

## **Bethel Village Council September 26, 2011**

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, September 26, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor James Dick presiding.

Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Dick leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Rus Whitley, Timothy Cherry, Alan Ausman, Village Administrator Travis Dotson, Fiscal Officer Bill Gilpin and Village Solicitor Julia Carney.

Also present were Ruth Gelter of the Independent Press, John Seney of the Bethel Journal, Jeff Pulliam, Jeremiah Hembree, Kristin Bednarski of the Clermont Sun, William R. Catron, Nicholas Neibauer, Judi Adams, Dr. Charles Frost, John Essen, Jim Smith, Lucy Shepherd, Brandon Brenes, Edwin Brenes, Jessica Brenes, Karen Brenes, Richard Mallon, Sandy Wallace, Todd Wallace, Megan Wallace, Greg Schuler, Kelly Terry and Jeff Terry.

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2011 meeting, as written with one change, was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Ausman. All ye.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Nil.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Mayor James T. Dick**

The village received a thank you letter from the tiger tools program for the \$2,000 donation passed through the Burke Trust.

Trick or Treat will be on October 29 from 6 to 8 pm.

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

Met with the county GIS department last week and discussed using the county database to merge information. They will make recommendations on the software and assist with training.

The USDA folks are in the process of moving to Amelia.

The server restoration should be completed tomorrow.

#### **Fiscal Officer, Bill Gilpin**

The resolution for amounts and rates needs to be passed this evening and returned to the county auditor before the end of the month.

We have been notified by the county probation department that we will be receiving balance of the Laurie Taylor finding for recovery very soon as the PERS money has been forwarded to the county for payment to the village.

#### **Solicitor Julia Carney**

Nil.

#### **Police Chief Mark Planck**

Brandon Brenes, Roy Catron and Nicholas Neibauer wore sworn in as new auxiliary police officers.

Homecoming is this Friday at 6:00 pm.

Dan Riffle will be promoted from auxiliary to part time officer.

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

The committee met on September 22 and discussed the health insurance renewal. By postponing the renewal until later in the year the premium will decrease by over \$2,000 per month. We will need to adopt the schedule of benefits this evening.

Next meeting is October 3 at 5:00 pm.

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

The committee met on September 12 and discussed the signal upgrades, which is nearly complete.

Training is underway for the new valve maintenance trailer.

The dump truck has frame damage. It was inspected by ODOT and approved for repairs at an estimated cost of \$450.

The street paving bid package is ready to be published. All or part of 7 streets is being considered.

Since the next meeting is scheduled on a holiday, it will be moved to October 17 at 5:00 pm.

There was discussion on moving the next council meeting to October 17 and only having one meeting in October. Consensus is to do so.

A motion to publish the 2011 road paving bid package was made by Mr. Cherry. Second by Mr. Whitley. Discussion; Mr. Whitley asked when the deadline is. Mr. Cherry indicated that the asphalt plants close in November, therefore the sooner the better. All yea.

### **Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley**

Committee met on September 15 and discussed the hiring of new auxiliary officers. Cruiser 503 has had front suspension repairs performed.

Next meeting is Monday October 17 at 5:00 pm.

### **Personnel Committee, Chairperson Alan Ausman**

Next meeting is October 6 at 6:00 pm.

### **Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton Nil.**

### **Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson**

Next meeting is Thursday October 20 at 5:30 pm.

### **CALL OF MEMBERS**

Priscilla Johnson: The fair is this week, homecoming this weekend and welcome to the new auxiliary officers.

Janice Ireton: Welcome to the new auxiliary officers, support school athletics.

Donna Gunn: Quote of the week: "Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success".

Asked for council's input on tree replacement at Burke Park, possibly asking the Burke Trust to use money previously given for trees elsewhere. Ms. Ireton indicated that the rules of the trust specify that any unused funds be returned to the trust and a separate request be made for additional monies. Mr. Cherry stated that planting trees on the street may result in them having to be removed at a later date and would likely cause damage to the surrounding curbs and sidewalks. Mayor Dick asked Travis Dotson to look into a cost estimate.

