

ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 15, 2017

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, June 15, 2017 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mrs. Valerie Van Valkenberg – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Chastain, Mr. Culbertson and Mrs. Bedinghaus.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the regular order of business to have the Public Hearing of the St. Bernard Village budget for 2018. Motion passed 7-0.

This is the Public Hearing of the Tax Budget of the Village of St. Bernard. This Budget will be submitted to Hamilton County for their review & action. I have provided Council and the Administration with the break out of the budget. There are extra copies on the table by the door if any audience members would like one. The 2018 Tax Budget reflects the Village's General Fund which is the basic operating fund of the Village.

REVENUE(ESTIMATED FOR 2018)

Est revenue from the Village's Earned Income Tax	\$ 10,200,000.00
Expected General Fund receipts from Property Taxes	\$ 1,100,000.00
Total Local Tax Receipts is estimated to be	<u>\$ 11,300,000.00</u>

Est. Revenue from the State & County from revenue sharing & certain taxes & permits.	\$ 216,200.00
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Other expected revenue for the Village of St. Bernard comes from:

Charges for Services	\$ 325,000.00
Fines Local Licenses & Permits	\$ 70,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 630,728.00
Other Sources	\$

Total Estimated General Fund Revenue for 2018:	<u>\$ 12,541,928.00</u>
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EXPENDITURES (ESTIMATED FOR 2018)

Within each class of expenditures in the Tax Budget, estimated costs are itemized for personnel, contractual services, supplies & materials and equipment or capital outlay.

Classification:

Security of Persons & Property (Police & Fire Depts)	\$ 4,954,229.10
Public Health Services	\$ 6,800.00
Leisure Time Activities (Parks & Recreation)	\$ 183,856.52
Basic Utility Services (Service Dept.)	\$ 1,327,050.00
Transportation (Dial-A-Ride)	\$ 126,228.00
General Government	\$ 2,495,043.40

Transfers from the General Fund to other funds: \$ 3,448,720.98
(e.g. Streets, Swimming Pool, Debt Service, Master Plan
& Employee Health Plan)

Total expected General Fund expenditures for 2018: \$ 12,541,928.00

Estimated Surplus for the General Fund at the end of 2018: \$ -----

Mayor Estep – At this time we have a presentation by Ms. Niesen and Bonnie Schappacher, President of the Women's Club.

Bonnie Schappacher – My name is Bonnie Schappacher and I am President of the St. Bernard Women's Club so I'm representing the Club. We are giving to Don Middendorf a Community Achievement Award. Special recognition for his efforts to do, and we want to elaborate a little bit on that, his special seeding, growing and planting flowers throughout the community, he presents a happy face to all those who live and work or visit here. He showed initiative as well as sharing his talents on his own time. It is greatly appreciated. His work is a fine example to all. I know you have seen it up and down Vine St., the planters and all and they're just beautiful. So we just thought with the Club it's time to recognize our people in our community for their great endeavors. So here it is and thank you so much for your time. Mike is going to give the award to Don because he is not here tonight. I think he is doing Taikwondo or whatever it is.

(applause)

Mike Wiedman – To be reminded again, this is an award for Don, if it was left to me all the flowers would be dead. This guy is incredible. A little word from Don, he says "It's always nice to be recognized for the work you do. I consider it a real honor when a citizens group like the Women's Club does. I'm humbled by this award and thank you all. I had a lot of help from my daughter and citizens from around the Village and with them in mind I humbly accept this award. Thank you."

Ms. Hausfeld – And I just want it to be known, I was coming from a meeting one night a couple of weeks ago when I saw Don and his daughters out picking the flowers, like picking the dead ones off and stuff and it was like 7:00, 8:00 at night. So he does it even when he's not working. So thank you Don.

Mayor Estep – I'd also like to thank the Women's Club for bringing more positivity to our community and we need more and more of that. Don, great job, Donnie does a lot of good things that go unnoticed by a lot of people but he's a good person and we need more of that.

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mrs. Bedinghaus seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I guess the next big event in St. Bernard will be the July 1st, the Fourth of July celebration but we will be celebrating that on Saturday, July 1st. We will begin with a 5K race at 9:30 out here at Washington and Tower. It's \$10.00 a person. We put this on Facebook and we've got a lot of flyers at Rob

Roneker's and several other race oriented places in the community and in the outlying communities as well. The cost is \$10.00. All the proceeds go to Recreation to help buy uniforms for the kids in the programs that we have. Then at 3:00 we move to Ross Park. We have food trucks coming in, we have smoking of the ribs, we have Aunt Annie's pretzels, we have LaRosa's, Crosley's is going to have a booth, we have rides for the kids, we have beverages, we have beer trucks, music by Bad Habits about 6:30 and then the culminating activity will be at 10:00 with fireworks by Rozzi.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office prepared Ordinances 11 and 12, 2017 for tonight's meeting. Ordinance 11 amends a previous Ordinance for part time pay rates. This Ordinance removes the section regarding session pay. With the passing of this Ordinance all pool employees will be paid their hourly rate instead of a session pay when working at the in-door pool. Ordinance 12 authorizes the Auditor to transfer \$700,000.00 from 01-5-A-19 General fund Transfer Out placing \$200,000.00 into 31-1000 General Bond Retirement and \$500,000.00 into Employee Health Plan Cash Account. It also provides an additional appropriation of \$434,215.99 to 51-07 Employee Health Care Expenses. These appropriations are covered from the healthcare premiums collected from the employees and for the funds remaining in the cash account at the end of 2016.

I wish I could be positive about the next report but it is very negative and has some things very bad in our office.

The Auditor's office provided Council and the Administration with the May revenue and expense spreadsheets and the cash funds report. The revenues year to date were \$4,713,481.02. The Village received the first half of the Hamilton County Property Taxes in June last year. If you take into account that revenue the Village revenues are down \$303,286.68. The expenditures year to date were \$5,423,290.81 compared to 2016, with an adjustment for the 2017 full year workers comp payment, the expenditures are up \$376,642.07.

