

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
March 11, 2014

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Councilmembers present: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.

Councilmembers absent: Reynolds.

It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Councilmember Reynolds be excused from the meeting.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Mayor Riley presided.

The minutes of the February 11, 2014 Council meeting were presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Frankel, that the minutes be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.
 Abstain: Turner.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Mayor Riley announced the appointment of William West to the Real Estate Committee.

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Schneider, that the appointment of William West to the Real Estate Committee be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1163 in the amount of \$300,960.97 was presented by the Clerk.

It was moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that Pay Ordinance #1163 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

The financial statement for the period ending February 28, 2014 was presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Barnes reviewed certain YTD results, highlighting as follows:

- Revenues through February are \$80,000 behind last year.
- Operating Expenses are \$90,000 over last year. A large factor in the increase relates to Service Department expenses mostly due to the heavy winter.
 - Councilmember Barnes noted that overtime is \$17,000 compared to \$11,000 the year prior and the cost for salt/aggregate/snow removal is \$42,000 versus \$24,000 last year. Additionally, the gasoline expense is \$17,000 compared to last year at this time when the cost was \$200. Finance Administrator Lechman confirmed the higher amount is attributed to a timing issue.
- \$5.7M in Cash and Investments compared to \$5.4M last year.
- Unfunded Debt is down \$100,000 to \$642,000.
- An additional \$147,000 in Inheritance taxes is anticipated which was not included in the Budget.

Mayor Riley began his report by thanking members of Council for participating in the recent work session held on Saturday, March 8th. He expressed that it allowed for a lot of good information to be passed along as well as the receipt of good feedback. He continued his report by noting that as a result of a Staff Meeting that he and Councilmember Schneider had, they plan to review the Employee Handbook and asked if anyone on Council would like to review with the goal of revising the same this year. Councilmember Sogg volunteered. Next, Mayor Riley announced an electronics equipment drop off day would be held on May 17th. Computers, phones, printers and the like would be taken by the Service Department to a deposit site. Lastly, Mayor Riley shared that he will be inquiring with various committees as to their mission, how often they have been meeting, attendance information, etc., to get a sense of whether committees should be consolidated or eliminated in the future.

The Clerk had nothing to report.

Councilmember Schneider announced that the Positively Gates Mills Committee is meeting tomorrow (March 12th) and advised that the Community Awareness Day is being held on May 31st from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. She also noted that they are working to expand it by getting other organizations involved.

Councilmember Welsh had nothing to report on behalf of the Cemetery Committee.

On behalf of the Mayfield Liaison Committee, Councilmember Turner stated the Committee recently met with the Gates Mills Elementary principal and members of the PTO. She shared that they would like to build better bridges between some of the community organizations and the schools noting that it is hard to get new volunteers. Councilmember Turner shared an idea to host meetings with various community clubs such as the Improvement Society to promote synergy in terms of volunteerism and to promote the school. She advised that the number of students attending Gates Mills Elementary is low with a total number of

students this year being 108 -- 38 are from Gates Mills. Last year there were 132 students. Councilmember Sogg highlighted that the Garden Club is very active with regard to the school.

Councilmember Welsh, in planning this year's band concert, stated that he wanted to include children-friendly programs and work to increase attendance. Mayor Riley suggested he meet with Councilmembers Welsh and Reynolds during the first week of April to discuss further.

Police Chief Whitmer provided a written report. He stated there were 384 billable calls this month compared to 534 last month. He advised that, over time, the decrease in calls should reduce costs. In response to Councilmember Welsh's inquiry, Police Chief Whitmer confirmed that GPS units have not been installed in police vehicles. Mayor Riley asked if the reduction of calls holds for a year, if the percentage in Chagrin Valley Dispatch would decrease. Police Chief Whitmer stated such percentage could go down by 1.5-2% and could possibly be more. Mayor Riley stated the Village is currently paying approximately 18%. Police Chief Whitmer said the goal is to get the Village's percentage down to the 15% range. Mayor Riley asked what the total cost is. Finance Administrator Lechman responded \$112,000. Mayor Riley summarized such possible reduction could result in a potential \$10,000 savings for the Village.

A written report was provided by Service Director Biggert. Councilmember Frankel expressed his concern with regard to an Ohio Valley Energy truck that has been located on Gates Mills Boulevard for the past few weeks. Service Director Biggert advised that he has put a call into Ohio Valley Energy regarding the same and noted he did observe them working with the truck recently. He stated he would try to get more response from Ohio Valley. Service Director Biggert requested Village Engineer Courtney to address the 2014 Road Paving Program. Village Engineer Courtney indicated that there is \$150,000 budgeted for annual road repairs and would like Council to consider advertising for bids. He explained that he was just authorized by Hunting Valley to bid for their road program. He believes that putting both programs out to bid at the same time may result in cost savings. Village Engineer Courtney hopes to have contract recommendations available by next month's Council meeting. In response to Councilmember Frankel's question regarding engineering fees, Village Engineer Courtney explained such fees are included in the \$150,000 budget.

It was moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that an advertisement for bids be placed in connection with the 2014 annual road program.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Sogg commended the Service Department for the wonderful job they have done on the roads. Councilmember Welsh questioned if the Village had enough road salt. Service Director Biggert indicated the supply of salt was good and that he intends to try and stock up as much as possible in anticipation of his concerns of possible higher salt prices next year.

Fire Chief Robinson provided a written report. Citing that although the incident did not occur in February, Mayor Riley requested Fire Chief Robinson report on the recent fire on Old

Mill Road. Fire Chief Robinson stated the cause of the fire was due to poor construction/reconstruction of a fireplace. He noted that a fire had occurred at the same residence years ago due to the same cause. Chief Robinson further reported that not a lot of damage occurred as the residents were home at the time. He confirmed that the smoke detectors alarmed. He said that the Building Department will be involved in the next fireplace rebuild so it will meet code. The Fire Department has been working with Village homeowners installing smoke detectors. Councilmember Sogg suggested the topics of obtaining permits and inspections be addressed in the *Pink Sheet*.

Fire Chief Robinson then provided a report on the recent process with the Insurance Service Office (“ISO”). He stated that the ISO ranks fire departments. The process of ranking includes looking at the water system, communications, and department operations. Last time the Fire Department received a ranking of 6. Fire Chief Robinson explained the ranking system is between 1 and 10 with 10 being the worst ranking and 1 being the best. Acknowledging the members of the department for their hard work and commitment to training, he announced that the Fire Department received a ranking of 4 which takes effect in June. He advised that information regarding the same will be available on the Village’s website and will also be included in the *Pink Sheet*. The ranking may allow property owners to receive reduced insurance rates. Additionally, Fire Chief Robinson noted the improved ranking was also attributed to the move to Chagrin Valley Dispatch as well as fire prevention activities and record keeping.

Councilmember Welsh made a request to advertise for bids to repair or replace the tennis courts. Councilmember Welsh expressed his appreciation to Resident Clark Langmack for the work he has done. Councilmember Frankel raised the idea of regionalization and reminded Council that the Mayfield Heights courts are available to Gates Mills’ residents. Councilmember Frankel shared his concerns relating to Capital Improvement costs as well as his sensitivity to the Budget. He also presented the suggestion as a possible fundraising effort of naming the court after someone. Councilmember Welsh stated this request was only for bids and shared his support of the tennis courts included his family’s willingness to pay for it via property taxes. Councilmember Frankel expressed his support to get bids but wants to keep the Budget in mind.

Mayor Riley stated that the bids would allow for better evaluation in and requested Service Director Biggert to also obtain an estimate for the teardown of the courts for comparison purposes. Service Director Biggert stated that he has met with the contractor that did the Mayfield Heights courts and should have specs early next week to review and discuss with Village Engineer Courtney. He also advised that he has received suggestions from residents for possible contractors.

Councilmember Welsh expressed his view that the tennis courts are an asset to Gates Mills and should be maintained and not allowed to deteriorate.

Councilmember Turner asked what the cost for advertisement would be. Service Director Biggert responded less than \$500. Mayor Riley inquired as to the minimum bid time in hopes to resolve the issue at the April meeting. Law Director Cannon stated that the ad runs for two consecutive weeks. Mayor Riley requested efforts be made to be able to have an analysis available for the April meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Schneider, that an advertisement be placed for bids.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Ordinance #2014-01 entitled “An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1313 Of The Building And Housing Code To Amend The Proceedings Of The Architectural And Historic Board Of Review”, was presented by Councilmember Schneider and given its third reading by the Clerk.

It was moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that Ordinance #2014-01 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Ordinance #2014-03 entitled “An Ordinance Amending Several Provisions Of The Building And Housing Code” was presented by Councilmember Schneider, and given its second reading by the Clerk. The explanation was provided that certain Village building codes need to be brought in line with the State’s codes. Only proposed changes will be distributed. In response to Mayor Riley’s question, Councilmember Schneider advised that a public meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Ordinance #2014-04 entitled “An Ordinance An Ordinance Adding Chapter 1377 Of The Village Of Gates Mills Building Code” was presented by Councilmember Schneider, and read by the Clerk. Councilmember Schneider requested Fire Chief Robinson discuss this proposed Ordinance and noted that the Safety Committee agreed to bring this matter to Council. Fire Chief Robinson explained that instead of the code that requires a smoke detector, the code should require a photoelectric detector. Fire Chief Robinson provided explanation that photoelectric detectors respond quicker and are safer. Additionally, he advised that the Fire Department has been installing them. Councilmember Sogg asked if this change in code would require changing ones that are currently in homes. Chief Robinson responded no and confirmed that it would apply to new construction only. Confirmation was provided upon Councilmember Welsh’s question if the Fire Department would supply the photoelectric detectors, that the Fire Department has been supplying the same. Fire Chief Robinson stated that the Department had 330 detectors and now has 80. Councilmember Schneider highlighted that the Fire Department will install smoke detectors free of charge. Service Director Biggert indicated new construction would require wired units with battery backup.

Ordinance #2014-05 entitled “An Ordinance Giving Notice Of Termination By The Village Of Gates Mills Of Its Participation In The Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network (Span) And Declaring An Emergency”, was presented by Councilmember Schneider and given its first reading by the Clerk. She explained this Ordinance is to sever the Village’s membership with the SPAN communities. Councilmember Schneider stated that Police Chief Whitmer and Executive Lieutenant Gregg Minichello made a presentation to the Safety Committee of moving

from SPAN to Valley Enforcement Group (“VEG”) which is a group under Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Police Chief Whitmer advised he would continue to stay in touch with SPAN and explained that SPAN has only 6 members whereas VEG has 16 partners. He added that VEG represents a larger resource pool and offers cost savings. He indicated the current cost with SPAN is \$14,000 and the cost for VEG is \$7,000 with an initial fee of \$14,000 to be paid over two years. Mayor Riley shared that VEG is parallel with Chagrin Valley Dispatch in terms of efficiency and coordination. Police Chief Whitmer replied no when Councilmember Welsh asked if there would be any loss or gain in services and if additional training would be required.

Ordinance 2014-06 entitled “An Ordinance Authorizing The Mayor And Clerk To Enter Into An Agreement To Join The “Valley Enforcement Regional Council Of Governments,” For The Purpose Of Jointly Establishing And Operating The “Valley Enforcement Group” With Other Political Subdivisions, Appointing A Representative And Alternate Representative To The Council And Declaring An Emergency”, was presented by Councilmember Schneider and given its first reading by the Clerk.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that an advertisement be placed for bids for slag.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Business from the audience: Clark Langmack thanked Council for paying attention to the tennis courts. He questioned Councilmember Frankel as to what he would like to see with regard to the tennis courts. Councilmember Frankel replied *utilization* (spelling corrected at April 15 special meeting), cost and regionalization. Resident Langmack questioned if this was the forum to respond to Councilmember Frankel’s concerns. Mayor Riley suggested that the April Council meeting, when more information is available, would be the best time for Mr. Langmack to plan to respond and share his comments.

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Frankel, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Frankel, Schneider, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Shawn M. Riley, Mayor