

The Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was called to order by Mayor Stacy at 6:30 p.m. by acknowledging Chuck Hawk, a representative from RITA, the Regional Income Tax Agency. All Members of Council were present as was Frank Hyle. Clerk/Treasurer Bolton was not present at the time the presentation began but arrived at approximately 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Hawk began by giving a history and summary of services about RITA. He spoke about the registration, collections, and compliance processes. He mentioned the cost of providing their service which is estimated to begin at about 3% of monies collected and could decrease slightly until the income tax was in full enforcement. Currently, 210 Ohio municipalities are included in RITA. They are a tax exempt agency. His initial projection for the Village for a 1% income tax was in the neighborhood of \$340,000. The Clerk/Treasurer was concerned this figure may be too high and may include people who have Cleves mailing addresses but do not officially live in the Village. A discussion was held about this. Solicitor Hyle informed Council they would have the option to give their residents relief of a portion or all of our 1% income tax if they currently pay 1% to another municipality. Further discussion was held about the services this agency provides and basic questions were asked and answered.

Following this presentation, the Mayor asked the Clerk to take an official Roll Call and all members of Council were present.

Mr. Santen had a question about the way the minute pages were numbered and dates that were documented differently on top of the forms than the dates cited in text. The Clerk reviewed the pages and indicated she would fix the placement of the minutes onto the page with the proper headings. Following discussion, the following action was taken by Council:

	<u>Made By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
A Motion to Approve Previous Council Minutes	Santen	Nichols	ALL YEAS
Motion to Pay Warrants & Vouchers and Adopt Pay Ordinance #21- 2012.	Santen	Meister	ALL YEAS

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

Solicitor Hyle indicated he had prepared legislation which would change our current policy toward health care insurance by paying 100% of the employee’s portion of the premium, but not contributing anything toward the dependent coverage. At this time a discussion was held concerning our health care premiums and the likelihood of as much as a 40% increase when our renewal period comes up in April. Frank informed Council he believes the Water Works, while they have chosen not to exercise their right to, has the authority to provide health insurance for their employees separate from what the Village provides its employees as well as establishing their salaries. He explained this legislation would be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Meister asked when the Water Works could change and break out on their own as far as health care coverage is concerned and Solicitor Hyle responded as soon as they are able to get it together.

**ORDINANCE # 20-2012      CHANGING VILLAGE CONTRIBUTION TOWARD EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS**

	<u>Made By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
A Motion to Introduce Ord #20-2012	Pastrick	Meister	*See Below
(*Pastrick, Yea; Nichols, Ney; Meister, Yea; Santen, Yea; Randall, Ney; Meyers, Ney)			
( Motion to Introduce tied 3 Yeas, 3 Neys. Mayor Stacy broke tie with a YEA to introduce.)			



## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

*Street Commissioner Duncan* began by commenting what a great Committee he thought he had this year and wanted to thank them. He was also proud of his crew for their hard work on the Howell Street Storm drain project. They finished the project today with the help of a Water Works employee. Mayor Stacy informed Council he was also pleased to inform them Mr. Duncan found out it is the responsibility of the property owner to repair curbs as well as sidewalks and the business owner on S. Miami has been told as much.

*Police Chief Renner* started off by summarizing last month's detail reports. He outlined his department's peak times by geographic categories. He also distributed Dixie's report of each officer's citations issued. He also had a report showing the cost to run each 8 hour shift with salary, benefits and automobile expenses outlined. He finished his report by mentioning he has been thinking about various ways his department could promote the service they provide to residents and a few ideas were: Safety Fairs, Establishing Fire and Police Academies, and sponsoring dances for the kids in the spring and summer.

*Fire Chief Ober* reviewed his November detail reports for EMS and Fire in Cleves. He also reported all hydrant checks have been completed. In closing, he will be working closely with the Street Commissioner and Street Committee to review his list of 12 Village streets that need some sort of restricted parking put in place in order to assure them Fire/EMS protection.

## **COUNCIL & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Meyers, *Parks Committee Chair*, has nothing new to report concerning Parks until the next Park Meeting is held Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013. She has found an organization that will help market our Park events as soon as we get a schedule established. A date for the Twilight Walk will be set as soon as we get the Taylor High School football schedule for fall of 2013.

Megan Randall, *Public Works Streets Chair*, review her Street Committee Meeting minutes and touched on the following items: Clift Contractors working to get final signoff on the clean up issue in the Municipal Building back lot; Hole on Laurelwood Drive near 546 has been patched; Edgefield Drive resident has planted trees in the right of way area; S. Miami Avenue handicap parking request still being reviewed; and the next Street Meeting scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Ms. Meister asked about the backhoe parked on N. Miami Avenue by the school and a discussion was held about whether or not it is being moved during the day and are they using it daily.

Mr. Santen, *Community Planning Chair*, announced Robert (Bob) Kispert has informed the Planning Commission he is resigning his seat on Planning. The Planning Commission will now be represented by the Mayor, John Santen, and the three resident members: Mike Taylor, Steve Myers and Tiffiney Myers. Ms. Pastrick asked about a home on E. State in which a vehicle is being parked in the front yard grass all the time. She asked that Officer Delk be asked to check into this.

Ms. Meister, *Public Works Water & Utility Committee*, has nothing to report at this time since her committee meeting will not be held until next week, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Next Communications Meeting being held January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Nichols, *Safety Committee Chair*, reviewed her committee meeting minutes from December 3<sup>rd</sup> and mentioned the following issues: Fire and EMS run year-to-date totals match last year's numbers; Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, Miami Township will be putting a third squad into service; Three residents attended the Safety Committee and expressed their concern over reduced police services being planned in light of the levy failure; and Ms. Randall will be chairing the Safety Committee Meeting in January in her absence.

Jan Pastrick, *Finance Committee Chair*, reported the next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19 at 6:00 p.m. She is concerned due to the insurance issue still being up in the air and the need to still try to find \$30,000 in cuts to balance the budget for 2013. A discussion as held and it was decided to change this scheduled meeting to an actual Council Meeting in order to finalize any decisions with legislation that evening. They asked the Clerk to post the meeting scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> as a Council Meeting.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Stacy indicated he had spoken with the Township to see where they were with choosing a provider for the electric and gas aggregation. The Township Trustees have already joined forces with the Village of North Bend and have gone with Duke Retail. They have some concerns though, and are encouraging us and Addyston to go with Eagle Energy and maybe next year all of us will join forces with Eagle Energy. The Mayor indicated he would like to go with Eagle Energy. Solicitor Hyle reminded everyone Eagle Energy is not a supplier, they are a broker and would be looking for suppliers to bid rates for us. A discussion was held and questions were asked and answered. Ms. Pastrick indicated it was her belief residents would still have their choices and it was explained most of these plans offer opt-out programs. Following discussion, **A Motion to Use Eagle Energy as our Broker to Move Forward with our Aggregation Program made by Meyers; seconded by Santen. ALL YEAS.**

The Mayor also met with employees to give them heads up on changes in the health care area being proposed for 2013 due to budget constraints. At this time he also listed many of the other cuts being proposed: All elected officials receiving pay cuts; All legal employees (Solicitor, Magistrate, Prosecutor) also agreeing to pay cuts; Many other Village employees receiving pay cuts and/or scheduled hour reductions; Health care contributions toward dependent coverage being eliminated and/or greatly reduced; Sale of vehicles not needed in the Police Department; and other possible areas of reductions being explored concerning streetlights, cell phones and gas & electric rates. He has future meeting scheduled with Cincinnati Bell Wireless and Duke Energy.

Mayor Stacy took the time to thank Steve & Tiffney Myers on their hard work making the Christmas Walk a success again this year. He will be calling Rumpke to see about renegotiating the addendum for the garbage collection contract.

Mr. Santen asked if we could move forward and authorize RITA to secure more accurate figures for us concerning a potential income tax. Some concern was expressed over the cost of obtaining these figures and whether or not we could afford it. It was decided to table this issue while we get some more information which may help secure better numbers for us.

**A Motion to Adjourn made by Santen; seconded by Meister. ALL YEAS.**

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Mayor Danny Stacy

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Clerk/Treasurer Linda Bolton