is a zoning issue, but recreational marijuana is not. It would be an ordinance of Council and would not go through rezoning and the zoning amendment process. She further advised that the Geauga County townships are all going to prohibit it. Porter asked if Council wanted the ordinance and the Mayor suggested waiting.

**STREET COMMISSIONER:** The Street Commissioner submitted his monthly report. He was contacted by the Geauga County Department on Aging concerning a date for Trash Day. The Mayor proposed Saturday, April 27, 2024. The Street Commissioner added that the Senior Trash Pick Up dates would then be April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**STREET COMMITTEE:** Bell reported that the excavating company the committee planned to use for the ditching behind the homes on Chillicothe Rd. viewed the properties and concluded that it is too wet to do the work at this time of the year. They suggested waiting until spring when it is dry. The Street Commissioner explained that the contractor was unable to do the work earlier in the season because the Village just received the survey results on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The residents have not been notified of the delay. They provided permission for the Village to do the work, but it expires at the end of the year.

Bell further reported that this delay would enable the contractor to do some ditch clean up on Fairview. Bell asked if permission had been obtained from these residents, and the Street Commissioner said no, but there were only two that were involved. Bell further expressed that a quote was needed as well.

Porter stated that the Village appropriated \$7,500 for the work behind the Chillicothe Rd. homes. The Street Commissioner said it would be more than that. Porter asked if the Fiscal Officer recalled the amount, and she thought \$7,000 had been discussed, but would have to research the matter. Bell stated that the ditching quote for behind the homes on Chillicothe Rd. was \$16,825. Porter said this was more than he recalled and verified the Village was not splitting it with the residents. He asked the Fiscal Officer to verify what was designated for the project, and she said she did not think it was that much and had not heard that number. Porter asked how much the Fairview project would cost, and the Street Commissioner said he would find out this week. Porter suggested making the motion not to exceed \$7,500, which was what was budgeted for the Chillicothe Rd. project. They would then move the \$16,825 to the 2024 Budget. The Street Commissioner proposed purchasing the pipe and materials for the Fairview project from the current storm water budget to keep the contractor's fee down. The Street Commissioner explained that this work was related to the residents who complained about water flowing into their basement. Porter advised that the Street Commissioner could purchase the pipe if there was money in the budget.

Bell reported that the Engineer's structural engineering team reviewed the salt dome in its current state, and they feel it cannot be saved. The foundation has moved, and it would not be cost effective. The committee's suggestion is to have a joint meeting with Streets and Finance Committee to discuss options with the CT structural engineering team. Berger proposed January 19, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

The Mayor said he received a call from 1580 Bell Rd. that ditch work needed to be fixed. He thought that in building the two new houses, the ditch had been destroyed. He asked if the Street Commissioner could address this in-house. The Street Commissioner said yes and explained how it would be done.

The Mayor discussed putting up a deaf child sign relative to a home on Bell Rd. He suggested the Safety Committee discuss it. The Chief advised the family had not approached the Village to ask for this.

Regarding the amount approved for the ditch behind the Chillicothe homes, the Fiscal Officer was only able to find a motion by Berger at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting authorizing the Street Commissioner to get bids. She could find nothing indicating Council decided on an amount. The appropriations were not amended because there was enough in storm water. There is \$8,800 in storm water and \$11,000 in storm sewers. The Street Commissioner asked if he could combine this, and the Fiscal Officer explained that the funds could be moved if Council agreed to it. Porter suggested the Street Commissioner take the pipe from the first fund and the contractor out of the second fund as long as he does not go over on either. Bell concurred. **Porter made a motion that the Street Commissioner,**

**Mayor, Fiscal Officer be authorized to enter into an agreement with Horizon Excavating for the purposes of doing storm water remediation on Fairview with a price not to exceed the total sum of the two budget line items dealing with storm water and storm sewer, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE:** Bell reported that at the last Council meeting, the agreement with Dagg Inspections was approved and the resignation of Dan D’Agostino as the Building and Zoning Inspector was requested since he could no longer be an employee. The committee received the resignation dated December 8, 2023, and it is effective Monday, December 11, 2023. **Berger made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Dan D’Agostino effective December 11, 2023, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Bell stated that Chagrin Valley Fire Department asked the Village to require all commercial buildings to have a Knox Box through which they can access facilities in the event of an emergency. Per the Fire Department, the Village is the only member community that does not require this on commercial structures. Council discussed the security of the box relative to who would have access to it. The purpose is to preclude the Fire Department from having to break down the door as well as not having to wait for a facility manager to arrive on scene to open the facility for the Fire Department. The Chief said it is useful for false alarms. The Mayor shared that the email he received explained that the only keys available to open the box are in the possession of the Fire Department. Bell concluded that legislation would need to be drafted if Council agreed to the request.

