

## **Bethel Village Council February 9, 2009**

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers in the Bethel Municipal Building on Monday, February 9th, 2009 with Mayor John Swarthout presiding.

The meeting was video taped, to be aired on cable television.

Mayor Swarthout called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Mr. Ausman delivered the invocation followed by Mayor Swarthout leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following were counted as present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, James Dick. Also present: Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton and Solicitor George Leicht. Council member Tim Cherry was absent.

A motion to approve the minutes from January 26, 2009, as corrected, was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Nil

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Mayor Swarthout**

Thanks to the public works employees for a job well done, during the recent snow and ice events.

#### **Village Administrator, Travis Dotson**

The public works employees have been busy getting the roads treated. They may be able to begin disposing of limbs with the chipper this week. The pothole has been patched in front of Bethel Feed.

The ice storm damaged the Sycamore tree at Burke Park. When it was discovered the tree was hollow, one of the public works employees converted the tree to a playhouse. A beehive in the tree was relocated to a local beekeeper.

#### **Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton**

Nil.

#### **Solicitor, George Leicht**

Nil.

#### **Police Chief Planck**

John Kopkowski, the man recently charged by Bethel police with possessing child pornography, has been captured at a VA Hospital in San Diego, California. He is awaiting extradition back to Ohio.

#### **Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The committee met this evening. Various topics were discussed, including health insurance renewal, FEMA funds, and bonding.

The committee recommends Ordinance 1619 Authorizing the Transfer of FEMA funds be passed as an emergency. The legislation is before Council this evening. The Village received \$14577 in January for debris removal during the September windstorm, and more reimbursements should be forthcoming for utility work and building damage.

The Village's health insurance renews 3/1/2009. The current Humana plan premium did decrease by 1 ½ %, though our benefit representative, Susan Fuller, recommends the Village go with a different, yet comparable, Humana plan, with a 9% premium decrease. The new plan is the same as the current plan except for the lifetime maximum benefit (current is \$5 million, proposed has no maximum) and the physician network. Our representative has not encountered any problems with the difference in

networks, and assures the change should be almost seamless. There is a possibility an employee's doctor may not be in the Network, but the cost savings to the Village outweighs that risk.

A motion to change the Village's major medical insurance to the Humana National POS plan, effective 3/1/2009, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yeas.

The Village's blanket bond is currently \$30K. The committee recommends the bond be increased to \$50K. The annual premium amount will be \$1040.

A motion to increase the Village's blanket bond to \$50K was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yeas.

Other discussion included the Village's utility billing software and annual maintenance fees, and setting the Fiscal Officer bond at \$35K.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, March 9, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Public Works, Chairperson Tim Cherry**

Mr. Dick spoke on behalf of the public works committee. The next meeting will be February 23, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan**

The next Safety Committee meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The committee copied Council the following proposed Pop Machine Policy:

“The pop machine at the Village Light Plant on S. Union St. is owned by Pepsi. The Village of Bethel Public Works employees are responsible for stocking the machine on time other than regular work hours. The public will be notified by signage placed on the machine that profits derived from the machine will benefit the Bethel Events Fund. Stock will be purchased by purchase order from accumulated money in the Bethel Events Fund.

Two public works employees must be present when removing money from the machine and when transporting the money to the utilities office, where it will be counted and deposited.

All expenditures must be approved by the Personnel Committee through the Village Administrator. The one exception to this rule is when purchasing pop to restock the machine. This is allowed without the approval of the Personnel Committee and only requires the normal purchase order requisition.

All requests for expenditures will be considered on a case to case basis.”

A motion to adopt the Pop Machine Policy was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. 4 yeas; Mr. Dick “nay”. Motion carried.

The committee has received a request for reimbursement from the Bethel Events fund for food expenses incurred during the 1/28/2009 ice storm. The committee approves the reimbursement.

The next personnel meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m..

#### **Burke Trust Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

Nil.

#### **Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick**

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Thursday, March 5, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Call of Members:**

Mr. Ausman: Had the privilege of hanging out with the employees during the recent snow and ice events, and tried to help where he could. Their dedication and hard work is wonderful to see.

Mr. Houlihan: Agreed with Mr. Ausman's sentiments, noting they are a great group. Bethel's streets are a lot better than some other places...

Ms. Gunn: Echoed their sentiments.

Mr. Hutchinson: Commended Mr. Hollandsworth on the construction of the tree house.

Mr. Dick: Kudos to the public works employees, and how they capitalize on their specialties.

He was at the skate park when the ramps were set, and a lot of kids were out there. He was told the park is "Righteous – more street than vert".

Mr. Ausman stated he's seen 50+ kids at the park, and Ms. Gunn mentioned the kids seem to use the park in an orderly fashion.

**Public Input:**

Nil.

**Legislation:**

ORDINANCE 1619 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE FEMA FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND (\$7047) AND THE MVL FUND (\$7530) , REPEALING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion to waive the 3 readings of ORD 1619 Authorizing the transfer of FEMA funds, and declaring an emergency, was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By Roll: Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1619 Authorizing the transfer of FEMA funds, and declaring an emergency, was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By Roll: Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea". Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 874 AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR THE NATUREWORKS GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The grant would be applied to the walking path and the Burke Park cabins.

A motion to waive the 3 readings of RES 874 Authorizing the Village Administrator to apply for the NatureWorks grant was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By roll: Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea". Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 874 Authorizing the Village Administrator to apply for the NatureWorks grant was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By Roll: Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Ms. Gunn "yea", Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Dick "yea". Motion carried.

**Payment of Bills:**

A motion approving the payment of the presented expenses and bills was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. 7:05 p.m.