

## **Bethel Village Council December 21, 2009**

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, December 21, 2009, with Mayor John Swarthout presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Mr. Ausman delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Swarthout 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, Tim Cherry, James Dick; Solicitor George Leicht, Village Administrator Travis Dotson and Fiscal Officer Angel Burton.

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2009 meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All ye.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Nil.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Mayor John Swarthout**

Mayor Swarthout recognized auxiliary officer candidate, Jillian Rudd, and recommends her appointment as an auxiliary officer with the Village's police department, with one year probation.

A motion approving Mayor Swarthout's appointment of Jillian Rudd as an auxiliary police officer, with one year's probation, was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. All ye.

Jillian Rudd was then sworn-in as an auxiliary police officer by Mayor Swarthout, congratulated and welcomed aboard.

Mayor Swarthout thanked Alan Ausman and Joe Houlihan for their service on Council.

Jessica Martin, Abby Cherry, and Kathy Howison, Bethel-Tate High School Art Students, were recognized for painting the Municipal Building windows for the Down Home Christmas event. The Village won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The three were presented with gift certificates in appreciation of their work.

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

Nil.

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

Requested pre-approval to pay all the Village bills as received through December 31, 2009, in an effort to encumber as few expenses as possible into the New Year. Council will be able to review the expenses paid on the December Expense list presented for approval at the first meeting in January, 2010.

A motion granting Ms. Burton pre-approval to pay bills as received through December 31, 2009 was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. All ye.

#### **Solicitor George Leicht**

Nil.

**Police Chief Mark Planck**

The 2004 Explorer has been painted, and should be back in service after January 4, 2010, when school resumes. The Charger will be next to go to Grant for the door replacement. A door was purchased from Stricker's, in the same color paint as the cruiser, for \$650.

**Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be January 11, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry**

The committee met this evening, before Council. Much was discussed, but the committee has nothing to bring to Council at this time.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

**Safety Committee, Chairperson Joe Houlihan**

The next meeting will be Monday, January 4, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

**Personnel Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

Nil.

**Burke Trust Commission, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

Nil.

**Planning Commission, Councilperson James Dick**

Nil.

**CALL OF MEMBERS**

Alan Ausman: Delivered a speech relating to his term as a council member, and considers it a blessing being able to serve. He has learned both good and bad lessons, but will take with him the good.

Joe Houlihan: Grateful for his time on Council.

Donna Gunn: Pleasure serving with Alan, Joe and Mayor Swarthout. Doesn't believe anyone is as dedicated as John.

Gary Hutchinson: Kudos to those leaving, and regrets the timing of the following comments, but stated his duty to serve the Village:

“Finance Committee Minority Report

Members of Council,

Tonight we are scheduled to vote on our 2010 budget ordinance. I urge your most thoughtful consideration of this matter.

We are poised to go into [fiscal] emergency, as per state regulations, so what we do here, concerning spending, is vital to reducing its impact and duration thereby easing the adverse effects on the people we serve.

My comments are meant to inform Council and the public of the minority opinion that exists on the Finance Committee with reference to the budget and its appropriations.

The first and most important fact is that the overall appropriations for 2010 (exceed) estimated revenues by about \$29,000.00. There are several operating funds that have contributed to this, the largest deficit being the electric department. The appropriations for spending in this fund are over \$60,000.00 more than the estimated revenue stream. The two operating funds of Street and Bridge in the public works department together have

appropriations of almost \$78,000.00 over estimated revenue. There are carry over funds from 2009 that will help lower this amount some. The funds for Street and Bridge come from various forms of taxes and in the current economic climate these taxes will very likely be subjected to downward adjustments during the budget year.

The one bright spot in this budget is that the General Fund negative balance will come down approximately \$84,000.00; however, this figure has room for improvement, thereby reducing the time spent under the watchful eyes of the State of Ohio.

Some time ago, as budget considerations were getting underway, Council agreed that the appropriations of operating funds for the year 2010 should be held at 85% of spending revenues. The overall budget before you is more than \$750,000.00 over that target.

Several sections of the Ohio Revised Code deal with different appropriations and how they are to be treated. Overall the ORC strongly suggests that appropriations in any budget fund should not exceed expected revenues for any purpose.

I would ask that each member of Council consider the information which I have put before you. I urge each of you to vote against this appropriation ordinance so that it may be put into proper fiscal order. The residents of this village demand no less. Let good fiscal responsibility guide you in casting your vote.

Mayor, I respectfully request that this Finance Committee Minority Report be made a part of the public record of this meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Hutchinson”

Tim Cherry: Noted his pleasure serving with those members that are leaving, and appreciates the leadership demonstrated by Mayor Swarthout.

James Dick: Thanked those not returning, and realizes the time and effort spent in serving.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Nil.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **RESOLUTION 879 ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES FOR 2010, 3rd reading**

A motion to adopt RES 879 Establishing Wages and Salaries for 2010 was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCE 1629 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR 2010, 3rd reading**

A motion to adopt ORD 1629 Annual Appropriations for 2010 was made by Ms. Gunn. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By roll: Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “nay”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCE 1630 SETTING RENT FOR THE ELECTRIC AND THE WATER DEPARTMENTS (2010), 3rd reading**

A motion to adopt ORD 1630 Setting Department Rents for 2010 was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Dick “nay”. Motion carried.

### **ORDINANCE 1631 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER REVENUE FUND TO THE WATER EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND (2010), 3rd reading**

A motion to adopt ORD 1631 Water Extension and Replacement Transfer was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Cherry. By roll: Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 1632 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE WATER REVENUE FUND TO THE WATER FIRST MORTGAGE FUND (2010), 3rd reading**

A motion to adopt ORD 1632 Water First Mortgage Fund Transfer was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 1633 AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE ELECTRIC REVENUE FUND TO THE ELECTRIC EXTENSION AND REPLACEMENT FUND (2010), 3rd reading**

A motion to adopt ORD 1633 Electric Extension and Replacement Transfer was made by Mr. Cherry. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Cherry “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 880 AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATURE AUTHORITY ON CERTAIN BANK ACCOUNTS OF THE VILLAGE OF BETHEL**

A motion to waive the 3 readings of RES 880 Signature Authority was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Ms. Gunn. By roll: Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “nay”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick “yea”. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt RES 880 Signature Authority was made by Mr. Houlihan. Seconded by Mr. Ausman. By roll: Mr. Houlihan “yea”, Mr. Ausman “yea”, Ms. Gunn “yea”, Mr. Hutchinson “yea”, Mr. Cherry “yea”, Mr. Dick – abstain. Motion carried.

### **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 20502-20513) was made by Mr. Hutchinson. Seconded by Mr. Houlihan. All yea.

The incoming council members and mayor were welcomed and sworn-in. Mr. Leicht swore in new council members Mary Daugherty, Janice Ireton and Priscilla Johnson. New mayor James Dick was then sworn-in.

Outgoing Mayor Swarthout addressed those in attendance, stating his privilege and honor in serving the Village of Bethel for 24 years. He’s sat with 6 different mayors, numerous council members, but only one solicitor; he has attended over 500 council meetings. He has appreciated the opportunity to serve, and hopes he has lived up to the trust instilled in him. He is comfortable and confident that those elected and appointed will be able to handle the important issues that will be at hand in the upcoming days and weeks.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ausman. Seconded by Mr. Dick. All yea.

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James Dick, Mayor

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Angelina Burton, Fiscal Officer