Bell explained that Bill Gallagher, CT Consultants, was the individual who did the Village’s commercial building plan reviews. CT is dissolving this part of its business, and the Village will still need someone to do the reviews. Gallagher is available to provide his services to the Village independent of CT Consultants. The agreement was distributed to Council for review. Cavanagh asked about Gallagher’s cost, and Bell explained it is essentially a pass-through cost in that the contractor before the Architectural Review Board (ARB) pays the fee. The Solicitor said Gallagher charges \$200 per hour and proposed including a “not to exceed” amount. The Solicitor asked how much the Village charges for the plan reviews, and the Mayor did not know. Bell suggested holding off on the legislation pending further research, but thought it was a no brainer for the Village since it does not cost the Village anything and Gallagher has a historic knowledge of the Village and has the State certification. Porter suggested a not to exceed amount of \$10,000. The Fiscal Officer explained that these costs are monies that the Building Department collects. The plan review is conducted and before the Village releases monies back, it takes out what was paid for the review. If the Village only charged \$250 and the plan review was \$500, the Village will be paying the difference. The Building Department charge needs to be determined. Porter suggested moving forward with a not to exceed of \$10,000 and the Village could amend it as necessary. Berger asked what CT charged when Gallagher was employed with CT for the services. The Solicitor did not know. The Mayor said that Gallagher was still an employee of CT, and Berger asked until what date. The Mayor reiterated that he is still an employee. CT is just eliminating the service. Berger clarified that Gallagher will continue to work for CT but do this as a side job. The Solicitor asked if Gallagher would be doing any of the engineering services for which the Village has a contract with CT. The Mayor did not know. The Solicitor said this would be an issue. If he were to be doing any engineering services under the scope of the engineering contract for CT and also has this business, the Village cannot have both. Clarification was needed. Porter suggested doing a first reading of the ordinance. Galicki thought there was a significant amount of homework to do on the issue. Bell concluded that they would hold off on it.

Berger asked if the Village officially received notice from CT that they are no longer providing these services and as of what date. Bell said the committee had not received this. Berger asked the committee to determine when the termination of the service will be. Galicki noted that this was the second service CT would no longer be providing to the Village and was interested in seeing what impact that would have on the CT contract proposal.

Regarding the certification of funds for Dagg Inspections Services, the Fiscal Officer explained that the Dagg Inspection Services agreement requires certification of an 'up to' dollar amount that the Village will pay. It is in the budget under Salaries and Benefits, so in January it will be necessary to amend the budget. Bell suggested moving this money in Salaries and Benefits over to Other and not exceed what was already budgeted. The Fiscal Officer specified that \$7,462 was budgeted for the Zoning Inspector. **Bell made a motion to allow the Fiscal Officer to certify funds not to exceed \$7,462 relative to the Dagg Inspections Services agreement, seconded by Porter.** Berger clarified it was effective January 1<sup>st</sup> and asked if zoning services would be needed between today and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Bell explained that the Building Inspector would be covering this. The Mayor verified that D'Agostino could sign the agreement the following day, and the Solicitor concurred. There was discussion about the effective date of the contract being January 1, 2024. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Mayor noted a glitch in the Building Department report that would be researched by the Building Department Administrative Assistant.

**POLICE CHIEF:** The Chief distributed his month-end report for October/November. An internal candidate, Officer Michael Kleinknecht, was selected for the School Safety Officer (SSO) position at Gurney Elementary School. His position will be filled by one of the current part-time officers. This action will occur at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

The Mayor noted that the Police Levy passed with 83% support.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE:** Canton reported that the committee met on December 7<sup>th</sup> and the minutes were distributed.

The Chief commented on threatening emails sent to schools across Ohio. The FBI was involved, and it was conveyed that they were false reports.

**Canton made a motion to allow the Chief and Fiscal Officer to go out to bid for a 5-year agreement for License Plate Reader (LPR) services, seconded Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**HR COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh reported that her minutes were distributed. The committee met last Thursday and completed the updated Employee Handbook. It becomes a document that Council can change by motion. Cavanagh addressed the Social Media policy and the decision to allow public comment on the Village's social media platforms. Verbiage was included in the policy to allow the Chief to delete anything inappropriate. The Solicitor explained that right now, people can comment and there is nothing in place. Her concern was that there is a misconception that the Village can simply block something if it is inappropriate. She thought if it met one of the five or six criteria, possibly, but regarding the spread of misinformation, she believed that would be a tough one. She clarified that without the policy, nothing could be taken down from a post. The Solicitor clarified that her concern was about the liability with regard to First Amendment rights. The current cases concern the posting on a public forum where anyone is allowed to say anything within reason, and she wanted to ensure the

Village was not violating anyone's First Amendment rights. The Chief explained that for the most part, the Village's social media accounts receive positive comments. The Fiscal Officer clarified that if the Village wanted to do so, it did not have the option of shutting off public commentary. The Solicitor concurred with exceptions listed in the policy but thought the Village should be careful about how the spread of misinformation is handled. She agreed that this criterion could be kept in the policy but needed to be discussed further. There are currently two public forum cases before the United States Supreme Court.

There were a couple of items that needed to be changed before adopting the policy. There is a reference to a Social Insurance number, which is for Canada. Another item is that it indicates the employee should contact his/her manager, and the Village has supervisors or Department Heads, not managers. The Solicitor provided applicable verbiage for the motion.

Cavanagh explained that the Village has been approving overtime calculations in accordance with the new policy. **Cavanagh made a motion to approve overtime calculations retroactive to 5-1-2023 to jibe with the updated HR policies, seconded by Berger. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Cavanagh said that she submitted her notes and the Fiscal Officer submitted hers. She did not think it was necessary and it was not done for anyone else. The Fiscal Officer clarified that these were just the notes typed by her Administrative Assistant on Friday, and she was not available to review them. With respect to the handbook, there were a lot of changes that needed to be documented.

With regard to the Employee Handbook, the Mayor asked if it should be presented to the employees. The Solicitor said this must be done. The employees must get a copy of it and acknowledge receipt. The Mayor clarified that he was wondering if it should be reviewed with the employees. Berger suggested distributing it to the employees and notifying them that there will be a meeting in January with an opportunity to bring any questions or concerns before the HR Committee.

Cavanagh pointed out that an outdated drug free safety policy was included with the revised handbook. The Fiscal Officer will correct this.

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh distributed her minutes. She referred to the southeast corner of Bell Rd. and Chillicothe Rd. and ideas for it and thought it was in the newsletter asking people what they wanted. The Mayor hoped this was not put in the newsletter and did not think they wanted to open this up.

Cavanagh reported that the committee discussed paths or sidewalks. She reported that the Street Commissioner showed her an LED light configuration that only costs \$300 and makes 26 different patterns. After removing the flags, it would be mounted to the flagpole at the corner. The Street Commissioner advised that they sell out every year and would need to be ordered before December.

**PARKS COMMITTEE:** Cavanagh said that parks are quiet, and people are walking. The committee will switch into high gear as the weather gets better.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE:** Berger reported that the committee met on December 1, 2023, and the minutes were distributed. The Public Utilities Committee meeting for January will be moved to January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Porter advised that Daniel Wise emailed him regarding the solar power project asking about the contract the Village has with NOPEC. He wanted to know how long it was and the rate the Village



pays for electricity. The Mayor said it was \$.06. Porter asked the Fiscal Officer to forward this information to him.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Cavanagh provided a third reading of an ordinance approving the updated and restated and to be amended Employee Handbook to be effective beginning January 1, 2024, as revised. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-85**

Canton introduced a resolution authorizing the sale of personal property not needed by the Village and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2023-86**

Berger introduced an ordinance to move the Advances back in the amount of \$121,000 from the Permissive Fund and \$50,000 from the Culvert Fund back to the Income Tax Fund and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-87**

Berger introduced an ordinance to transfer \$13,329.37 from the Income Tax Fund to the Culvert Fund and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-88**

Berger introduced an ordinance amending the Annual Appropriations increasing State Highway Fund expenses \$10,000, Culvert Fund expenses \$10,000 and Income Tax transfers \$13,329.37 and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2023-89**

Berger introduced a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2023-90**

**BILLS LIST: Berger made a motion to ratify the bills list of November 29, 2023, in the amount of \$127,888.50, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

**NEW/OTHER:**

Porter wished a happy and merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and happy Festivus, to everyone in the Village and worldwide.

**Bell advised he would not be available for the January 22, 2024, Council meeting. Cavanagh made a motion that Chris Bell is allowed to leave for one meeting, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

Bell reflected on the year and thanked the Department Heads, employees, and Council for everything they do for the Village. He appreciated what everyone did for the community.

Berger echoed Bell's comments. He also addressed IT issues and the discussion about moving to be under the umbrella of the County. An ordinance was passed to allocate funds for the ADP program. In the last week or so, the Village was notified of additional concerns and issues relative to the Police Department and how they function. The County is asking that the Police be brought under the umbrella when they originally told the Village that it could be separate. It changes the cost drastically from \$42,000 to \$82,000. In January, the Village is asking that the County come to a Finance Committee meeting to present their change in thinking. He wanted Council to know that while continuing to work on the issues, they are in pause mode until a better understanding can be obtained of why they are asking for changes in the program.

Canton wished everyone a merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a good night to all.


Cavanagh was grateful that they were able to do the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration with all of its issues. She said she enjoyed working with everyone.

Galicki offered a merry Christmas and happy holidays to all and to all a good night.

Canton offered a Christmas quote, "'Tis a poor excuse to pick a man's pocket every 25<sup>th</sup> day of December."

**ADJOURNMENT:** Being that there was no further business before Council, Porter made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

  
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William G. Koons, Mayor

  
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Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki