

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
April 15, 2025

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Village Town Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

1. Roll Call starts at 2:09

Councilmembers present: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.

Other Village officials present were Clerk DeCapite, Service Director Biggert (arrived at 6:09 p.m.), Police Chief Minichello, Fire Chief Majeski (arrived at 6:09 p.m.), Finance Administrator Mulh, Village Engineer Courtney, and Law Director Hunt.

2. State Representative Dan Troy - Issue 2 starts at 2:53

Representative Troy encouraged support for State Issue 2 which will be on the ballot May 6. Issue 2 is a renewal of the Ohio Public Works program and would increase infrastructure project funds to \$250 million per year for the next ten years for a total of \$2.5 billion. Over the life of this program, since the late 1980's, the Village of Gates Mills has received \$2.526 million in grants and \$87,000 in loans - the biggest project was Phases I and II of the water main installation. Issue 2 is not a bond issue in terms of our normal understanding of a bond issue. Issue 2 is not a tax increase. The debt service limit in the Ohio Constitution is 5%. Ohio is currently at about 2.5%, and as bonds are being retired, that goes down. This will be underwritten by the existing revenues of the State of Ohio over the next ten years. The program is one of the greatest ideas the State of Ohio has come up with because money goes to all communities. Decisions on where these dollars are spent are not made in Columbus - they are made at the local level through your local integrating committee.

At 7:02 Representative Troy discussed the current budget bill and offered to answer any questions. Councilmember Press asked about traffic cameras and changing/setting up our own school district. Councilmember Turner thanked Dan Troy for voting no on the budget bill, and asked about Issue 2 funds going to Brookpark for the Browns stadium infrastructure.

3. Minutes of Special Council Meeting of February 10, 2025 starts at 20:55

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the February 10, 2025, minutes and Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.
Abstain: Onysko
Nays: None
Motion carried.

4. Minutes of Special Council Meeting of March 13, 2025 starts at 21:44

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes and Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.
Abstain: Onysko
Nays: None
Motion carried.

5. Minutes of Special Council Meeting of March 16, 2025 starts at 22:15

Councilmember Turner moved to approve the March 16, 2025 minutes and Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.
Abstain: Onysko
Nays: None
Motion carried.

6. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of March 18, 2025 starts at 22:45

Mayor Siemborski noted on Page 8, Item 17, last line, the word “reward” should be “award”.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the March 18, 2025 minutes as amended. Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.
Abstain: Deacon, Onysko.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

7. Pay Ordinance # 1296 \$518,367.98 starts at 23:45

Councilmember Atton noticed we are already paying the firm that we will discuss later tonight to help us with IT support and asked what the payment was for. The Mayor responded they help us now with our current services.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Pay Ordinance #1296. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

8. Mayor’s Report starts at 24:45

a. TechSpert Data Services LLC - Adam Siemienski

Currently most of our IT administrative work is done by Jean Misch and Detective Sergeant Mike Day and supplemented on an ad hoc basis with services provided by TechSpert Data. Enhancements required by insurance companies and law enforcement necessitate more formal organized services and better security over those services. This year about \$35,000 was budgeted to engage a company to perform IT managed services in a more holistic way. A RFP was prepared and four firms responded. Costs were comparable. There is a preference for TechSpert Data because of the work they have done with the village already.

At 27:46 Adam Siemienski, owner of TechSpert Data, highlighted the IT managed services and cyber security proposal and offered to answer any questions:

Broome - If we were to fall victim to a ransomware attack, would we have enough offsite storage to start all over again? Yes

Hunt - There is an indemnification clause in the Master Agreement, and we, as a municipality, cannot agree to indemnify. Mr. Siemienski will change that. Do you interface with our cyber insurance coverage? We walk our partners through the policy questionnaire.

Press - Does retaining your services affect the cyber insurance policy premium? It should lower it.

Steinbrink - Do we have a server on site here or is everything in the cloud? Town Hall, basically village services, is on one network. The Police Dept is on a separate network and has an on-site server. When the server needs to be replaced, capital expenditure versus migration cost will be looked at.

