

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
CAUCUS
MARCH 11, 2020
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL CAUCUS

MARCH 11, 2020

Mr. Bloam called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger is out sick, so Mayor Bacci called the roll.

Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler

Also in attendance were Law Director Ben Chojnacki, CFO Angel Meriwether, Building Commissioner Norm Casini, Assistant Building Commissioner Ken LaBella, and Engineer Todd Sciano.

President Bloam turned the meeting over to Mayor Bacci.

Mayor Bacci stated that tonight we have a member of the School Board, and Superintendent Evans to present the building grounds history and maintenance as well as the Capital Improvement Program to Council. With that, he turned the meeting over to Mr. Evans.

First wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for partnering with them on the new sign. He has received nothing but positive comments. We are still looking to repurpose the old sign.

Two years ago the Board of Education said we need to start taking a long hard look at the building and the renovations that would be needed in the future, and how we are going to pay for them. The high school building is 82 years old, and the elementary building is 69 years old. We made some additions to the building through the 1970s, and made some other additions in 1979.

The buildings have been carefully maintained throughout the years going back to days of Herb Foote, the Walchers, Ricky Baciak, and most recently Neal Peterson who recently retired. The building is in fantastic shape. Anyone that comes in is astounded at how well we have kept it up for the last 80 some years. There are still areas in both buildings that need attention.

A year ago we brought in GPD Architects to look at the issues we had, and the structural integrity of the buildings. We found out today that with only one minor issue, the buildings are structurally sound. The problems we are having is the plumbing, the boilers and the wiring which are all original equipment. Tommy Dalton came in to look at them, and he is a well-respected boiler person in all the schools in Ohio. He said at most, we will have another five years before they start to fail, and we will not be able to get parts. These will need to be replaced.

Thirty five years ago, we replaced the roofs on the buildings. Every year we have had them checked and fixed for any problems. They are very well maintained, and are in good shape.

In 2008, we replaced all of our lighting with fluorescent lights. At the time, these were the best lighting. In 2020, they are obsolete. LED lighting is now the new lighting for everyone. If we change to LED, the experts are telling us it would take five years to recoup our investment. Moving forward, we feel pretty good about that.

We have a freight elevator in the building that has gone down many times this year. We looked at redoing the elevator, but according to code, it is too small and won't pass inspection. So if we take that elevator from the inside, and move it to the outside, it would cost approximately 4 million dollars. So what we have done, is found parts all around the country to keep it working, but eventually we will not be able to find parts.

Some people have asked us who does Garfield and Maple Heights build new buildings, and we cant. When the state sued the tobacco companies and won a large settlement, most all of the money went to districts that were economically distressed. Each school was ranked by need, and our school was fourth from the bottom of the list. Schools like Garfield and Maple Heights were ranked high, and got most of the money from the State, and with small bond issues, they were able to build new schools. That money is currently running out, and we don't expect to see any of it.

Currently the Cuyahoga Heights Schools have no debt. We don't owe anyone a penny. We have no bonds out, and we are not paying any loans. We are a debt free school. Only about 5% of all schools can make that claim.

We brought in GDP Architects to go over our buildings and put together a renovation for the district, along with all the costs involved.

Our buildings have a lot of historic value. Many of us have gone to those schools, and we all have pride in them, and what they mean to everyone. The high school is one of the top 25 most beautiful building in the state of Ohio. The state says if the cost of renovations is two thirds the cost of a new building, that it is time to build new. Mr. Evans said we are nowhere near that cost.

So in order to find out what the residents were thinking, we took surveys, and held meeting with all the communities. Everybody got a say as to what the wants and needs were for the district, and we categorized them. Some of the needs were roof and foundation, plumbing, lighting, pool, busses and vans, security, gym extension, and a field house. Some of the things we didn't think about were bleachers and railings, solar energy, and parking. If we redo these areas, we have to become ADA compliant, and right now, we are not compliant in many of these areas.

So we put this list together and gave it to GDP Architects and asked them to price it out. It came to a whopping price tag of 50 million dollars. This is not in the cards, we are not going to do a 50 million dollar renovation. So what my team and GDP Architects is doing at this time is push back some of the things that we wanted to do moving forward.

At the last board meeting, we talked about how we are going to fund this, obviously we are talking about a levy. We are not looking at a bond issue because we don't want to incur any debt to the district. If we take out a 20 million dollar bond, we pay back 35 million dollars on the

bond, with only getting 20 million dollars' worth of work. We are looking at a pay as you go program which would mean a permanent levy. As we get the money, we do the projects. On bigger projects, we wait and save up the money until we could afford it.

In the next five years we will also need operational money, so it would be a combination levy of part improvement, and part operational. We don't know what that number is, but we will start narrowing it down in the next few months and present it to the community.

