

MINUTES OF VILLAGE COUNCIL

April 7, 2008

Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio met in special session on Monday, April 7, 2008 in the council chambers of the Municipal Building with the following members present Mayor John Swarthout, Council members Mr. Alan Ausman, Mr. Tim Cherry, Ms. Donna Gunn, Mr. Gary Hutchinson, and Mr. Joe Houlihan, Solicitor George Leicht, and Administrator Travis Dotson.

Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance being led by Mayor Swarthout.

RESOLUTION 865: A resolution amending the job description of fiscal officer. This changes the position to salaried, reworded the education and experience requirements and added that the position requires the ability to be bonded.

Motion by Mr. Hutchinson to adopt Resolution 865 and seconded by Ms. Gunn. Vote: All Yea's

AD-HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Gunn, chairman of the ad-hoc committee formed to hire a fiscal officer stated that the committee has decided on Angel Burton, the former clerk/treasurer of Batavia. She is well suited for the position, and also has a background in IT which will allow us to save money on our current IT costs. The committee is recommending a starting salary of \$40,000 per year. Mrs. Burton is requesting that be allowed to bring 80 hours of vacation and 160 hours of sick time from Batavia. Solicitor Leicht stated that we are required to allow her sick time to transfer. Mr. Hutchinson stated that he had not heard of the ability to transfer vacation time. It was explained that this was somewhat typical. The committee stated that Mrs. Burton will be able to start full time no later than May 1st, but that she has agreed to work part time until then to help out. The committee recommends that Mrs. Burton be paid at an hourly rate of \$19.23 per hour as a consultant until she can start full time. Mr. Ausman joked that the committee tried to scare her off but she was not easily intimidated. Mayor Swarthout questioned whether she should be hired temporarily as a consultant or if he could go ahead and appoint her as the fiscal officer, with the specification that she will work part time until May 1st. Solicitor Leicht stated that it was his appointment and it would be fine to go ahead and appoint her as fiscal officer.

Mayor Swarthout appointed Angel Burton as the fiscal officer at a pay rate of \$19.23 per hour until May 1st, at which time she will be salaried at \$40,000 per year. When she becomes full time, she will receive benefits, vacation and sick time. The appointment was contingent upon a background check, drug screen, and her ability to be bonded.

Mr. Hutchinson eloquently made the motion to confirm the mayor's appointment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ausman. Vote: All Yea's.

RESOLUTION 866: A resolution designating the signature authorities of the village to be Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton, and Mayor John Swarthout.

Mr. Alan Ausman made the motion to waive the three reading rule in regard to Resolution 866. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Houlihan. Vote: All Yea's.

Ms. Donna Gunn made the motion to adopt Resolution 866. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. Vote: All Yea's.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Richard Frederick, of 432 South Union Street in Bethel, was present to voice is frustration over his electricity being shut off. He stated he came in on the 31st as it was being turned off and could not get it turned back on. He stated that his wife subsequently caught pneumonia and he 'wanted to know what the village was going to do about it.' He stated that it was not fair. Mr. Ausman agreed but said that a policy has to be in place and enforced consistently. Mr. Ausman stated that in the future, he should come in as soon as he realizes

he will not be able to pay his bill on time. Mayor Swarthout agreed. Mr. Frederick then discussed the ice storm of four years ago. Mayor Swarthout pointed out that this was not the issue at hand and that the issue was one of communication.

Mayor Swarthout handed out copies of the essay questions which are given to the Burke Trust Grant applicants for council to evaluate and request changes if necessary. They will be going out to the students next week.

Motion to adjourn at 5:30pm by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Ausman. Vote: All Yea's.