At the last meeting I voiced my concerns regarding the lower revenues and increased expenses and the lack of decisions being made or even suggested by the Administration and Council. Another two weeks has passed with no changes and I can honestly say the lack of leadership has placed the Village in a very bad financial situation. The reason I say this is because as of today I need to cash in \$400,000 from our investments to maintain the balance in the main checking account so the Auditor's Office can process payroll and pay outstanding invoices. That will bring the balance of our reserves to \$2,513,876.14. By doing nothing you have forced the Village to have to use the reserves and threaten our bond rating. I actually wonder if this was the plan of some all along. I have been stating over and over what bond council has told the Village about using the reserves, only to fall on deaf ears. Many times the Mayor has stated to use the reserves instead of finding ways to cut costs. Well by doing nothing for the last six months I have no choice. In all my years working for the Village of St. Bernard I have never seen such a lack of leadership and accountability.

I have tried over and over to tell you how bad the situation is but nothing has changed. I decided to do a two year comparison this afternoon thinking maybe it would wake some of you up. When you take the expenditures through May from 2015 to 2017 they are us \$257,112.39 and if you take the same time period for the

revenues they are down \$519,264.84, yet the budgets grow. Someone tell me what does someone have to do to get Council and the Administration to do what you were elected to do. Yes, I know some on Council have tried and you know who you are. Please do not tell me we can solve this by a City Manager because we have to take the politics out of running the Village. I am not saying a City Manager will or will not work in St. Bernard but in the meantime running the Village should not be political, you were elected to do the job and everyone except Kelly has been in these positions before so there should be no shock as to what the job required. Do it! As if to add, us. I'm very upset. We've now tied our hands with bond council. Our bond rating is going to go down and unless somebody does something soon, we're ruining the Village of St. Bernard. I mean I've never seen the revenue this low and it's just paying daily bills. I need somebody to do something.

Mr. Chastain – What is our bond rating.

Mrs. Brickweg – I have it in there it's.....

Mr. Chastain – Single A or triple D?

Mrs. Brickweg – No, I think we are a double A, no it might be an A. I'll have to go get it.

Mr. Chastain – It was just a one level drop. It's not (inaudible)

Mrs. Brickweg – No, we're not going to go to a junk bond but basically they told us that it will tie our hands in being able to borrow money in the future and my feel with that is when your reserves are this low and anything happens we're not going to have the money to pay for it. So it's like a double whammy with this one. But I will get that for you when we're done here. I'll look it up.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Tonight you have Ordinance 13. I think Mr. Tobergte were changing Sec. 121.10. He changed three different Sections from Highways & Transportation Committee to Marketing Committee, as far as I could tell. I went through and it's three different Sections to make that change so this in effect changes the nature of that committee from Highways & Transportation to Marketing Committee. That's basically what Ordinance 13 does.

As far as the Park Ordinance, I think I found a way to address the boom boxes for the loud noise issue. We have a fairly detailed Ordinance already for loud noises and what I'll do is just reference that Ordinance when discussing loud noises in the park. And I'll have that to Council. If that's the only changes you guys want I'll have that to Council if we could put that on for the COW then we can get it on the next Council meeting agenda.

For the Nuisance Committee we met earlier this month, last week, we're still gathering examples of nuisance property Ordinances throughout the State of Ohio. Next meeting we'll have is next month, I believe July 13, where we're going to deal with that and also vacant property Ordinances we want to address. I don't know, Mrs. Bedinghaus since you're on Laws, Contracts & Claims, we'd like you to be there but if you can't just check your calendar and let us know.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – When is it?

Mr. Peck – July 13th, at 6:00pm. So it's an off Council week.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I've prepared the inventory detail report from Fifth Third Securities that states as of the end of May we have \$890,000.00 with Fifth Third. The Star Ohio account before the transfer the Auditor mentioned earlier at the end of May we had \$2,152, 386.75. And in First State Bank for the Memorial Fund we have a total there at the end of May of \$5,637.18.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I have the St. Bernard Fire Department run report for the EMS detail, actually I lost part of my report. I'll give you what I have here. Actually we'll just skip that and I'll get the update and I apologize when I copied this over. We had total fire details of 37, we had mutual aid given to Elmwood Pl. 1, mutual aid given to Golf Manor 1, mutual aid given to Norwood 1, and Reading 1. we received mutual aid for fire from Elmwood one time. Also details of interest, we had chemical spills 1, 1 vegetation fire, 4 trash fires and 1 building fire.

On June 3 the St. Bernard Police and Fire Departments held a safety fair at the St. Bernard Safety Center. We would like to thank all of the members of the community who attended and also the other agencies who participated such as: Hamilton County Police Association SWAT Hamilton County Hazardous materials unit and also a big thank you to the Montgomery Fire Dept. For loaning equipment for children's activities. Urban Search and Rescue.

I would also like to report briefly on an incident that occurred on June 7th in the municipal lot at the corner of Mitchell and Leonard where shots were fired. It appears as that the occupants of two vehicles were in some sort of altercation and decided to pull into the municipal lot where the exchange became heated and shots were fired. We are currently having video analyzed but we do not believe that the individuals had any ties to the community other than choosing our lot which was sparsely occupied because Roger Bacon had dismissed for the summer. We will be working with the citizens of that neighborhood to address concerns regarding this incident.

Also, it was just reported to me by our Police Department that there was a shooting that just occurred at the corner at Mitchell and Vine in Cincinnati. This did not occur in St. Bernard but we were on the scene assisting with securing the area around the Walgreens parking lot. I know there were phone calls that were coming in asking what had happened.

Lastly, I would ask for your support in the approval of Ordinance No. 14 which is the MOU between the Village at St. Bernard and St. Bernard Firefighters Local 450 to create an alternative staffing program. The Chief and the President of Local 450 are here if you have any questions.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – For my report tonight, I will say we are in a state of beyond our control. The things that are happening are not all the fault of the Village and we are on their time table to have the repairs completed. The projects are under repair as you can probably see. The Village's responsibilities are being carefully laid out and weighed to give us the best outcome at the most reasonable costs. Most of these repairs are not the Village's responsibility. Moeller Ave. Project will commence after the Fourth of July festivities. The Nemann Company will be doing the construction. The Village has experience with this company as they are the people that completed Sullivan Ave. I asked them to extend the same courtesies' to the residents on Moeller that they did for the people on Sullivan Ave. If you should have any concerns, call me and they will be addressed.

