

A Special Session of Council was held on Wednesday, December 19th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. primarily to review 2013 budgetary issues and cuts due to the failure of our 2.8 mil levy request in November. The meeting was posted; however, to allow any issue to be discussed and acted upon.

All members of Council were present as well as the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer. The Solicitor, Frank Hyle, was expected to arrive around 7:00 p.m.

The first topic of discussion was our current health care coverage and current premiums. We currently offer health insurance for our full-time employees as well as their dependents with employees covering 14% of the premium cost of both. With anticipated increases in premiums in the neighborhood of 25 – 40%, Council is reviewing their various options in light of the tight budget constraints. A long discussion took place with various options discussed: Paying the employees premium at 100% and not paying toward dependent coverage at all; Employees pay 50% of dependent costs; simply raising the employee’s rate of participation from 14% to possibly 25% or more and actively pursuing all avenues to obtain better rates from other providers including going through the Regional Chamber of Commerce . Following lengthy discussion, Council took the following action:

ORDINANCE # 22-2012

AMENDING HEALTH CARE INS. PLAN

	<u>Made By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
A Motion to Introduce ORD #22-2012 (* Santen, Yea; Pastrick, Yea; Meister, Yea; Randall, Yea; Meyer, Abstain; Nichols, Yea.)	Santen	Pastrick	*See Below
A Motion to Suspend the Rules, Read by Title	Santen	Pastrick	ALL YEAS
A Motion to Adopt ORD #22-2012	Santen	Pastrick	ALL YEAS

With the health care issue decided, a line-by-line review of the Village 2013 budget was held. Employee salaries for 2013 were discussed and it was determined many pay cuts would be necessary. It was decided all elected officials would take a cut in pay and police personnel would stay the same for now because actual coverage and power shifts are likely going to be reduced from 2012 levels. Full time officers will be absorbing additional health care costs so their salaries will remain the same at this time. Clerk/Treasurer and Administrative Asst. Bolton will see a modest cut in pay as well as other part time employees including Street Commissioner, Mayor’s Court Clerk, Magistrate, Solicitor and Prosecutor. The custodian’s hourly rate will not change, but her hours have been reduced. Following discussion, Council took the following legislative action:

ORDINANCE # 23-2012

COMPENSATION/SALARIES FOR 2013

	<u>Made By</u>	<u>Seconded By</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
A Motion to Introduce ORD #23-2012	Santen	Meister	ALL YEAS
A Motion to Suspend the Rules, Read by Title	Santen	Meister	ALL YEAS
A Motion to Adopt ORD #23-2012	Santen	Meister	ALL YEAS

Ms. Pastrick asked about scheduling of police officers and police coverage how overtime is scheduled and controlled. A discussion was held about various options for eliminating or controlling costs by eliminating overtime. Part time officers do not receive overtime until they work more than 40 hours a week. Other discussion was held about other ways to share services with neighboring communities in order to cut costs.

At this time the Mayor asked Council to consider options to increase revenue in combination with our proposed cuts in expenses. Several different possibilities were discussed – A 1% Income Tax as well as going back to the voters for an Operating Levy. Councilman Santen and Councilwoman Meister expressed they were supportive of

moving forward with placing an income tax. Ms. Pastrick indicated she is hesitant to support an income tax without more information about the revenue an income tax would generate. Further discussion was held. Solicitor Hyle volunteered to call the gentleman from RITA to see about obtaining more financial information from him.

Ms. Pastrick, Finance Committee Chair, wanted to fill Council in on a billing the Village has received from the Ohio Public Employees Retirement Systems concerning back service time the Clerk/Treasurer has requested to buy back. It appears OPERS has ruled the Village should have paid OPERS on the unelected portion of the Clerk/Treasurer's position and has billed the Village accordingly – The employees' portion as well as the employers' portion. The total for the employee plus interest is \$ 3,426.56 and the employer portion plus interest is \$ 5,462.36. Clerk Bolton has agreed to cover her portion of this billing in 2013 leaving only \$ 5,462.36 to be paid by the Village.

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

Mayor Danny Stacy

Clerk/Treasurer Linda Bolton