In the next few years, we will lose 3.2 million dollars from the State, as they phase out the TPT tax funding that supports all the school districts. What counterbalances this loss is our tuition program. The tuition program generates about a half a million dollars a year to the school district. We currently have about 150 tuition paying students in the school.

Currently, we are the lowest taxed district in the county for our schools. This is one of the reasons people move to our communities. It's the outstanding services of the Villages, the schools, and the low taxes. We are trying to keep low taxes and great schools.

We receive about 688 dollars per student from the State according to the State formula, but if a student goes to a Catholic school, the State give them almost twice as much. This is something we are asking the State to change, and if it did, we would almost double our state revenue. We are also working closely with the local communities and all the Mayors to make this the best school we can.

Mr. Evans asked Board President Mr. Mark Dobbins. Mr. Dobbins is a lifelong resident of Brooklyn Heights, and also a graduate from a long time ago! He wanted to thank our Village for the great partnership that we have. The sign is one of the great collaborative efforts between the school and the Village. Another example is the strong support that the school receives from the village's safety forces.

The other issue he wanted to discuss is the Capital Improvement Plan discussed by Mr. Evans. After many meetings, and talking to all of the experts, we have concluded that the building were very well built, and meticulously maintained over the years. However, our campus consists of two buildings, one over 80 years old, and the other over 60 years old. Over the years, we have tried to control costs, and put band aids on many of the repairs. When we hired GDP to come in and give us an assessment of the buildings it became very clear that we needed to get many of these projects to the front of the line.

The costs submitted by GDP are based on criteria that is standard for all schools. They are not any different for any schools in our state. That gave me some comfort knowing that the costs were based on object criteria. So we have all worked hard to come up with a solid Capital Improvement Plan, and one that is cost effective. One of the components of the plan is to make sure the public is aware of the plan, and has some input. So far have tried in many ways to get our message out to the residents.

Mr. Contipelli asked Mr. Evans if we get 688 dollars from the state per student, what is our total cost per student. Mr. Evans said with all of the costs included it is approximately \$16,000.00 per

student. With the tuition program included, that cost comes down. Mr. Contipelli also asked if there was a target number for the levy. Mr. Evans said it is more a target to get the work done. Every mill generates around 350 thousand dollars a year. If we have to redo all the boilers, it will cost six million dollars, so we might have to wait a couple of years to save more money. But we are going to do a pay as we go, so we don't incur any debt. Mr. Contipelli explained that our Village recently went through a big infrastructure upgrade, so we understand the need to invest in the community. You are doing the same thing, and he hopes everyone is supportive.

Mayor Bacci said everyone is doing their due diligence. The best salesman are the people. As elected officials, there is always a level of skepticism, but when your neighbors are saying that this is the best thing for our community, it goes a long way. So please keep getting the community involved in these decisions.

State Representative Jeffrey Crossman addressed the Council. He thanked them for giving him some time at the Caucus. He wanted to come in and give Council an update on what he is working on in Columbus, and was glad to hear the problems the school faces in generating income for capital improvements. He wants to get the legislatures out of the funding process for schools. He feels that each community elects a board that knows the needs of the community better than the legislatures in Columbus, and would like to let them have more input into funding their schools. Currently the voucher program is a problem for every district, and he would like to make it more manageable for the local schools. He went over the voucher program with Council. He is trying to fix the funding program for the schools with a fairer program.

Currently we are working on the Capital Budget, and high on his list for the Village is a request from the Village for \$375,000.00 for the Trail Project, and we are working diligently to get that done. If you have any feedback or concerns, please let me know. Mayor Bacci said that Mr. Crossman is truly working with us to help get us this funding, and thanked him for all the help.

Mayor Bacci gave the Caucus back to Council President Bloam.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None at this time.

PERMITS:

None at this time.

PURCHASES:

February 2020, Finance Approvals

Finance Approval Req 20-VH-131-A HZW Asbestos Survey not to exceed \$6,028.

Finance Approval Req 20-VH-163-A 2020 to Senior Citizen Committee Fund not to exceed \$6,000.

Finance Approval Req 20-VH-187-A 2020 iPad upgrades and accessories not to exceed \$9,000.