Broome - Do you guys look for any intrusion - for instance, someone changes routing numbers to divert funds? We have several layers of protection. We would know somebody was in the network before bad things start happening.

Onysko - Having 35 years in software and computer services, there are some hardware and software choices he would like to strongly encourage. He suggested, and it was agreed to, spending a couple of hours with Adam and Detective Day to pull our combined resources together.

Deacon - Once you know somebody is in, what happens? We try not to ever let that happen, and it hasn't to this point. If a hacker were to get into one machine, he's going to try to use the same credentials to go to the next machine, and he's not going to be able to. The hacker will get out and go to somebody easier. It's very easy to replace one machine.

Hunt - Do you have other local government clients? No, Gates Mills has been a client for over 20 years.

b. Encore starts at 40:57

This will be Encore's 10th anniversary. This year's theme includes song and dance. The locations within the village where they intend to put on their program are in keeping with last year - Improvement Society annual meeting, summer camp, Burton Court pop ups, and the final show - the camerata - at the Community House. There will be a charge this year for the camerata. The Mayor's request to about 25 residents for donations has been fruitful. There is a soft expectation that the village would help Encore raise about \$25,000. Resident Jerry Bohinc added Encore is considered to be one of the top three best prodigy training programs in the world.

c. Pedestrian Bridge starts at 44:52

Our 110-year-old bridge is safe and sound but needs some work. It is owned by the village, and we have the responsibility for maintaining it. We have contracted for about \$5,000 with Isaac Lewin, the structural engineer who last did repairs in 2009, to provide an update on the structural condition and cost of repairs. Onsite inspection was rained out last week and is rescheduled for this Friday. The cost will be a big number. The Historical Society asked for \$1,500,000 in state funds a few years ago to do repairs and paint. That money was not made available to the village. We will be going down that path again - perhaps with different sources, private donations or foundations.

d. Senior Services starts at 47:09

Five or six years have passed since Council last discussed senior services. This Council has given the Mayor the go ahead to relook at the subject. Resident Joy Banish assisted in obtaining the proposal in Council's packet from Community Partnership on Aging - a well-respected organization supported by 6-8 municipalities in our neighborhood. The proposal contains a menu of services and the cost for those services. There might be things we don't need or things that are not on the menu. The Mayor has spoken to four or five residents who are interested in working with him in evaluating what senior services we might need here, and they will meet in the next 2-3 weeks. We don't have Meals on Wheels access or any transportation services. If any Councilmember or resident wants to be included in the conversation, please let the Mayor know. There will be two or three meetings to survey what is needed and then come back to Council with a recommendation. We don't have anything in this year's budget - it doesn't mean we wouldn't find room for it if it was of such high demand. It was the last comprehensive plan priority out of 21. Discussion:

Press - Thinks the service provider is more of a middleman who acts as a traffic cop to put you in touch with other service providers as opposed to being a service provider themselves. He is guessing our demographics are different than those of the other communities who participate - we are older and have a higher median income.

Atton - Census suggests we have 300 people living in the village who are 75 or older. We already offer scheduled welfare checks, and that ought to be publicized more clearly. It's buried in the police section of the website and people may not know it exists. We ought to dig into services we already offer - not wait for a new program.

Onysko - The price of this versus what it opens up to seniors is a no-brainer. He is dumbfounded that we don't have these services and that they ranked last on the comprehensive plan priority list.

Turner - Suggested talking with some of the other communities that have used these services and ask what their experience has been and what services are used.

Broome - A lot of people provide for their own needs. A family member had experience with Meals on Wheels and it was great. We do have older residents who need help with transportation. We may need a different suite of services.

Turner - The group that is closest to providing these kinds of services is the Community Club - bringing older residents to monthly luncheons and doing outreach calls. It'd be important to have Cathy DiVincenzo or one of the Board members be at the table. We don't want to duplicate what they are doing.

Deacon - Meals on Wheels seems like a no-brainer and she was surprised we didn't have it. It's \$12,000 per year.