Due to future funding cuts, propose to eliminate the taping of council meetings saving \$2400 per year.

A motion to eliminate the taping of council meetings effective immediately was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. Discussion; Mr. Whitley asked if a sponsor is found, could it continue? Mayor Dick stated that another vote would be needed to reinstate. Roll Call; Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Mr. Whitley “nay”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion Carried.

Rus Whitley: Please continue to support the local churches and the homecoming parade.

Tim Cherry: Nil.

Alan Ausman: The new traffic lights are working out well.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Dr. Charles Frost read aloud the following:

“My name is Dr. Charles Frost and I have practiced dentistry within the village for 40 years and am presently chairman of the Board of Directors of the Community Savings Bank of Bethel, the only bank which your neighbors and friends own. Shortly after moving to Bethel in 1971 I joined the Bethel Minifest committee which brought the Cincinnati Symphony to Bethel, because it was the “right” thing to do. I also joined the Bethel Lions Club for the same reason. During the next number of years, I sponsored sports teams and made contributions to various organizations again for the same reason. I have recently sponsored a writing contest for the local students because it was “right”.

After our local company, then the Bethel Building and Loan, donated the trees which line Plane Street in 1990, I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Bank. Since then, we have sponsored numerous functions including BAMFest, business luncheons, 5-10k runs in which we donate the proceeds to the Bethel Ministerial Association and local scholarships, as well as other worthwhile efforts. We feel fortunate to be affiliated with the village and our very charter emphasizes both independence and our community.

During negotiations with the village while a legal contract was, and is, in effect we found out that the village was about to terminate the agreement unilaterally, not by direct communication, but on the front page of the Bethel Journal. We feel that this approach is neither “right” nor honorable. Only by honest and forthright communication do both parties benefit. We also contend that only through your support will local businesses remain viable and prosper in these trying economic times. Thank you.”

Jim Smith, also a director of CSB, talked about the bank’s commitment to the village and doubts that RiverHills Bank will do so. Jim Smith encouraged council to take another look at the situation.

Lucy Shepherd agrees with the comments made, thinks the village needs to keep it local and that the village needs to support the residents. Lucy Shepherd also indicated that she disagrees with the decision to eliminate the taping of the meetings and giving the employees a 5% raise.

Greg Schuler stated he also agrees with the bank and also feels that not taping the meetings is a move away from transparency and asked if there was a requirement for audio recording.

Mayor Dick stated that it may be possible to audio tape the meetings.

Jeremiah Hembree thanked the Mayor Dick, Chief Planck and Travis Dotson for hosting the second grade classes at village hall last week.

## **LEGISLATION**

**RESOLUTION 913- ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Bill Gilpin gave an overview of the language of the resolution and the requirement to pass this resolution on an annual basis. It must be returned to the county auditor by September 30.

A motion to waive the three readings of RES 913 Amounts and Rates was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 913 Amounts and Rates was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. Discussion; Mr. Whitley asked if this would raise any taxes. Bill Gilpin replied no. By roll: Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 913 Amounts and Rates as an emergency measure was made by Ms. Ireton. Seconded by Ms. Johnson. By roll: Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 1661- AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING RIVERHILLS BANK AS A DEPOSITORY FOR ACTIVE, INACTIVE AND INTERIM DEPOSITS, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**ORDINANCE 1662-AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH ASSURANT TO CONTINUE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

A motion to waive the three readings of ORD 1662 Authorizing Assurant was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Ausman. By roll: Ms. Ireton “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1662 Authorizing Assurant was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Ms. Ireton. Discussion; By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Mr. Whitley “nay”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt ORD 1662 Authorizing Assurant as an emergency measure was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Ms. Johnson “yea”, Ms. Ireton “yea”, Mr. Whitley “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”. Motion carried.

## **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses totaling \$59,937.26 was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Ireton. All yea except Mr. Ausman who abstained.

Meeting on motion adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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James T. Dick, Mayor

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Bill Gilpin, Fiscal Officer