To My Community, "Be still, breathe and know that you are fine." This was found on a Dove Dark Chocolate wrapper which was one of my "stressed" for the evening. Oh! I'm sorry, I flipped that word around. I meant, "desserts", for the evening. Funny when 'stressed' turns around it spells "desserts". I see a dilemma here. An overdose of either is unhealthy. Perhaps we should choose a dessert that wasn't made by man to help us through stress. The sweeter things in life. Like a slice of peace and a scoop of love being the a la mode.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore - I put the figures for May in your boxes. As you can see, we're up a little bit verses May of last year. This comes from the top ten accounts in town which drew about \$82,000.00 in revenue and everybody else is kind of down a little bit. But the good news is, at least for May, we were up a little bit and made up a little bit of the amount we were down.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to thank Peggy for double checking the numbers for the budget and putting them into the correct format.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – This is the final reminder that this month's Block Watch meeting will be hosting a presentation on Tues., June 20 at 6:30pm at the Safety Center by the Ohio Attorney General's office Consumer Protection section. The presentation will be on consumer scams. The presenter will be Ryan Lipp. The event is not sponsored by nor affiliated with The Ohio Attorney General's Office. The Ohio Attorney General does not endorse or recommend St. Bernard Block Watch or any products or services affiliated with the Block Watch.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department report for May 2017. There were 23 Trucks placed at residences, 33 dumpsters placed at residences, 287 special pick-ups at residences 242.36 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. On the recycling side there were 33.33 tons of recycling material and 2200 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – I have the report from the Planning & Development Department;

Administrative Duties: for the month of May the building department answered or returned over 432 phone calls. These calls were requests for Zoning Classification, information for building permits, available housing, guidance on building projects, neighbor disputes, property maintenance violations and fence and property line issues.

Plan review: 7 plan reviews.

Inspections: 14 inspections for the building permits.

Request for Zoning Approval: 1 request for zoning approval. 0 Board of zoning appeals case.

HIP: The HIP program has started follow up inspections on Ross and Jackson Ave. The new streets for this year will be Imwalle, Moeller and Broemann.

Court Cases: the department currently has six cases in the court system.

PMC

This is the code we use for "Property Maintenance Referrals"

We have issued 3 PMC orders.

The Town homes are well under way. What a great addition these will make for our community. The new home on Tower near Franklin park has been issued their permit and should start soon.

It is that time of year. Spring has sprung and weekend warriors are all getting ready for the summer project season. Please remember the following projects are just some of the projects that require a permit.

Fences, retaining walls, decks, porches, re-roofs, replacement windows, kitchen remodels, bath remodels and sheds to name a few. If you are starting a project please give us a call, we are here to help. The number to reach Walt Moeller is 513-482-7493.

On another note the department has been working with Nicholas Brown at First State Bank to provide the loan serving for our low-income loan program. As you recall we submitted an Ordinance last fall and the task with developing the program. I am hopeful the loan program will be in place shortly and will be resubmitting the Ordinance.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mr. Chastain – No report.

Mr. Asbach – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

Committee of the Whole

June 1, 2017

1. The Council meeting began with nominations and then an election to fill the 4th ward Council seat. Three people submitted their names, Brendon Chastain, Sara Helton and Phil Stegman, to be nominated for the seat. After the third round of voting, Brendon Chastain was elected to fill the seat until the end of the year.

2. Council approved the minutes of the May 18th Council meeting.

3. Council discussed an Ordinance for the update to our Codified Ordinances. A motion was made and seconded, and Council voted 7-0, to place the Ordinance on the table at the next meeting.

4. Mayor, John Estep

a. Thanked everyone that that helped with the Memorial Day Parade.

b. Gave awards to Trevor Fleak and Callie Schildmeyer from the Daughters of the American Revolution for their citizenship, respect and how they get along with others.

5. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg

a. Asked Council to make a change to Ordinance #3, 2017 to remove certain wording that was requested by the Recreation Director. Council voted 7-0 to place the Ordinance on the table.

b. Told Council that she received notice that the old police station will no longer be able to be used for municipal purposes and we will have to start paying taxes, at a cost of \$19,662.14, per year. She is appealing this and will let us know the outcome. We will also have to pay \$12,596.94 for the Long John Silver property.

6. Law Director, Mike Peck

a. Said that he had reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Fire Department alternative staffing program and said that the Safety Director will explain further.

b. Said that the Laws, Contracts & Claims committee will discuss the changes to the Parks Ordinance.

c. Said that the nuisance committee will meet next week on Thursday.

7. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

a. Asked Council to support the MOU for the Fire Department. The Chief and the union president were available for questions. Section 4B was asked to be explained better about days and shifts off. Council voted 7-0 to place the Ordinance on the table.

b. Told Council that we need to find a new company to bill for accidents, soft billing, because the company we currently use is discontinuing that service. They will continue billing for EMS runs.

c. Reported that due to the increased drug investigations we have spent additional funds on lab test and the line item needs to be increased. A transfer of \$3,500 needs to be transferred from 6A14 to 6A9. Council voted 7-0 to place an Ordinance on the table.

d. Reported that the Mayor, Police Chief and the Police Clerk met to discuss the back load due to the increase of items at Mayor's Court. It has been estimated that an additional 15 hours a week, or roughly \$15,000.00 a year, would be needed to get the work done.

e. Thanked Officer Setters for hosting a pizza party for the kids at the Library on the last day of the year. He has developed an excellent rapport with them.

f. Asked Council to go into Executive Session to discuss a personal matter. Council voted 7-0 to do so at the end of the meeting.

8. Service Director, Tom Paul

a. Reported that Johnson Alley has been denied by MSD for the cost of repairs made. He will continue to fight this.

b. Said that the fences around the dumpsters on Girl Scout Ln. will not be done until sometime in July.

c. Reported that he has a meeting with a company called Simple Recycling on June 8th. They would follow our Service Department truck around and collect clothing and other items that can be reused instead of throwing them away.

9. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

a. Said that he will have the May reports at the next Council meeting.

10. Treasurer, John Ungrhue

a. Reported that the 5/3rd securities totaled \$890,000.00 and that he would have the other totals at the next Council meeting.

11. Finance, Don Tobergte

a. Reviewed the proposed 2018 budget. There will be a public hearing before the Council meeting on June 15th.

b. Asked Mr. Peck if we needed an Ordinance to change the Highways & Transportation Committee to the Marketing Committee. He was told yes and Council voted 7-0 to place an Ordinance on the table.

12. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Reported that the next Block Watch meeting will be on Tuesday June 20th at 6:30 at the Safety Center. There will be a presentation by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Section. The presentation will be on consumer scams. The presenter will be Ryan Lippe. This event is not sponsored by, nor affiliated with, the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General does not endorse or recommend St Bernard Block Watch or any products or services affiliated with the St Bernard Block Watch.

13. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus

a. Asked everyone to review the new proposed Park Ordinance. There is a section that talks about music, sound amplification and noise that she referred to. The Police Chief said that this was taken from another Ordinance but could be changed to how we wanted it to read. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

14. Firefighter Greg Lipp addressed Council about the five man rule. He doesn't feel that this is fair to the department. He put us on notice that the staffing level is inadequate.

Service Department Foreman, Mike Wiedmann, discussed the 2018 budget and said that the department was always about service to the community. He stated that in the past their department has been willing to work with the administration to try to maintain a certain level of service. He voiced his displeasure on the loss of the heavy equipment operator's position next year since they weren't even asked to see what could be worked out. A resident agreed with Mr. Wiedmann that the sweeper keeps our streets very clean. Service department employee, Joe Lengreich, gave a history of cuts that have been made over the years. He also said they are doing the same work they did when he started, but they had 36 employees then and 17 now. He said that they have made cuts over the years and each department needs to make their own cuts. Former Service Director, Phil Stegman, talked about the cuts to the Service Department and why there is the two tier system, to save money. He also said that it's up to the Administration to make the cuts and increases to our services. Fire union president, Brian Young, felt that all departments have made cuts on the raises and health care for the budget. He said that there are savings with the MOU agreement and we should work together to increase revenues. Former Tax Commissioner, Marge Niesen, said we need to be more creative on how to increase revenues and add businesses. We need to reinvent St. Bernard.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to read tonight's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 10, 2017. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO, REVISING THE TRAFFIC AND GENERAL OFFENSES CODES TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 10, 2017. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 10, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 11, 2017. AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2017 FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD WHOSE FIRST DATE OF SERVICE IN THE POSITION IS AFTER 1/1/2005, REMOVING SESSION PAY FOR WINTER GYM AND SWIM ACTIVITIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 11, 2017. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 11, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2017. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, MOVE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 12, 2017.

REMARKS

Mr. Kalb – Just as the Auditor stated earlier even though it does say additional appropriations the money for the employee health care is money we received from stop gap loss from the insurance as well as the employees portions so it's not a true additional appropriation.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 12, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2017. AMENDING THE ST. BERNARD CODIFIED ORDINANCES SECTION 121.10 (b) (10) F, THE PROTOCOL, POLICY AND PROCEDURES CODE SECTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 13, 2017.

REMARKS

Mr. Tobergte - I'd like to thank Council for finally waking up and changing some of these committees or at least one committee to a committee that mean something. Hope this will be a start. We need to take a look at the rest of the committees and try to get some more meaningful committees on Council.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to adopt Ordinance No. 13, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 14, 2017. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, OHIO AND ST. BERNARD, OHIO FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 450 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 14, 2017.

REMARKS

Mr. Kalb - I have been going back and forth on this Ordinance for the past few months trying to decide if this is what's best for the Village. If you look at this MOU on the surface, it's a good plan that can be implemented very rapidly to help bring staffing back up. We already have the personnel that are trained and have gear; they just need to be given the go ahead to work. My problem is why we can't do this with part time personnel at an even greater savings to the Village.

I don't want to speak on behalf of the Administration but I believe the original plan was to hire part time firefighter paramedics to fill in the openings as current members retired. From what I have gathered this plan would only work if the Firefighters Union agreed to allow part time members to be hired as it would need to be negotiated into the current contract. So for me we have an agreeance on one issue, to maintain staffing. We have hashed these arguments out over and over again here on Council floor of the pros and cons of full time vs. part time staff so I'm not going to get into that but bottom line is that part time staff is cheaper with same State Certifications. Out of the 44 different fire departments in Hamilton County only 5 departments are all full time that I know of. I can't imagine that the other 39 departments are purposely spending more money or jeopardizing their resident's safety by having some combination of full time, part time. Out of those communities many of them also have big industry, chemical plants, and other various high hazard structures just as we do here in St. Bernard.

The Village needs to start doing business differently to save money and invest in its future. We are way over budget this year and even though next year's budget is balanced that budget replaces no vehicles, repairs no road, upgrades no parks, replaces no outdated equipment, or puts any money back into reserves that we are

depleting very rapidly. This MOU to me is a step in the right direction but not a big enough step to move the Village forward. The MOU to me is a great plan to fill the void currently but I see no progress on either side of allowing part timers to be hired in the future and my fear is if the MOU passes then any progress will stop. With all that being said I will be voting NO on the Ordinance this evening, I hope that the Village Administration and Fire Union can come together and work on a possible plan to implement a part time program so that we can increase staffing while further saving the Village money. I would be willing to implement this MOU if I saw further progress on increasing staffing with part time personnel to fill the void in the meantime as we hire the new members

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I have one question and then I do have a comment. From my understanding with this memorandum is that there is only one shift that is below the eight firefighters. Is that correct?

Mr. Stuchell – That is correct. With the one retirement that was not a replacement so basically that is what their goal is to back fill that void on that unit with the alternative staff program. Then on the other units as retirements occur we would do the same thing. As of right now, there is only one unit that would be back filled with the alternative staffing program.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – So since this MOU is to back fill it with current employees and not overtime it would be only one tour that has one eight hour shift that would not get overtime.

Mr. Stuchell – If it's 24 hours shift

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Okay the 24 hour would not get.....

Mr. Stuchell – Correct. But it may be split with a 12 hour shift. It could be two people filling that void. We would be paying them straight time. Based on, if you, the Chief maybe could explain it a little better based on the sleep, that kind of thing but based on what we're doing is that they are actually able again to work for straight time. What their current rate is.

Chief Meyer – Cindi did he answer your question well enough or.....

Mrs. Bedinghaus – No, I got it. It's just one tour that is really not counted in any overtime for that replacement. But the two other tours they don't have that, they still have eight men and so if somebody's off for the long term anybody picking up extra if you go below manning that you would require that would be overtime.

