

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
1<sup>st</sup> Revision  
OCTOBER 23, 2013**

**ROLL CALL: BIRO, BLOAM, CONTIPELLI, DUSZYNSKI, FARAGONE, HARRIS**

Mr. Contipelli made the motion to excuse Ms. Biro from the meeting for personal reasons. She may show up late for the meeting, but for now, she is excused. All in favor none opposed. Motion carried.

**ISSUE 1: COUNCIL REPORTS**

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Contipelli said Council has no reports at this time.

**ISSUE 2: CLERKS REPORT**

**COMMENTS:**

Mr. Unger stated that this month's RITA revenue is in for the month of October, and we are down for this month by a total of \$135,000.00 compared to October of 2012. We are still ahead of where we were last year, and it will be close to where our expected revenue should be for 2013. We are currently 1.66% ahead of the total for last year. Our Cash Position Statement shows our ending balance in the General Fund is a little over 2 million dollars. So my projection at the beginning of the year was to end up at 1.5 to 2 million in our General Fund at year's end, and we are on track. We used 80% of our budgeted expenses, and took in 81% of our expected revenue. So we are where we should be, and we are on track to reach our goals for the year.

Ms. Biro showed up at this time for the rest of the meeting.

**ISSUE 3: MAYORS REPORT**

**COMMENTS:**

The Mayor asked Mr. Casini to go over all of the projects currently going on in the Village, and advise Council on how we are going to address folks moving past the 60 days on their property violations. He turned it over to Mr. Casini.

The Bacci Park project is about 99% complete. We are still looking for the electrical power to power up the building. Everything is there, but there are some minor items that need to be taken care of, and we are well within our budget. In the next week or two we should finalize the job. Todd Sciano stated that we are working with CEI to bring in 600 amp service for the whole park. CEI will have pricing for us in the third week of November for the transformer.

The Village Hall restoration is moving forward. The company is doing an excellent job. They have been working diligently for the last six weeks, and they have replaced approximately 170 bricks, they are washing and sealing the building, they are going to paint the cupola and put the exit doors in which will match the original drawings. I see it being completed in the next two weeks, and well within the budget. Ms. Duszynski asked how long they have been working on this project. Mr. Casini stated that they started on the second week of August.

We took bids on the Fire Station, and he gave Council a copy of the bids, and his recommendations. His recommendation is to eliminate the basement totally. He is recommending package 1 & 4. The total will be \$44,000.00 for the basement, and \$130,600.00 for the upstairs. Mr. Casini explained that some of the bidders bid the package incorrectly and were thrown out. Ms. Duszynski asked if this work would be started this year. Mr. Casini replied yes.

Mr. Contipelli asked why there were 4 different packages bid, why not just one. Mr. Casini explained that it was done this way to give Council options. Mr. Contipelli asked why we are looking at packages that are over the original budget. Mr. Casini explained that they are close to the budget, it is only over by \$17,000.00 and he wanted to give Council some options. The Chief asked Mr. Casini to give him some options of filling the basement as opposed to elevating the floor, and that is why the bids came in a little higher. Mr. Bloam asked if it is worth saving the basement. Mr. Casini explained that the basement always had problems leaking, especially at the ceiling, so his recommendation is to fill the basement and eliminate the problem. Ms. Duszynski stated that they have tried forever to fix the leaking problems in the basement and they were never successful. Mr. Faragone asked what is going to happen to the sewers that run through the ceiling. The Mayor explained that everything has been thought through by the Chief, Mr. Casini, and Mr. Sciano. He also agreed that the basement has been nothing but trouble forever. He does not want to put a bandage on it, and would like to make it a permanent fix, even if it is a little over the original quote. Mr. Faragone agrees, get rid of it, we have spent thousands of dollars trying to fix it over the years. Ms. Harris asked what we were going to fill it in with. Mr. Casini said it would be a concrete material, and then she asked if the leaks would then affect this material. Mr. Casini stated absolutely not. Mr. Casini then explained option 3 for the remodeling of the upstairs. Ms. Duszynski said Mr. Casini did a very good job on this project, the bids are self explanatory. Mr. Contipelli asked if we had the extra \$17,000.00. Clerk Unger explained that the money we saved from the Town Hall project can be used for the overage on the Fire Department.

The Mayor wanted to go over the 60 day period for the residential violations. He stated that some people have been in contact with Mr. Casini concerning the violations, and some people have chosen to ignore them. Over the next two weeks Mr. Casini and I are going to be working on correspondence with our residents finding out where they are on the violations. Ms. Harris asked what happens if they refuse to do the work. The Mayor said he is optimistic that the good residents of the Village will address them in some way shape or form. Ms. Duszynski asked how long we are going to give them. The Mayor stated that come next July if you haven't addressed the issues, they will have to move into the next phase, which will be Municipal Court. He explained that the door of complainers swings both ways. The people that take care of their homes equally want the respect from their neighbors to fix their homes. And to do nothing is disrespectful to everyone. So Mr. Casini will be working on that.

The Mayor asked Todd Sciano to talk about the current projects.

Mr. Sciano started with the Bacci Park utilities project and said that it came in \$8,000.00 under our original bid. It will be done in November. The cost to bring power to the park will be around 250 to 300 thousand dollars. By Thanksgiving we will have some firm pricing. The Mayor wanted Council to consider looking to the future when putting in power. We can light up the bathrooms, but we need to think about the future needs.

Mr. Contipelli wanted everyone to be clear. The money for the electric in the park is not budgeted, and it will have to come out of our budget for next year. Mr. Sciano explained that they will not do any work until First Energy gets a check, and their work is 6 months out. Nothing will be done for up to six months. But you have to pay in advance. Ms. Biro asked what the Mayors timeline for doing this project is. He said that it will be in his 2014 budget for Council to approve or move back.

Next is the Harvard avenue project. Mr. Sciano stated that we started the road approximately July 13<sup>th</sup>, the Water Department identified leaky valves on July 24<sup>th</sup>, and they did excavations on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and repaired on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Then they decided they wanted to cut in new valves for Alcoa that started on October 16<sup>th</sup> and ended on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We still need to relocate Alcoa's gas line. Dominion was at the preconstruction meeting in June, and they said they would have the work done in August, then September, then October, now they are saying sometime in November. That means we are going to have to pave the road and cut it for the gas line. The Mayor stated that they sent a letter to the head of the Water Department Darnell Brown stating the situation to make him aware of the situation, but the gas issue with Dominion we have no choice but to pave the road and then cut it for the new gas line. Mr. Faragone asked what the cost will be to make the cut and put in the gas line. Mr. Sciano explained that the cost will have to be paid by the gas company, and it will be a perpendicular cut, not a longitudinal cut. The cut will be approximately 4 foot in width.

The E, 71<sup>st</sup> Street resurfacing is going well. We got a great price for the project. Mr. Scianos estimate was 1.78 million, and it will come in at 1.5 million. We are progressing on budget if not under. The island will be in this week. Instead of the brick walks, we went with stamped concrete, which should hold up better.

We will be grinding and paving next week. Our goal is to try to get the Firefighters Credit Union to tie in their utilities before we do the road, and were not sure we can accomplish that. If they can't, we will have one recut in the street. Mr. Faragone asked if we talked to Dominion to see if they were going to put in new pipe before the project started. Mr. Sciano stated that yes, we talked to them before the project started, at that time, they had no plans, and then we got a request on Wednesday to do some work, but all the work will be under the walk, not the street. The Mayor stated that if anyone tells you that we didn't plan and now we have to get the new road cut, that is absolutely insane, the first thing the Engineer did was contacted all of the utilities and ask what work they have scheduled that would coincide with our work. We asked all of the utilities before the project if there was work, and they said no, and now they are saying there is a possibility of work.

Ms. Duszynski asked about the campus area, and if the Mayor had gotten any cooperation from the school on it. The Mayor stated that the school thought it was pretty, then they lost 4 million dollars, and although they still think it is a wonderful idea, they are not willing to pay for it.

Mr. Sciano mentioned that we milled E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street and we know that the hill at the bottom of the street by Canal Road is sliding. It was very evident when we resurfaced the hill, and now there is a crack in the center line. It is not an immediate threat, but it is moving, and has dropped substantially. The road itself is concrete, so it held itself up, but when you drive down the road you can see the sidewalk disappear. We apply last year for a grant and came in sixth, he would like to apply again this year, and he would like to know from Council what percentage they are willing to commit to. You need to commit to something in order to apply.

Mr. Sciano went over some of the remedies to shore up the hillside. They can drive piles into the ground and put up a wall which would be a permanent fix. Or you can put buttress the hill with concrete slabs for a less permanent fix and slow the slipping process down. Mr. Faragone asked if it is the same situation that they are seeing on the hill to E. 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Sciano said yes, same slope same movement, same silty underlining. Mr. Faragone explained that the guardrail is already down to the ground it has sunk that far. Ms. Duszynski asked Mr. Sciano if he was going to suggest to us the commitment we need to make in order to get the grant. Mr. Sciano explained that he doesn't believe that road is going to fail inside of a year, so you could go into this application with a smaller dollar commitment and see where you score. Mr. Contipelli asked if we can do the grant application for both hills, and Mr. Sciano stated that it would be two separate jobs, and two separate grants. The Mayor stated that he believes you should apply for both projects, and let the County decide which one is most important, then we go ahead with that one. They might fund both projects, and then we can decide which ones we can afford at the time. The cost of each project will be very similar, around 1 million for each hill.

Mr. Sciano and the Mayor both stated that we just fixed a road that was supposed to have a 15 year life, and it lasted 23 years, and we paid the full cost ourselves. So that is the story we go to them with, we paved your road, you didn't participate, you didn't think it was a priority, and we had to fix it ourselves. So the Mayor doesn't have any issue with us applying for the grant period, and if the dough isn't there, it isn't there. You step off the project. But it is his opinion that both hills have issues and you address them accordingly. These hills are not going to fail but sooner or later they will.

Mr. Faragone mentioned the high pressure gas lines leading to the Sewer District running underneath the street. He said if the hill collapses, it could have an impact on the gas line. The Mayor stated that this is something that you would put in the application, how it could impact the Sewer District. This might be a reason Regional Sewer needs to jump in and help us with this issue.

The Mayor stated that he does not believe we should go north of 30% for our commitment to the grant. The Mayor doesn't believe that it is an immediate need for next year, so we can always go in low, and apply every year until we get it. Mr. Sciano agreed. Council also agreed, and there will be legislation at the next meeting to let the Mayor apply for the grant with a 30% commitment.

Mr. Contipelli made the motion to go into Executive Session for real estate and litigation matters, Ms. Harris seconded. All in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Contipelli made the motion to come out of Executive Session, Ms. Duszynski seconded. All in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

WHEREFORE, there being no further business before this Council, Mr. Contipelli seconded by Ms. Biro that the Work Session Meeting be adjourned. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.