Atton - Safety and combating isolation is important. Intergenerational programs are beneficial to both sides. The city of Independence has a marvelous menu of senior services.

e. Post Office Lease starts at 59:15

The post office hires an outside firm to negotiate leases. In this case it's Jones Lang LaSalle, and they have sent a letter of intent to renew the lease. The person to whom they're negotiating also pays their bill and it's not inexpensive. The current lease expires in two years on March 31, 2027. Service Director Biggert would like to see something in the lease to cover timely payment of wastewater treatment charges.

A resident made comments about service. Councilmember Broome, in response to a resident inquiry, spoke with the Postmaster and while there have been challenges in hiring, they are working to get staffing sorted out.

9. Financial Report attached and on the website starts at 1:06:30

Mayor Siemborski reported we have been fortunate in two ways. First, after a lag in timing, we do know what we will get in real estate taxes for the year and it will be near the \$2,785,000 budgeted. Second, we have received \$100,000 that we had not budgeted - \$62,000 came from the Ohio Emergency Management System as reimbursement for costs of the August 6th storm, and \$42,000 came from the Northeastern Ohio Regional Sewer District for various reimbursements we had applied for.

The Mayor is putting up the yellow caution flag on our camera receipts. We had budgeted \$1,520,000 - roughly the same number as last year. Receipts have been lower this year than last year for three months; total traffic on Mayfield Road in the first three months is down about 6%; events that create a potential ticket are down; and the number of citations are down. We did see the month of March pick up again in citations. We are sustaining the speed limit at 45ish mph, which again was the primary objective. We need to be aware and cautious about what we do spend money on. The Police Chief explained why all events are not cited when asked by Councilmember Press. Various Councilmembers pointed out the success of the program means less tickets being given.

10. Clerk's Report - None

11. Police Department Report attached and starts at 1:17:19

Police Chief Minichello read his report and added details. He does not believe the full-time police officer anticipated to be sworn in is going to happen, and we'll be going back to square one. Sergeant Day secured an additional \$10,900 grant for body cameras. Our pickup truck should be in service in about three weeks. Dorothy Slunski, after 32 years of service, is enjoying retirement. Robin Berke is working out well. Councilmember Press mentioned again residents should get a certain number of house checks for free, but the perpetual users ought to be paying for the house checks.

12. Service Department Report attached and starts at 1:21:36

Service Director Biggert was asked by the Mayor to provide first quarter 2025 recycling results at a future meeting and then every quarter or six months, so we can compare to last year and see improvement since the tote program started.

In regard to 640 Chagrin River Road - it went to the Architectural Review Board this month (April). They did not approve it. The hope was to get the revisions done and then have it in front of the Historical Review Committee tomorrow. The architect has done the revisions and gotten them to the homeowner. The homeowner has not responded back to the architect to say they agree with the revisions. The architect asked for it to be pulled off the agenda for tomorrow. Service Director Biggert told the architect we will work on doing a special meeting or two once he gets something to us. The target date for the continuation is June.

13. Fire Department Report attached and starts at 1:24:33

Fire Chief Majeski reported that last night an enormous tree fell on a house on Woodstock leaving the house uninhabitable. The resident had to be evacuated. The tree looked like it was live at the top, but the root structure looked dead. If you have any of those large trees around your house, it would be a good idea to have them inspected on a regular basis.

14. Committee Reports starts at 1:27:36

a. Broadband (Councilmember Deacon)

- The agreement approved last month is effective April 17th - 30 days after passage since there was no emergency clause.
- We're working with Chagrin Valley Gig on marketing and communication and setting up timetables for required meetings and deliverables. CVG is looking at doing informational office hours at Town Hall over the summer to answer resident questions.

Councilmember Onysko, having first hand experience with fiberoptic installation at his own home, was pleasantly surprised with the contract and the monthly rates. He thinks CVG will have boring problems going down County Line Road. Councilmember Deacon replied CVG has developed some special equipment to address underground boring problems - so far they haven't had any trouble in Hunting Valley. Councilmember Onysko advised residents should understand the rates are not replacing their entire cable bill - just the internet amount. CVG rates should be cheaper with much better speeds.