Chief Meyer – Yes, that's correct but either one of the other two shifts, you remember, last year we did away with the six man manning, we went down to five with the DTO so those two units will still be under that plan and also as the Safety Director said, the plan is as other people retire to implement this on all three shifts but yes, currently it is for the one shift.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Okay, thank you. So my comment is somewhat like Andy's but I've always been in favor of part time firefighters. I brought it up well over two to three years ago. I don't see any movement in that direction. I feel, and this is my own personal opinion, with the contract we had an opportunity not to do contracts when we became a Village, we went ahead and Council approved that. That put us

into the situation where we cannot hire part time without negotiation. If we hadn't had a contract we could go ahead and the Village Administration could make that decision and let part timers come in. I know this is a short term fix and I'm going to vote for this but I will not vote for it to go additional six months after this if there's not, if the contract does not get opened up and negotiations started to bring part time people in here. I know the contract isn't up until April of 2018 but there's no reason why that that can't get started. I'm going to vote for this because I think it is a short term fix and something that is beneficial for the Village right now. But it's not a long term plan and I won't go another six months.

Ms. Hausfeld – One remark, I know you were saying just the one tour is effected right now. Do we have any clue in the next six months, in the next year if there are any more firefighters retiring?

Chief Meyer – We are definitely having one by next summer. Probably July, so right around a year from now and there's a high probability that we'll have another one maybe in the next few months going out on disability. Those are the two that I know about. Obviously at any point somebody could go but those are the two that I know about in the near term.

Ms. Hausfeld – So this could be effecting more than just the one shift is what I'm saying.

Chief Meyer – Yes, if we pass this tonight for the six months, there's a high probability it will effect a second shift in that six months would be my best guess.

Ms. Hausfeld – Okay, thank you.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 14, 2017 as read. Motion passed 5-2. Mr. Tobergte and Mr. Kalb voted no.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte – Mike, we talked earlier this week about a property on Mitchell Ave. that we paid to have it demolished property has been sold or transferred it's my understanding. We cannot enforce the lien because of the type of sale. Is there another legal way we can use to make sure we are able to recoup our money not only in demolitions but also the places the Service Department cuts the grass at?

Mr. Peck – Not the way that turned out. I mean, once, the problem with that property was it was attempted to be sold at auction several times and no one bought it so at that point it was forfeited to the State of Ohio. Once that forfeit happens it's by law it's passed without any liens or incumbents. That's why we lost out and it's really nothing we could have done on that.

Mr. Tobergte – Is there a different way that there is anything better than a lien to put on the property so we get our money? We're out eight grand just for demolition.

Mr. Peck – When we like knock down a building?

Mr. Tobergte – For that or cutting grass? Because the City cut the grass. How do we make sure we get our money back?

Mr. Peck – Liens are the only way to put a mortgage on property. It's just a last ditch effort. Other than that, I mean, you're not going to be able to shake them down. That's basically it. But I'll take a look and see if there's any other avenues besides liens but I really don't think past that point that there is anything.

Mr. Tobergte – Also I want to thank the Fire Chief for taking the time to talk to Walgreens and getting the ball rolling on Walgreens taking care of the flu shots for our Village. This will be done at no cost to our Village. The people getting the shots will supply insurance information so that Walgreens will bill their insurance companies. If you don't have insurance you can still pay directly. More details will be available as the date approaches.

Also to let the residents know Tommy has been in contact numerous times with the proper companies to get them to work on the holes at Tower and Church along with Scenic Ave. Hopefully they will get tired of getting phone calls from Mr. Paul and fix the problems.

I know Peggy is talking about money and that, Jonathan, I talked to Paul Myers. He was looking into raising building permits to the same level as other communities. Is there any movement on that yet?

Mr. Stuchell – We talked about that as well. So I have been talking with the Fire Department and there's also some potential inspections on that end that we can kind of incorporate. I will definitely get you an update at COW.

Mr. Tobergte – And Tommy and John, dumpster fees are you going to increase them?

Mr. Paul – Yes, I've been studying it and looking and I believe that we're going to take it by steps because I figure if I can, by raising it from where it is now to where it should be, it's kind of like a shock. So if I take my time and get it up to where it's supposed to be I think the businesses will be more adaptable to it.

Mr. Tobergte – There's talk about charging the resident for picking up their garbage. It's my understanding that has to be done by Ordinance. That's up to the Mayor. Am I correct or not?

Mr. Peck – I'll have to confirm that but I think that's right.

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Mr. Tobergte – Are we still looking on doing that or

Mayor Estep – We did have the guy in the other night. He hasn't gotten back in touch with us how we can put that on the water so I think we're still working on that. I think we're going to move in that direction.

Mr. Tobergte – One final thing, it was brought up last week. Chief Moeller talked about Mayor's Court and needing money for taking care of it. We checked into the Mayor's Secretary getting more training or is that a dead issue or what?

Mr. Stuchell – Just to clear up some of that, we combined, basically what, the consistency of having one person was the initial intent, not stressing that the Mayor's Secretary couldn't necessarily handle it but in using the system that it

seemed as though having one person made more sense. But what part of our problem is as well and we're going to be meeting with the magistrate as well the fact of the recites and it's continued warrants that have to be refiled, it's getting to actually become tedious work and it's happening too often. So we're going to try to work with the magistrate and try to, you know, I think we may even be too lenient in our system. So the fact there are no shows and that, so we're going to try to work on that. So there might be ways of actually reducing some of this work on our own so as of right now and cable asking for any additional funds until we can go back and reevaluate and try to work on the system itself.

Mr. Tobergte – The way the Chief talked we're way behind now on that data entry or whatever?

Mr. Stuchell – She's working, I wouldn't say way behind, but we are behind and she's trying to get caught up just based on hours so yes but we're hoping to try to get caught up and actually make it more efficient so that it's not going to be an issue. But as of right now we're not asking for additional funds. What we're doing, we're utilizing another dispatcher that has previous experience in doing exactly what Judy is doing with the warrant issuing until we're utilizing Kim to assist with that for right now and until things level out.

Mr. Tobergte – Using the dispatcher, is that taking away his dispatching duties or are we paying him extra or is the dispatching line item going to run short now?

Mr. Stuchell – It's not going to run short, no.

Mr. Tobergte – So are you getting paid extra to do it or you doing it.....

Mr. Stuchell – He's putting in some extra time because actually he is coming, he has worked consistently on it and he's coming in and doing the data entry so he is able to help get her caught up and we have to have, you have a little bit of money left, he has some flexibility in that line item.

