

Little Miami Fire Board Update (Reported by Mark Kobasuk, Chair)

Fire Chief Terry Ramsey and the Fire Board are exploring ways to reduce the current cost structure of running two fire houses. Chief Ramsey is researching cohabitation with the Anderson Broadwell and Mariemont fire stations. The idea is to share the cost, as we have the highest levy in Hamilton County with the highest cost structure. Residents can expect a levy to be placed on the 2015 ballot. The Newtown, Broadwell, Mariemont and Fairfax fire stations are all very close in proximity. Fire Chief Ramsey did a cost analysis and said it would cost about 4.5 million dollars to run all four fire houses independently. Reduction in staffing will be called for if the levy does not pass.

2015 LMFD Fire Board Appointments

Mr. Harten made a motion for Mark Kobasuk to continue serving as the 2014 Council-appointed designee to the Little Miami Fire District Fire Board. Mr. Short seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to reappoint Terry Fairley, resident-at-large, to the 2014 Little Miami Fire Board. Mr. Short seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Real Estate Tax Bill - Property Tax Statement

Mr. Tiettmeyer asked why the current LMFD Fire Levy shows up on the Real Estate Tax Bill as a *Township* bill. Mr. Kobasuk said it has always been that way and is very deceiving. Mr. Tiettmeyer feels it misleads the residents in terms of what they are paying for. Mr. Kobasuk said this is how the Hamilton County Auditor plugs it and asked Solicitor to look into it and try to have it changed. Solicitor Miller will also see how it reports with other districts.

Hamilton County Communications 2014 Agreement

By approving this agreement, Newtown Police Department agrees with and accepts the updated detail billing plan proposed by the Hamilton County Communications Center. The calculated detail charges for 2014 are \$24,815. This rate will be fixed throughout the year and will not fluctuate.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to approve the 2014 Billing Plan with Hamilton County Communications Center. Mr. Harten seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Executive Session

An Executive Session will be held at the 1.28.2014 Council Meeting to discuss a privileged legal matter with Dinsmore attorneys.

Ordinance, Legal Counsel

Mr. Kobasuk asked Ms. Everett to prepare a spreadsheet comparing legal expenses for 2012 and 2013. In 2013, the Village went with a straight hourly rate versus the retainer amount. It is more advantageous for the Village to remain on a straight hourly rate for the general counsel duties. An hourly rate will be charged on business beyond routine Council matters, e.g., the annexation. Solicitor Miller is happy with this arrangement. Solicitor Miller has kept the rate at \$170 /hr since 2010 and has asked for a \$10.00 per hour increase.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion suspend the rules, seconded by Curt Tiettmeyer. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 01-2014 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION OF LEGAL COUNSEL, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Short seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Council Meetings

Village Council meets twice a month for regularly-scheduled Council meetings. Mr. Kobasuk said meeting once in November and December worked well and asked Mayor Cosby to consider for Council to meet once a month. Mr. Kobasuk said he thought it would help save the Village some money by meeting only once a month. Mayor Cosby said there is a lot of business to address in the beginning of the year, e.g., appropriations and engaging the engineer. Meetings are typically reduced to once a month in the summer and then once a month in November and December. Mr. Kobasuk said it was just a suggestion – the Village of Mariemont meets once a month.

Checklist

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to approve the 01.14.2014 Checklist for \$225,931.17. Mr. Harten seconded the motion.

Discussion

The new Municipal Center has cable and internet service through Cincinnati Bell. The Police Department currently uses Time Warner Cable. Mr. Short asked if we could consider using Cincinnati Bell for both buildings. Chief Synan said the Police Department currently uses Time Warner Cable, but will check with Officer Orso about switching to Cincinnati Bell.

All Aye. Motion Carried.

Finance Committee Update (Reported by Mr. Tiettmeyer)

With many thanks to the successful employers in the Village, the 2013 Municipal Income Tax Year-End was almost \$100,000 higher than 2012, which is the highest since 2007.

Municipal Center Project Update (Reported by Mr. Tiettmeyer)

The Capital Improvement Fund has a little over \$50,000. Once the outdoor railings are finished, the final check will be issued to D.E.R. Development Company, LLC.