- b. Tree Canopy (Councilmember Turner) starts at 1:31:50
- Progress update on the removal of invasives project at four sites - first cut at Feller Field and at the Gates Mills/Cleveland Metroparks site on Chagrin River Road north of Mayfield Road has been done. At the end of this week, cutting and thrashing at the Land Conservancy property (old Merkel property) should be starting. In mid-May cutting with a chainsaw followed by foliar spray on the ground cover will be done at the Village Arboretum.
 - We have contracted with PlanItGeo to compare satellite images from 2013 and 2023 to estimate the change in total tree canopy. Each property in the village can be segmented so homeowners can see where they stand and hopefully become engaged to improve their tree canopy. There will be an article in the May Pink Sheet by Erick Carlson about the subject.
 - Holden Forests & Gardens is making a presentation on caring for your woodlands for Cuyahoga County residents here at the Community House on May 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We are inviting Bartlett Tree, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, GM Land Conservancy, ODNR, and others to be there to exhibit.

Councilmember Atton asked what is being discussed at the Land Conservancy these days. We never hear. Councilmember Turner responded the last meeting was a lot of administrative stuff to comply with the Land Trust Alliance requirement to have a management plan for each property in order to keep our certification. Councilmember Atton asked if the Land Conservancy was thinking about putting deed restrictions on all the in fee properties that the Land Conservancy owns. Councilmember Turner replied that was discussed and tabled. Councilmember and Land Conservancy Board Member Broome expounded on the deed restriction discussions and rationale that led to tabling the subject.

- c. Wastewater (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:46:22
- The Hunt Club has asked for a revised schedule to discuss and negotiate with them. That's to be set.
 - Work is being done on the wastewater rate ordinance. The goal is to replace the complex rate calculation with a simple formula for all of our users based on something that is already publicly published. That rate has to be approved by the Ohio EPA as part of their review of our applications.
- d. Finance/Budget (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:47:58
- Next meeting to be set up for the week of May 12th
- e. Safety (Mayor Siemborski) starts at 1:48
- Next meeting is May 7th
- f. Service (Mayor Siemborski)
- Next meeting to be chaired by Doug Horner - will probably be early May

15. Resolution No. 2025-14 (First Reading) starts at 1:48:43

"A Resolution Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2025" was read by Mayor Siemborski. We are committing to work with whomever ODOT picks as the provider of salt. We received this contract last week and it is due

back to ODOT on May 2nd, so we'll also ask for suspension of the rules. The Service Director added we will commit to 2100 tons and agree to purchase a minimum of 90% and maximum of 110%. Last year we committed to 900 tons because we had a full bin of 700 tons and 400 tons stored.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-14 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-14 and Councilmember Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

16. **Resolution No. 2025-15 (First Reading)** starts at 1:53:11

“A Resolution Declaring it Necessary to Renew an Existing 3.5 Mill Tax Levy for the Purpose of Current Expenses Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.19(A) and 5705.191, Requesting the County Fiscal Officer to Certify the Total Current Tax Valuation of the Village and the Dollar Amount of Revenue that Would be Generated by that Renewal Levy, and Declaring an Emergency” was read by the Mayor. This does not put the tax levy on the ballot. This essentially asks the auditor to certify the values and to let us know what that amount would be. This would be the seventh renewal of a levy passed in 1996. This generates \$700,000 for the village. We are fortunate to be able to renew our levies rather than asking for either replacement or new levies which are more expensive to our taxpayers.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2025-15 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Atton addressed timing. This levy could be renewed as late as November 2026. We put these renewals on the ballot a year earlier than absolutely necessary, and he has been told that is the practice because if it fails the first time, we have another shot. In the case of the land conservation levy, the renewal is on the same schedule. Traditionally we've waited to put it on the ballot until the last possible opportunity. Why wouldn't we advance the land conservancy levy if we're advancing this one?

Siemborski - Thinks it's smart and wise to do them in advance, so that we do have the ability if it does not pass to go back once or twice. We only have two revenue sources in the village, and we don't have the ability to quickly turn on something else.

Press - Agreed, but there's an argument for consistency. If we do one, we should do the other one.

Siemborski - As to the conservancy levy, he doesn't know that the conservancy and the village have spent enough of the money that has been given to them in a manner that's consistent with what people might expect. We took a while to get the tree invasives program off the ground - we're spending \$180,000 over three years on four pilots. He thinks it's a stronger case a year from now to be able to say here is how the money has been spent between the Land Conservancy and the village, as opposed to doing that a year early and saying we'll keep doing more of this next year.

Press - There's some logic to that, but the conservancy levy passes by a wide margin.

Turner - Another argument for waiting on the conservancy levy is that the agreement between the Land Conservancy and the village could change.

Steinbrink/Deacon - There were terms in the agreement that we agreed to review at the end of the term. They disagree with going to the voters now to ask for approval when we don't know where we stand with the terms of the agreement.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2025-15 and Councilmember Press seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Onysko, Press, Steinbrink, Turner.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

17. Resolution No. 2025-16 (First Reading) starts at 2:01:08

"A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Professional Services Agreement with TechSpert Data Services LLC for Managed Information Technology Services" was read by the Mayor.

Councilmember Press, thinking we're not an informed consumer, would prefer to hear what Councilmember Onysko has to say before approving this. Councilmember Onysko offered to look under the hood and take a look within the next 30 days. Councilmember Broome repeated the need to delete the indemnification clause and stated we ought to accelerate passage if it looks good under the hood, because we need to get these protections in place before something happens.

Resolution No. 2025-16 remains on first reading.

18. Ordinance No. 2025-17 (First Reading) starts at 2:03:15

"An Ordinance Amending Section 155.03, Water Debt Service Fund, of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Gates Mills" was read by Mayor Siemborski. This fund was set up over 20 years ago to provide for the debt service proceeds and then the debt service payments on the bonds that we used to build the water system. Those bonds have been paid for at least five years. There's \$277,000 sitting in the fund. In the meantime, the village seems to have one or two very costly water problems every year. Fortunately, we've been able to pay those bills from the general fund. The goal here is to see whether we could use some of the money destined for water fund purposes to be

used for large repairs, replacements, ongoing operations, and maintenance in excess of \$25,000. There are two approaches to accomplishing that goal - 1) ask a judge to disband the water fund or 2) the path we chose, change the language of the water fund to allow for the fund balance to be used for the purposes mentioned in excess of \$25,000. Discussion:

Atton - Prefers the money go back to the general fund where plenty of uses are available.

Press - Are we able to invest the \$277,000? Yes, it is invested.

Steinbrink - This fund will never go away. If someone taps in, those dollars are received into this fund. Are there other funds that are cordoned off that we could use similar language that would allow us access? Mayor Siemborski replied it's taken us a while to wrestle with this. Nothing out there is of this magnitude.

Ordinance No. 2025-17 remains on first reading.

19. Ordinance No. 2025-18 (First Reading) starts at 2:13:33

"An Ordinance Amending Chapter 131, Council, of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Gates Mills" was read by the Mayor. The Mayor had canvassed Council in advance on electronic/virtual meetings. No one said no. Many said it is worth talking about. The Law Director drafted language, so we have something to look at. Discussion:

Press - He is a yes, but we need to agree on some guidelines that would not go into the ordinance. It should be used by exception rather than as a rule. Big issues should be faced in person. It's a tool that we need in our golf bag.

Steinbrink - He has a more limited view. This would only be used if we could not make a quorum.

Onysko - This being right up his alley, he provided initial considerations for policy design. Some Councilmembers may face challenges adapting to virtual attendance - particularly those less familiar with remote platforms. Allowing for virtual attendance now anticipates future needs including potential health crisis (future-proofing). Regarding potential abuse, the policy should be designed with one or two future Councils in mind where attendance patterns may differ - virtual attendance should require prior approval and there should be an approval process. It would be the responsibility of each Councilmember, not the village, to ensure they have reliable internet connection at home or abroad. There should be a sanity check for poor and unreliable connections - disruptions should not exceed x minutes. If remote connection fails or is inadequate, the Councilmember should not be permitted to vote as they are probably missing pertinent parts of the meeting. YouTube is suitable for public viewing and archival, but not ideal for interactive. The preferred tool would be Microsoft Teams, not Zoom. Minimal setup requirement needed is a computer monitor with audio capability visible to the recording camera. This is from the technological and historical perspective, not an endorsement - any in-person meeting is far superior.