Mr. Asbach – I just want to ask Mrs. Brickweg, do we need to make a motion to approve anything to send down to the County? Are we good on that?

Mrs. Brickweg – Oh no, I'm sorry, no I'll send it down again and then they'll send some information back, they approve it and then you'll vote on it on a Resolution probably around September.

Mr. Asbach – The other thing I had, and we've discussed it, the reason it came up is after the last COW meeting someone questioned when those minutes would come out so I'm going to place on the agenda to discuss switching the meeting back. Having the Council meeting on the first Thursday and the COW on the third Thursday. The way they typically flew, the flow of the meetings last month. I will put that on the COW to discuss it. And as far as the Water Works, gentlemen, I have not heard that he had not contacted you, he had actually emailed me, he didn't have Mr. Paul's email address so I gave that to him but the last email I got back from him was that they were having their lawyer look at everything before they forwarded it on. My assumption is that it is in the works but I haven't heard anything.

Mr. Culbertson – Couple of things, I wanted to let everybody know that the next CIC meeting is this coming Tuesday, June 20 at 5:30pm in the lower hall.

Everybody's welcome to attend. I would also like to ask if, Tom Paul, if you could give, I've had some questions from residents and I would like to get some information on the web site as well, but can you give an update as to what is going on with the web site and the expectations on when it will be up and running.

Mr. Paul – I kept looking at my notes and I knew that there was something that I wanted to report on. Yes we have been working on the web site. The web site crashed due to the fact there was no updates for quite a few years. The last major update crashed our old system. There's no getting that back. So I called S&H Consulting, they got involved, the progress we made is now on the server and have access to things that were on the web. However, when you look at what we're looking at on the server, it's not the same as the web page. So imagine all those Ordinances without numbers if you will. If you can do that then you know. So the new company has come in and it's a team of seven. They have designed and started and I got an email today, Heidi and I both did actually, so they think they can access back prior to the crash. So we're going to roll back in time. We're going to grab what we can grab and then we'll move forward there. The last report I got from them, we were three weeks out but if we cannot get the Ordinances and everything off that server to make sense then we're more like four or five weeks out. So Heidi is pitching in, she's the one who is going through and saying or I recognize this, so that's where we're at. But we're scrambling, but the company is, it will be user friendly it's going to incorporate programs that City Hall will bring us up to date and all the citizens can actually do everything on the web site. The residents will, you know, they'll be able to do almost anything they need to do and that's where, oh and by the way it'll be bright and not dingy if it ever makes it.

Mr. Culbertson – Lastly I'd like to add to the COW, we need to come up with a new CIC representative on Council so if we could discuss that.

Mr. Tobergte – You mean ICRC?

Mr. Culbertson – ICRC I'm sorry.

Ms. Hausfeld – This could go under old or new. I do recommend the public to attend the CIC meetings. They are informative. You don't get the gist of what's going on unless you attend some of these meetings. And I know the last one I attended it was very informative. Jonathan is working hard to get some things accomplished in the CIC but you don't see that unless you attend those meetings and see firsthand what's going on. With that being said, I also attended the Charter Commission meeting this past week which is newly developed again, there's I don't know, ten, eleven, twelve people on it but I know myself and Phil were the only two residents there just to hear what's going on and those are also very, very informative and that next Charter Commission meeting is July 11 at 5:30pm here in Council Chambers. Just to let you guys know three of the things that are being discussed and it's very early stages, nothing accomplished or anything in this committee meeting yet. They are looking at the, of course everybody knows the one Chief, Fire Chief combination thing. They also one of the things they are looking at doing away with is the Civil Service Commission and one of the other things is only having five Council members instead of seven and there was a lot of talk if you have five is it going to be all 'at large', if it's going to be Wards plus a 'at large', like I said it's all early stages. I am very glad that I attended at least the last two meetings because and I don't remember their names, the only guy I remember is Mike Burns, last week they had a guy here talking about city manager stuff and

then Mike Burns, some of you older members might know that he used to work for our city thirty years ago as, and he is also City Manager where he is now and he came to give us some insight of if we would want to go to a City Manager, if we didn't want to go to a City Manager, well like I said everything is very early stages. They don't even know yet in this commission how many people it takes to get a vote passed or not passed so it's early stages of things going on but it's still, I feel, it's still very informative and I just wanted to let the residents know as of right now what is being discussed.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to add to Patty's report a little bit. Maybe Jonathan can help me. At the CIC are we going to be the second extension of the shopping center?

Mr. Tobergte – Jon and I asked Peggy and Tommy, Bill was working on job descriptions for everybody. Can we get copies of everybody's job descriptions if there are any?

Mr. Estep – Yeah, sure.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm sorry, what was the whole thing about the shopping center?

Mrs. Brickweg – The Executive Board apparently met last Thursday to discuss if they wanted to extend the agreement with the developer and Jonathan you can help with this, I didn't know about the meeting or anything. I thought the vote went down, I have no idea but then we received an email from one of the members asking us if we wanted to extend it or not and just in my opinion I asked four questions and did not get an answer so I was not going to vote on something I didn't know anything about. So I'm assuming we're going to discuss it and if it's extending the contract for the developer at the shopping center.

Mr. Stuchell – We didn't meet to discuss extending it. We met with the developer basically to discuss their progress, they're at a point basically where again coming within a couple months of the contract expiring and at this point wanted to discuss their progress and ask for that extension. So what we did is basically put out an email vote but yes that is going to be on the, my agenda, to discuss and we will go over that and actually our, we are very fortunate to have some talented individuals on the CIC and actually our Secretary Travis, that is his forte. He actually worked in a development company so he would be able to explain it very well so again I would encourage you to come if you are interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kalb – I saw something kind of neat when driving through Sharonville about a week ago. Tommy Paul, I talked to you briefly about this. They do like a yard sign for the grass cutting so when they do a violation for tall grass, obviously they still have to go through the legal stuff of giving them a letter and all that but then they plant a yard sign in the yard that says this property is in violation of Ordinance, Section yakety, whatever, and at the bottom it says this property is due to be mowed by public works on and then there is a blank spot where they write in the date. So when you're driving by a property it might save someone a phone call that you get where it has been reported, it's in the works of being worked on but I drive by, I don't know that so I give you a call and you tell me yes, it's in the works. So obviously the resident could probably take that sign down but there was a couple

of them up in Sharonville last week and I thought that was pretty neat when driving through. It kind of lets the residents know that there is progress at this and the city was working on it. So it's just something maybe to look into.