Veterans Memorial Agreement (Reported by Mr. Tiettmeyer)

The Finance Committee discussed the fact that there is not a current agreement with the Newtown Veterans Association regarding maintaining the Veterans Memorial at Moundview Park. Mrs. McConnell has agreed to discuss an agreement with the Veterans Association about whose responsibility it will be to maintain the Veterans Memorial.

Liability Insurance (Reported by Mr. Tiettmeyer)

The Finance Committee also discussed the liability insurance. The agreement needs to be approved but changes will need to be made to increase coverage on the Municipal Center. Mr. Zornes will make a motion to approve the insurance tonight, but values for the property will be determined and reported back to Council to approve any changes.

Items To Be Relocated

There are a few items remaining at the Police Department that need to be relocated. Mr. Tiettmeyer took the initiative to compile a list of the items and made a suggestion as to where they could be placed. He said someone questioned whether Mr. Tiettmeyer overstepped his bounds by suggesting where these would be placed. Mr. Tiettmeyer said it was clearly his intent to just suggest where the items would be relocated. A couple of items will need to be reframed, e.g., the Newtown champs baseball jacket and the mammoth tusk. An estimate to reframe these items will be brought back to Council. Mayor Cosby said he would like to have the musket rifle hung in his new office. The placement of other items will be determined later.

Resolution, Electric Work - Police Department Basement

This resolution is for a Scope of Work for electric improvements that need to be made to the basement of the Village Police Station, located at 3536 Church Street. Complete Electric Company submitted the lowest and best proposal for the Police Station Electric Project in the amount of \$1,326.61.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 01-2014 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR ELECTRIC WORK TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Renovations to the Police Department Building

D.E.R. Development Company, LLC submitted the lowest and best proposal for the Police Department Renovation Project in the amount of \$12,800.00. This is for two rooms in the basement.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 02-2014 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Resolution, 2013 Supplemental Appropriations

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Zornes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 03-2014 A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013 AND RECONCILING THE BUDGET AND AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion.

Discussion

Ms. Everett said even though it will not be the final close-out, the third payment from the State of Ohio will be our final payment. A copy of the Certificate of Occupancy, final inspection of the outdoor railings, along with pictures will need to be sent to the State of Ohio in order to receive the final payment.

Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Ray Hamilton Movers

This expenditure was also discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to approve \$870.50 for Ray Hamilton Movers to move old files from the Building Department to the upstairs in the Municipal Center. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Council Minutes

Mr. Zornes made a motion to approve the 12.10.2013 Council Minutes, seconded by Mr. Short. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Resolution, Contract for Liability Insurance

The Council of the Village of Newtown wishes to obtain liability insurance benefits through the Ohio Plan Risk Management administered through Hylant Administrative Services. The liability coverage will be for the Village and for Lake Barber. Insurance coverage shall be effective for the period January 23, 2014 through January 23, 2015.

Mr. Zornes made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Zornes made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 04-2014 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE WITH THE OHIO PLAN RISK MANAGEMENT, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Short seconded the motion.

Discussion

The premium to be paid by the Village for the liability insurance for the Village with the Ohio Plan Risk Management shall not exceed \$22,663.00. The premium to be paid by the Village for the liability insurance for Lake Barber with the Ohio Plan Risk Management shall not exceed \$5,350.00. Ms. Everett said this amount may change, but 5% would be the most it would change. Ms. Everett asked Mr. Short for an estimated value of the Veterans Memorial, which will also be included in the coverage.

Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Human Resources Committee (Daryl Zornes, Chair)

The committee will meet Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30pm to discuss 2014 Salaries and a proposed Performance Management Program.

Maintenance Department Update (Reported by Mr. Dickerson)

- Salt Reserve for 2014: Currently, we have about 100 tons of salt on hand. The Hamilton County Engineer's Eastern Maintenance Facility, located at the corner of Round Bottom Road and SR 32, stores our salt in their dome and has asked that we keep our inventory around 300 tons. Therefore, Mr. Dickerson will order salt in February. The bid amount is \$45.73/ton; depending on the usage over the next month, we may need to order 300 tons.
- Equipment Issues: The salt trucks have needed a few minor repairs, which have been done in-house.

- Water Main Break: There was a recent water main break on Jefferson Street. The Maintenance and Police Department monitored the area for safety reasons until Cincinnati Water Works was able to correct the problem. Due to many water main breaks throughout the city, CWW responded to the break on Jefferson within two days.

ODOT Retro-Reflective Signs

Chief Synan spoke to the numerous retro-reflective signs that have been placed on SR 32 by The Ohio Department of Transportation. There was confusion where Newtown started and ended – the bid was just for them to replace the signs, not add any additional signs. Chief Synan and Lt. McBreen are working to minimize the number and placement of the signs, keeping in mind ODOT's perspective, case law and precedence. Lt. McBreen suggested forming a committee that would consist of himself, Mr. Dickerson and a few members of Council. The committee would discuss with the engineers then have Solicitor Miller and the state review. Mr. Tiettmeyer suggested that the Public Service (Streets) or Public Safety Committee be included. Mr. Tiettmeyer serves on the Public Service (Streets) Committee and said he would be happy to be part of the committee. Mayor Cosby asked to be informed of what committee is assigned to working on the sign issue. Chief Synan reiterated that we need to be careful as to what signs are removed. Mayor Cosby said, ultimately, Solicitor Miller will review to make certain the changes are legal. Mr. Harten recommended the Public Service (Streets) committee be included. Mr. Harten has interest on this issue and would also like to be included. Mr. Short will talk with Lt. McBreen and report back to Council.

Pipe Ballards

Pipe Ballards will be installed to protect the gas meter attached to the Municipal Center that is in front of one of the parking spaces. Mr. Tiettmeyer asked Mr. Dickerson to describe the quote for the ballards. Mr. Dickerson said the quote is for 4" diameter ballards that will have the clean looking yellow sleeves over them.

Moundview – Electric Repair

Mr. Tiettmeyer asked Mr. Dickerson if the budget request for electric repair at Moundview was to repair the outdoor electric sockets/lights around the concession stand. Mr. Dickerson confirmed the request is to repair the lights. Mr. Tiettmeyer said this is a public safety issue and thought this was to have been taken care of last year. Mayor Cosby said a lot of things could be viewed as a safety issue – the light bulbs had been operating in this capacity for the past forty years. Mr. Tiettmeyer said he would think it is a Building Code issue and we are in violation. Mr. Short said he has a bid and it is in the budget to be repaired this year. Currently, to turn the lights on and off, one has to screw in or unscrew the light bulb. The bid is to install proper light sockets and a light switch. Mrs. McConnell asked if the \$1,229 bid is for this specific job. Mr. Short said yes that is the correct bid to specifically repair the light issue. Mr. Kobasuk wanted to approve to repair the lighting issue tonight since it is a safety issue. Mayor Cosby said it has been like that for forty years and should run through the Parks Committee. Mr. Tiettmeyer said, regardless, the lights need to be replaced correctly or turned off completely. After more discussion, the majority of Council decided to make the following motion:

Mr. Short made a motion to approve the bid from Complete Electric to fix the wiring and lighting – remove the existing lights, pipe associated with the wiring under the overhang, install four outdoor fluorescent lighting fixtures, like the fixtures in the large pavilion, install a switch to control the fixtures and install one ground fault (GFCI) interrupter receptacle. Materials and cost are not to exceed \$1,228.41. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Tree Trimming on Little Dry Run

Mr. Kobasuk said the dump is more visible from Little Dry Run with the recent trimming of the trees. He asked Mr. Short and Mr. Dickerson if the Village was contacted in advance or given an opportunity to tell them to trim the trees lightly along the area of the landfills. Mr. Dickerson said we did receive notification from Lewis Tree Service, who is under contract with Duke Energy. Lewis Tree Service is trimming back the trees that could encroach upon the utilities and cause issues. Mr. Dickerson said we do not have any control over what they cut because of the right-of-ways. Mayor Cosby said he asked them to go lightly on the honeysuckle.

Ordinance, Street Commission / Cemetery Sexton

Whereas, the ORC Section 735.31 provides that the mayor of a municipal corporation shall appoint a Street Commissioner for the municipal corporation and such Street Commissioner is to be confirmed by the legislative authority.

Mr. Short made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Short made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 02-2014 AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING A STREET COMMISSIONER AND CEMETERY SEXTON IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Harten-Yes, Mrs. McConnell-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Short-Yes. Motion Carried.

Flag Pole – Municipal Center

Mr. Short said he thought the Municipal Building needs a flag and flag pole. Mr. Short presented an estimate of \$1,744 from Flagpole Manufacturing to Village Council for a new flag, 30' flag pole, concrete base, lighting and a plaque. Mr. Short presented a drawing with the flag pole placed on the side of the digital message sign. Mayor Cosby said the Building Inspector would need to be consulted. Mr. Short said the flag could also be placed on green space. Mr. Tiettmeyer asked if it was a requirement to have a flag pole placed in front of the building or would we be doing it because it is a Municipal Building. Mr. Short said all government buildings have a flag pole and he thought it was the right thing to do. Mr. Tiettmeyer asked if it was a requirement, as we do have a flag pole across the street that represents the Municipal Campus of the Municipal Center and the Police Department. A flag pole and flag is currently placed across the street at the Police Department, which was previously the Village Town Hall.

Mr. Kobasuk asked why this subject was being brought up now. He asked Mr. Tiettmeyer if it was part of the plan with D.E.R. and the renovation to place a flag pole in the front of the building. Mr. Short said he brought it up. Mr. Tiettmeyer said if it is necessary then we should do it, but if it is discretionary, we should discuss it. Mr. Short said is not required. Solicitor Miller said he is not aware there is a requirement that every building have a flag and flag pole. He thought having one flag for the government complex, Municipal Center and Police Department would be sufficient. Ms. Everett said it was not discussed during the renovation process because we do have one currently at the Police Department, which is very visible and close proximity to the Municipal Center. Mrs. McConnell asked Mr. Short if he would get a second bid. Mr. Short said he will get another bid. Mr. Harten said if the drawing presented is true to scale, then the placement of the flag pole is unacceptable. Mr. Harten said a better drawing would need to be presented and more discussion about the placement of the flag would need to take place. Mr. Kobasuk asked for a marker to be placed where the flag pole would potentially be installed so he and others could have a better visual and idea before anything final was decided. Mr. Tiettmeyer said to keep in mind there is no electric in the corner so conduit would need to be run. Chief Synan said he thought it was more important that appropriate actions be taken when dealing with flags, then the amount of flags.

Lake Barber Maintenance

Mr. Kobasuk asked Mr. Dickerson if maintenance at Lake Barber would begin in the springtime. Mr. Dickerson said he was waiting on direction from Council as to what will be done with Lake Barber. Mayor Cosby said it is not currently opened to the public and a plan for maintaining the lake will begin once a timeframe for the engineering is completed. A used John Deere batwing tractor with an attachment for \$3,000 is in the budget, stated Mr. Short.

Martin Marietta Update (Reported by Solicitor Miller)

There are two appeals currently going on – Oral arguments are set for February 3, 2014. Opinions by the Judges should be issued in six to nine months.

Lake Barber (Reported by Solicitor Miller)

Solicitor Miller has had discussions with Mr. Evans attorney about getting the parking lot done. He also talked to Ben Brandstetter – plans for the parking lot, the walkway back and the bridge need to be prepared. (The bridge will be prefab.) Ben thought the engineering fees should not exceed \$10,000. The land has been secured from Doug Hall and the Village has obligations to Mr. Hall to make certain we don't flood his property with water runoff going the wrong way. The Village has received money from Mr. Hall for the property and Mr. Evans owes back rent for the property.

Mr. Harten made a motion to move forward with Brandstetter Carroll for engineering services for the project at Lake Barber, for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Solicitor Miller said Newtown is now responsible for the maintenance at Lake Barker. Doug Evans did one last bush hog on the property last year, per Council's request.

Parks Committee Meeting: Mrs. McConnell, Chair for the committee, called for a meeting to take place at 6:00pm prior to the 1.28.2014 Council Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Transcribed by Becky Fairley