Press - If we had a meeting where everyone was electronic, we should have a facility for public participation. All agreed.

Turner - Her previous canvass of 10 communities in the area revealed 7 do not allow for virtual meetings. Those 7 communities have more than one meeting in a month. The three communities that do allow virtual meetings all have only one meeting a month - like we do.

Broome - Are committee meetings included? Yes, if they want it. We had discussed enhancing public notifications within our ordinance sections when we were talking about potential alternatives to the charter amendment. We ought to look at the public notification section of this ordinance with an eye to that.

Mulh - Is a "Council committee" just a committee of Councilmembers? No clear answer.

Deacon - We have to go back to the charter and determine what those committees are. ARB? P&Z?

Broome - Committee meetings are where you're going to have more people wanting to attend virtually because we're having substantive discussions. That's going to be the place where this rule meets the road. He thinks we're going to have mostly in person attendance on Council.

Deacon - Virtual attendance is a good idea, but she would limit it to one or two meetings annually. The public has a right to see and to talk to us other than online. Councilmembers should be trusted to monitor those reasons themselves. The quorum idea per Councilmember Steinbrink is a little too restrictive, especially when we have special meetings that come up quickly. The major downside of missing a meeting is that you can't vote. The right to vote should be allowed with virtual attendance.

Broome - This may help get greater committee participation from volunteers. Agreed.

Law Director Hunt has enough information to go back and give us a second turn at the ordinance.

Ordinance No. 2025-18 remains on first reading.

20. Other Council Matters starts at 2:30:34

Councilmember Press stated he doesn't think we've discussed any of the 2025 priorities we laid out earlier this year. The Mayor replied we have addressed many of the items on the 2025 priority listing, but you're saying we haven't a scorecard to tally the progress we have made. We can do that.

21. Business from the Audience starts at 2:32:35

Resident Dr. Duanjak remembers the village continued to pay for home security system monitoring provided by American Security when dispatch services were moved to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Are we still paying for that? If so, why? It's been a long time and she thinks the village should stop that practice. Residents should take responsibility to pay for themselves.

The Mayor answered yes, the village still pays. The number of homes has been worked down. When people move out or sell their homes, that service is no longer provided. We can advise the remaining residents in advance that we are no longer going to provide that service at a certain date, if that's the way Council wants to go. The Mayor is happy to come back to Council with more details so we can make a decision. The Police Chief advised the cost is \$9 per month per household and currently totals about \$20,000 per year. As part of the contract, all village buildings that are alarmed are free. When the contract ends, the village will have to pay for monitoring of our buildings.

Resident Chuck Spear objects to holding Council meetings in this room and is an advocate of the Community House. Tonight is a dull agenda, and we are down to five available chairs. A better agenda will pack this room.

Regarding our virtual meeting ordinances, Mr. Spear advised HB257 signed in January by our governor permits virtual meetings in a broad but not limitless range of situations. The limit is explained in a memorandum from the law firm Bricker Graydon, and he quotes "the law restricts certain public bodies from meeting virtually. For example, elected public bodies cannot meet virtually. This precludes county commissions, municipal councils, and boards of township trustees from meeting virtually". Does HB257 stand in your way of your ordinance? Probably not. But HB257 makes a point - voters ought to be able to attend the meetings of their elected representatives face to face. Home rule probably allows you to shut us out, but I don't think it's the right thing to do.


Resident Jerry Bohinc stated Congress in the last few days absolutely forbids remote participation in congressional actions. The ability to communicate with someone and hold their attention is significantly greater when you are face to face. The crisis with this kind of leeway would come if you're soft on who can vote and who can't vote and you have a contested vote.

Councilmember Onysko stated it's a generational thing. The face to face is something this audience is used to. We've got some rough times in the next generation that comes right after him in terms of face to face having the same meaning as we do here. We have to be a bit flexible on that and think in the future.

22. Adjourn


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

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor