

Bethel Village Council October 13, 2009

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, with President Pro-Tempore Donna Gunn presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was videotaped, to be aired on cable television.

Mr. Ausman delivered the invocation, followed by Ms. Gunn leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Alan Ausman, Joe Houlihan, Donna Gunn, Gary Hutchinson, James Dick; Solicitor George Leicht, Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Angel Burton. Mayor Swarthout was absent. Council member Tim Cherry arrived after roll call.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yeas.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ed Dyer, president of the Bethel Tate School District Board of Education, addressed Council regarding the upcoming school levy. The 4.34 mil emergency, 5 year operating levy will be on the November 3 ballot. This is the district's 3rd attempt to have a levy passed, though this levy is lower than previous attempts. The levy will cost the owner of a \$100K home approximately \$131/year, or \$11/month.

The district has worked very hard at delivering a good education to the students. The schools have consistently been designated Excellent by the state. The district spends less per student than any other school district in the area, and \$2500 less than the state average. Bethel-Tate was recently recognized by Governor Strickland, because the district is doing "better than it should be." Mr. Dyer attributes the success to the great staff.

Bethel-Tate has not asked for an operating levy in over 21 years. The levy is needed at this time due to continued cuts in state funding and elevating expenses that everyone is experiencing.

The passage of the levy would allow for the district to restore high school buses, lower school fees, and allow for typical continued operations. Failure of the levy could result in loss of staff, as well as students, due to the decreased level of education Bethel-Tate could offer.

The purchase of the Holman building was addressed, due to the controversy of the purchase. The building was purchased with a state loan for capital improvements. The \$60K/year debt service on the building is less than ½ of 1% of the district's operating budget. The building was purchased because the old location was limited in space; it had outdated electric and plumbing; it was not handicap accessible; and, most importantly, it had asbestos contamination that would have cost over \$400K alone to remove. The Holman opportunity met the district's short term and long term needs.

Ms. Gunn expressed her support of the schools and the levy, and Mr. Ausman thanked Mr. Dyer for his years of service with the school board.

ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Pro Tempore, Donna Gunn

Ms. Gunn, "substitute mayor", addressed the 3rd graders last week. She told the students her favorite part about being mayor was visiting the kids.

Village Administrator, Travis Dotson

The Village applied for two NatureWorks grants – one for the resurfacing of the walk path and one for the renovation of the Burke cabins. The walk path grant was awarded. The award is a 75/25 grant up to \$27K. The Bethel Lions Club will be contributing part of the matching funds. Mr. Dotson noted the Lions Club has annually patched and spot sealed the path.

The cabin grant was denied, but the Village may make application for the project again in 2010.

OKI/ODOT is prepared to move forward with the traffic signal upgrades. Brandsetter Carroll is working out some issues with the project, but it should occur in the 1st half of 2010.

Hydrant flushing last Friday did result in some brown water in the South Union area, but there was no need for a boil advisory.

Fiscal Officer, Angel Burton

Nil.

Solicitor George Leicht

Mr. Leicht will be filing for the recovery of funds from Laurie Taylor by the end of the week.

Police Chief Mark Planck

Ms. Gunn spoke on Chief Planck's behalf, due to his attendance at a Down Home Christmas planning meeting. The Chief has been working with various community groups in the logistics related to the 2010 Arts Fest and 10K run.

Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Finance Committee met this evening and "discussed a lot, but there's a lot still to discuss." For that reason, the committee has scheduled a special meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009 at 5:00 pm. to continue 2010 discussions, and wages and personnel.

Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry

Public Works met following Council on September 28, 2009.

The Village will be getting another estimate on the water tower repairs. The committee will be reviewing estimates on the Burke Restroom Roof repairs and the Grant Memorial Building repairs.

ODOT is only responsible for surface repairs along state routes, and the sink hole in the field off 125 appears to be on private property. The line originates at Harris Ave and Plane, runs in front of Sunoco, McDonalds, Wendy's and along 125 to the storm drain in the field. There is some question as to where the water will go if the drain is abandoned. The matter is out of the Village's hands, but may warrant more discussion.

The committee will be reviewing the Easter Valley subdivision. The required reports from H.C. Nutting have been received, but the final asphalt coat has not been applied, and the drainage district has not been addressed. Resolution 830 also has a sidewalk stipulation.

Mr. Leicht does not believe the Village is obligated to do anything at this time, due to the fact that the contractor has not fulfilled his end of the agreement. The property owners may want to pursue action against the developer, and Mr. Dunn needs to check on the developer's bond status. Mr. Cherry would like both Ron Dunn and Mitch Hatfield to attend the next Public Works meeting.

The Public Works committee will meet immediately following the October 26, 2009 Council meeting, and return to regularly scheduled meetings in November.

Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan

The committee met October 5th and discussed the police department's staffing, with recommendations made to Finance.

Mr. Houlihan thanked Smyth Automotive for their paint donation, allowing for the repaint of the Ford Explorer.

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

Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn

The Personnel Committee met September 30th for wage discussions. Except for the police officers, Village employees are paid within the same range as other municipalities' employees. That, in combination with the Village's budgetary constraints, has led the committee to recommend no wage increases at this time.

Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn

Nil

Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick

The committee has forwarded the proposed zoning fees to Finance for that committee's review and Council recommendation.

CALL OF MEMBERS

Alan Ausman: Nil.

Joe Houlihan: Thanked Smyth Automotive for their donation to the police department and reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

Donna Gunn: Thanks to the Lions Club for their contributions to the community.

Stated she can't imagine not supporting the school levy, especially since the school hasn't asked for more money in over 20 years. Urges people to get more information before not voting.

Thanks to Smyth for the paint.

Gary Hutchinson: Nil

Tim Cherry: Echo Ms. Gunn's sentiments on the school levy.

James Dick: Echoed the school levy support and thanked Smyth Automotive.

PUBLIC INPUT

Nil.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 1626 AMENDING 2009 APPROPRIATIONS, 3rd reading
General fund \$20050 decrease; Special Revenue funds \$21525 increase; Debt Service fund \$100 increase; Enterprise Funds \$31000 increase; Trust and Agency funds \$33500 decrease; Overall \$925 decrease

Ms. Burton stated the amendment reflects the adjusted fund balances from the audit.

A motion to adopt ORD 1626 Amending 2009 Appropriations was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. By roll: Mr. Ausman "yea", Mr. Dick "yea", Mr. Houlihan "yea", Mr. Hutchinson "yea", Mr. Cherry "yea". Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE 1627 AMENDING SECTION IV-A OF ORDINANCE 1592, SETTING RATES FOR WATER TAP FEES AND ADDING SECTION VII-O, SETTING FINES FOR METER TAMPERING, 2nd reading

SEPTEMBER EXPENSES

A motion to approve the September, 2009 expenses, as presented, was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dick. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea. 7:35 p.m.

Mayor John Swarthout

Angel Burton, Fiscal Officer