Finance Approval Req 20-SD-77-A VIRNIG VAB-60 (60" ANGLE BROOM) from Murphy Tractor not to exceed \$6,500

MINUTES:

February 12, 2020	Caucus
February 12, 2020	Council Meeting
February 19, 2020	Workshop

Ms. Henley agreed to make the motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Harris agreed to second.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Statement of Cash Position February 2020

RITA Preliminary report March 2020

Mr. Centa agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-17

Payment of Certain Claims: \$1,026,650.82
Payroll
General Bills
Transfers

Ms. Harris agreed to make the motion, Ms. Henley agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-18

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR NANCY J. MCALEER

Ms. Henley agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONIES TO THE CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Schoeffler agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT AWARD FROM THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION PURSUANT TO ITS SAFETY INTERVENTION PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER TO EXPEND ALL FUNDS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE ONE POWER LOAD COT AND ONE POWER LOAD SYSTEM FOR ONE AMBULANCE

Mr. Schoeffler agreed to make the motion, Ms. Henley agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER TO EXPEND ALL FUNDS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE ONE POWER LOAD COT AND ONE POWER LOAD SYSTEM FOR ONE AMBULANCE

Mr. Centa agreed to make the motion, Ms. Henley agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDERS REGARDING THE PASS THROUGH AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND AND ANTHONY ALLEGA CEMENT CONTRACTOR

Mr. Contipelli agreed to make the motion, Mr. Bloam agreed to second.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER FOR THE 2020 CORN ROAST
NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000

Mr. Bloam agreed to make the motion, Ms. Harris agreed to second.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Mayor reminded Council that on April 8th, we will do our Council group picture.

We sent a letter out to all the residents concerning the Workshop on all the projects in the Village. He asked if anyone had any questions or calls from any residents. In crafting the letter, he tried to make it as easy as possible.

As far as the Canal Road Project, it should be done by July. It is an inconvenience for the businesses on Grant Avenue, and the residents on E.49th, but we need to be patient and get it done as soon as possible. We know this is going to be a major inconvenience, but after it is done, we will not have to do anything on Canal Road for fifty years. Please be patient.

Mr. Schoeffler asked when E.49th will be scheduled for resurfacing. Mayor Bacci said we did it last in 2010, and it should last 15 years, so it will be scheduled around 2025.

Caucus ended at 6:55 pm.

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 2020
7:00 PM**

COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 11, 2020

Mayor Bacci asked for a moment of silence for longtime resident Nancy McAleer.

Mayor Bacci called the meeting to order. CFO Meriwether called the roll.

ROLL CALL: Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, Schoeffler

Also present were Law Director Ben Chojnacki, CFO Angel Meriwether, Engineer Todd Sciano, Building Commissioner Norm Casini, Assistant Building Commissioner Ken LaBella, Administrative Assistant Lee Ann Schoeffler, Service Director Dave Sammons, Fire Chief Mike Suhy, Administrative Accounting Assistant Amanda Domzalski, Administrative Assistant Christina Caporuscio.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None at this time.

PERMITS:

None at this time.

PURCHASES:

February 2020, Finance Approvals

Finance Approval Req 20-VH-131-A HZW Asbestos Survey not to exceed \$6,028.

Finance Approval Req 20-VH-163-A 2020 to Senior Citizen Committee Fund not to exceed \$6,000.

Finance Approval Req 20-VH-187-A 2020 iPad upgrades and accessories not to exceed \$9,000.

Finance Approval Req 20-SD-77-A VIRNIG VAB-60 (60" ANGLE BROOM) from Murphy Tractor not to exceed \$6,500

Finance Approval Req 20-SD-74-A Annual Pool Chemicals & CO2 to Multi Vendors not to exceed \$18,000

MINUTES:

February 12, 2020	Caucus
February 12, 2020	Council Meeting
February 19, 2020	Workshop

Ms. Henley made the motion to accept the Minutes as prepared and place them on file, seconded by Ms. Harris. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Position of Cash Statement February 2020
RITA Preliminary report March 2020

Mr. Centa made the motion to accept the Financial Statements as prepared and place them on file, seconded by Mr. Bloam. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-17

Payment of Certain Claims: \$1,026,650.82
Payroll
General Bills
Transfers

Ms. Harris moved, seconded by Ms. Henley that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-18

A MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR NANCY J. MCALEER

Ms. Henley moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-19

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF MONIES TO THE CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

Mr. Schoeffler moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT AWARD FROM THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION PURSUANT TO ITS SAFETY INTERVENTION PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER TO EXPEND ALL FUNDS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE ONE POWER LOAD COT AND ONE POWER LOAD SYSTEM FOR ONE AMBULANCE

Mr. Schoeffler moved, seconded by Ms. Henley that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-21

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER TO EXPEND ALL FUNDS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE ONE POWER LOAD COT AND ONE POWER LOAD SYSTEM FOR ONE AMBULANCE

Mr. Centa moved, seconded by Ms. Henley that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-22

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDERS REGARDING THE PASS THROUGH AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND AND ANTHONY ALLEGA CEMENT CONTRACTOR

Mr. Contipelli moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-23

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER FOR THE 2020 CORN ROAST NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000

Mr. Bloam moved, seconded by Ms. Harris that the rules be suspended and the Resolution be placed on third and final reading. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley and Schoeffler voting aye for suspension of the rules. Bloam, Centa, Contipelli, Harris, Henley, and Schoeffler voting aye for the adoption, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None at this time.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS:

MAYOR BACCI:

Clerk Unger is not at the meeting, he has been ill the last couple of days, and at this time, it is better to stay home if you are sick.

Our condolences to:

To the James family – Tracy Spies and Jesse James, who recently lost their aunt, Nancy McAleer on February 26th; she was 82 years old. Ms. Henley and Nancy were the best of friends, and when it is Ms. Henley’s time to speak, please give her the respect which she deserves.

To David Unger’s wife Laura who lost her father, Bob Robinson, on March 2nd; he too was 82 years old.

And to the Ellis family in Brooklyn Heights. Michael Ellis passed away at the age of 50. He left behind a wife and two children – both of whom go to our school.

Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers.

Just a reminder that election day is next Tuesday, March 17 and the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the village hall.

Very special birthday wishes to Mrs. Bernice Suhy who will turn 95 years old on March 28th. In case you didn't know, she has been residing at O'Neill's Healthcare in North Olmsted. Happy birthday and God Bless to Grandma Suhy.

March birthday wishes to employees: (1) Christina Londrico, (8) Chief Brian Sturgill; (11) Joe Wallace; (12) CFO Angel Meriwether; (15) Jeremy Grabowski; (18) Jeff Baciak; (25) Barb Cash & Tracy Deal; (26) Jimmy Berdysz; and (29) Jeff Heintz.

Please continue to keep several residents in your thoughts and prayers: Mrs. Barbara Combs, Mrs. Irene Kloss, Mrs. Helen Krusinski, Ms. Marti Malek, Mrs. Shireen Mitchell, Dennis Tritsarolis and Joe Vitanza.

MR. BLOAM:

If anyone has anything for the Workshop, please let me know.

MR. CENTA:

Wished everyone a happy Saint Patrick's Day next Tuesday.

MR. CONTIPELLI:

Wished everyone to be safe, and take care of themselves, and their 401K investments. He also challenged everyone to go out and do one nice thing for someone else during this challenging time.

MS. HARRIS:

An old friend of mine came into our Village, and was amazed at how beautiful everything looked. Sometimes we need something like that to remind us of the good job everyone is doing to beautify the Village.

Please get out and vote next Tuesday.

MS. HENLEY:

Ms. Henley wanted to talk a little about her good friend Nancy McAleer. She was the President of the Seniors Club for approximately ten years. She was such a good hearted person. She

worked for many years at BP with another longtime resident Mickey Bohdan. She also worked at Lander Haven Party Center, and when she passed away, they were a big part of the funeral services. She graduated from South High School in Cleveland, and was a good Aunt to Traci and Jessie. I will miss her deeply.

Have a good St. Patrick's Day, and I hope we get over this virus quickly.

Speaking of the virus, Mayor Bacci wanted to let everyone know that we are doing everything we can to make it safe for all of our employees. We want to make sure everyone is safe during this crisis.

He is also worried about the economy, and the impact it will have on all of us. Mayor Bacci said we will be lucky if this thing goes away in a year. And the ripple effect it will have will make a mark at all levels of government for a long time.

If there is anything pertinent to get out to the residents or the business community, I will get it out as soon as possible. Right now we are waiting to hear from the health experts on what we need to do.

MR. SCHOEFFLER:

Nothing at this time.

CHIEF STURGILL:

Wanted to congratulate the new Police Chief of Brooklyn Heights, Dave Mead on his promotion.

SERVICE DIRECTOR DAVE SAMMONS:

Thanked Council for their approval of the new angle broom.

FIRE CHIEF SUHY:

Nothing at this time.

CFO ANGEL MERIWETHER

Nothing at this time.

LAW DIRECTOR BEN CHOJNACKI:

Nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR LEE ANN SCHOEFFLER:

Nothing to report.

ENGINEER TODD SCIANO:

Nothing at this time.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER NORM CASINI:

Nothing at this time.

ASSISTANT BUILDING COMMISSIONER KEN LABELLA:

Nothing at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT AMANDA DOMZALSKI:

Nothing at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CHRISTINA CAPORUSCIO:

Nothing at this time.

Mayor Bacci introduced a dear friend of his, Ms. Darnella Robinson. She is a former employee of the Sewer District, and now working for First Energy as our Regional Representative. Ms. Robinson said that if anyone had any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact her.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

No comments.

WHEREFORE, there is no further business before this Council, Ms. Henley moved, seconded by Ms. Harris that the Council Meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m. All voting aye, none opposed: motion carried.