Mr. Tobergte – One last thing. Tommy, I know you had the meeting last week with the orange bag recycling. Are we going to do that? You want to explain that a little bit to Andy?

Mr. Paul – Yes. I actually invited the Foreman, Mike Wiedman, up with me on that meeting. He was running late so John, the Mayor, was going to sit in and when he couldn't make it until later that afternoon I told John I'll just skip Mike up so we have double sets of ears. It's a wonderful program. In response to Peggy and my wife Margret, is it tax deductible, no it's not. They feel that that he said his biggest concerns or their biggest opposition was Good Will because Good Will said they're taking away. His explanation they are not because what happens with their company is they, you go through the clothes, they take it and it's a five stage program. The first stage they take all the stuff that's valuable and put it out there and it goes new world wide at this point. So the next stage is if it's a little worn, so you see where this is going. So then it goes out. Third stage has holes in it. So it's going to go to the shredders. You get down to the rags that mean nothing with oil or anything on them then that gets disposed of. They boast that they recycle 95% of textiles. 5% go to waste. That being said I think of people who say Okay I want a tax deduction, they can still do that. But how many people are going to take their clothing that have holes in it, you know, I believe that most people would say, okay, that's trash, nobody's going to wear that. If that goes out onto the curb in an orange bag on the same day as your recycle they pull through, they now use vans because it's less harsh on your streets, it's less big, it's less noticeable and they pull through, load it up and take it away. And you can feel good because it goes to all different places all around the world. To me that's good and we do get credit for recycling so that is done by Bill Tellis the weight they picked up, we turned that in to Hamilton County recycle and we make more money. So I've got a contract that was sent to me. I put it in Mike's mailbox and if he thinks it's okay which I read and I liked it. There are quite a few Villages and cities in Cincinnati doing it now. Once Mike gives me the okay I'm going to sign it and every resident will receive a bag and a card that explains how it goes. If you need more bags, they will gladly drop them off to you on the next route. The next time around. So you'll be putting your old clothes out.

Mr. Tobergte – Tommy is it just clothes? The article in the paper.....

Mr. Paul – When it's all said and done and you get your little card you'll notice that there are little small appliances that they'll pick up. Anything that you yourself would carry to other places. They take all that. I mean I doubt, they won't take a refrigerator because they are in vans but if it's a small appliances like a small microwave, small toaster or something on that line they'll carry that away for you also and recycle it.

Mr. Tobergte – The article in the paper said the gave a penny a pound to us is that still.....

Mr. Paul – Yes, you know how we get a penny a pound for steel. It's going to be the same only it will be tax dollars. So however many pounds we turn in we'll get money.

Mr. Asbach – Listening to Mr. Kalb talk about the signs, anybody's mentioning Norwood, they've got a good one too. "Try to drive twenty five". The Police Department, and Steve's not here, but I'll pass it on. When school is in they can sit out in front of St. Clement and flag car after car over and not that I want to spend the money on the signs but it's just a good sign. It makes you aware and makes you think about it, slowing down a little bit.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mike Wiedman, Foreman Service Department, 5230 Vine St., old residence 4508 Park Pl. - Last weeks' COW meeting, after last weeks' COW meeting I feel I need to speak again about the Service Department and about what the Service Department has done and is continuing to do to save money and serve the citizens of this great Village. There was at least a twenty minute discussion last meeting saying that no one is doing anything about the current situation that the Village has found itself in. This is absolutely not the case. The Service Department is. As I stated last week, the Service Department has reconstructed it's pay scale and it's current contract, lowered the starting wages in order to replace workers, in order to continue the level of service and services the citizens of this Village deserve and their tax dollars pay for. We have had four employees hired under this new system and it has resulted in a savings to the City of over \$61,000.00. The savings will also apply to all future hires and promotions. As I spoke of last week, the Administration plans to reduce our number by \$40,000.00. Here's the thing that you and every citizen should know. The worker can be replaced and the promoted position can be filled and it will be at a savings of \$41,000.00. That's a \$1,000.00 more than was taken out of the line item. This is due to the Service Department contract changes. There's absolutely no reason for the personnel to be reduced or the level of service to be changed in any way. This can be a total savings of over \$100,000.00. In a little over two years with no reduction of personnel or level of service. The Service Department is doing all it can and should be recognized. Citizens should benefit from this and should be given the services they deserve. This has been discussed with the Administration to no avail. We have been dismissed and told there is nothing we can do to save the position, the job, or the level of service. We hope as Council persons and representatives to the citizens of this Village you can see the savings and the logic and keep the level of services our citizens should have and deserve. There is absolutely no financial reason to cut this position or alter the level of service. Let us continue to offer the services that are second to none and make this Village special.

Mr. Tobergte – Mike if I might ask you something. The way I read the contract the street sweeper guy new hire is the only one that is in the lower pay rate. The promotion he's not a new hire to the promoted position.

Mike Wiedman – At this time, yes. But as it goes on if you look, the new hires, the four new guys will probably , if someone gets promoted, if one of these new guys gets a promoted position they'll be making 8 or 9 dollars less than the guy that's there currently and that will happen for every promotion from now on for all these new guys. They will make considerably less, 5 to 7 to 8 dollars less than the current guys are making now. So every new hire will never make as much as the guys that have been here. That's why it was done.

Mr. Tobergte – Correct. What I'm saying, say three sweeper guys retired, whatever, say Joe decides to take that job. There's no cost saving there except for a couple of dollars and hour.

Mike Wiedman – A couple dollars an hour isn't cost savings?

Mr. Tobergte – Not the \$40,000.00 you're talking about, no.

Mike Wiedman – And then the guy that replaces Joe is one of the new guys and makes \$8 less than Joe.

Mr. Tobergte – You only got a few guys in that fund right now, correct?

Mike Wiedman – We have four and that's why we want to continue hiring so we can keep these services up. There will be a savings through it all. Any questions.

Becky Booth, 5177 Broerman – First of all Andy, you were using a three letters OMU or what does that stand for?

Mr. Kalb – It was an MOU and it's a Memorandum of Understanding. Which is like a change to the contract of any department.

Becky Booth – Okay, thank you. And Patty who is on this Charter Committee?

Ms. Hausfeld – I can name who I know. John, Jonathan, Peggy, Don, Ray, Mike, Marge Niesen, my brother Bob, Doug Roll, Kate McMullen.

Becky Booth – Did they volunteer, were they appointed or how did they get there? Just stepped up to the plate.

Ms. Hausfeld – That's kind of a sore subject but I believe they were picked. There were certain that picked them. There were certain members that were asked and there were certain members that begged to be on it but had to fight to get on it and when I say that was another round about answer, yeah.

Becky Booth – Okay, um, when is the next CIC meeting? This Tuesday, okay, 5:30 okay.

Ms. Hausfeld – Downstairs.

Becky Booth – Okay. One more. Peggy you just seem so disgruntled. And why are our expenditures up and why is our revenue down? Why is that?

Mrs. Brickweg – Becky I gave the report and it's right there. It's because people are spending too much money and the revenues are down because our income tax is down and if the revenues are not coming in like they used to and I'm not disgruntled I'm just very upset. If you sat here for five or six months telling people that we need to cut the budget and nobody cuts it and now that we've tied our hands and taken a lot more money out of the reserves, I'm sorry, I think it's ludicrous. It's not disgruntled it's just trying to beg people to do their jobs.

Becky Booth – You know Peggy you pointed over there is there something over there.

Mrs. Brickweg – There's an expense report and there's a revenue report. It will show you by line item the line items that are up and what are down and there's also a yearly comparison for both years that you can see. I give those out every month.

Becky Booth – Oh, okay. I didn't see, I didn't know it was over there. Thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – Becky, I can probably help Patty because I think John picked basically most of the people for that Committee and the extras on the Charter Committee were myself and Karen.

Becky Booth – Oh, okay, thanks.

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay St. - In light of the stuff that's been going around here in St. Bernard like the damage to the cars which two of mine got damaged and other things like poles being knocked down and nobody knowing, where are we on the camera upgrades that was promised last year?

Mr. Stuchell – When it was promised? Mr. Paul and myself were working on that but based on the fact that the cost of doing so we kind of tabled the issue because we did not want to, I guess, spend the additional funds but basically we wanted to start the program but we did table it because of the expense. I mean we would like to actually do it and the system in which we want to start with was a simple one. Basically positioning a camera outside of City Hall. It would have a 360 degree view which would get behind the school, down Washington, by Chili Time, up Vine, down Vine and then having another one that would be able to be down at McClelland that would be able to be positioned so that we would be able to see by Wendy's, see by Fifth Third, see by the Library and all that. Initially to start but we did table it and I, I mean, I'd be glad to look at it again and bring it back to the table but there will be a cost to it.

Tom Rolfsen – Well you cost all the people in St. Bernard that had their cars damaged, okay, thousands of dollars in damage because you haven't pushed but you can spend twenty five thousand on a baseball field, okay? So I mean I don't know, I'm sure there was over fifty thousand dollars' worth of damage just in St. Bernard for the cars. You have the poles that were knocked down that are still down. If the cameras were functional like you guys were talking last year we wouldn't be at a loss as the residents here so I think you ought to set some priorities and cameras should be one.

Mr. Stuchell - I wouldn't say I caused the residents fifty thousand dollars in damage but I do agree there needs to be something done, however we are analyzing video that was actually taken that we believe could actually have a subject. I can give you more information when I'm able to but ultimately there's high hope in tying this individual to this damage as well. So it wasn't a random group of people I think it was an individual so I will look at that but again I just want to make sure that you understand that this is something that we actually wanted to implement. There was going to be more than just the two cameras I was speaking of but we will look at it and I'll get back with you with the cost and we can work on it.

Mr. Tobergte – Peggy couple of months ago we had a department head meeting and we came up with a hundred, a hundred fifty thousand dollars we could take out of the budget (inaudible) should we take that money out now or.....

Mrs. Brickweg – You can take it out but if we're not spending it, we're not spending it. The issue is over spending and lack of revenue. I mean we can decrease (inaudible) no problem. But if we continue to overspend and not bring in the money and we continue to have to take from the reserves, I understand what you're saying. Increase appropriations no problem.....

Mr. Tobergte – I say if we take it out of the budget we're less likely it could be used for something else.

Mrs. Brickweg – Could we put that on the agenda for the COW?

Overlapping chattering

Mrs. Brickweg – Do you mind if I just.....Actually I would let them go ahead but at the end I have a question.

Joe Lengerich, 62 E. Ross – I just want to try explain more what Mike was telling you. If I was to get promoted, I'm going to get maybe, and I'm guessing, a .35 raise. Then the only people right now in the department that are going to get promoted to my truck driving position would be one of the four new guys. Nobody else has a CDL. Nobody else wants the job. That person is going to get promoted at \$5.25 less on the hour than I make and they'll never go any higher because of the pay scale was reduced. Then that person who was currently a laborer, if we were to rehire that person because we were told we would, he's going to make \$9.50 less on an hour to start. And by the time he gets to a seven year step, which used to be a four year step, now it takes seven years, he'll make \$5.25 less on the hour than his counterpart that got hired ten years ago. So that's what Mike is telling you. The money, the savings is already happening when this contract was signed two years ago with the numbers he told you. So you don't have to cut your services. You can promote and you can replace and you're going to be ahead, counting the money you've already said you're going to cut. I mean there's no sense to do it. And that's why this was done. That's what I tried to tell you last week. We wanted contracts, contracts are a good thing but it has to be both parties that'll work. And we did work. And what do we get, kicked in the butt. We worked so we could have people so we could save our services and we're getting nothing. It's not about us, it's about the residents. I guess we're not going to have a sweeper. And the streets are going to look bad because it's not a promotable position. Nobody's going to run that thing. I'm not. I don't run it because you know why, I'm not the man that was trained to run that job. Some guys do and they shouldn't be running it. And if I was a representative, which I'm not anymore, I would tell each man in my department, don't run it if you're not promoted to that position. One, it's dangerous, two, you're not qualified, and three, why would you cut somebody, take the rug out from somebody to be promoted into that position. We either have a sweeper or not. But what Mike is trying to tell you is we can have all this because the Service Department cooperated, came to the negotiating table, we weren't happy were we Phil but we did it. We were told do this or lose people. Guess what we did it with the thirteen. We're back to seventeen now because we cut wages.

The other thing I would like to commend you Andy for speaking up and you do have qualifications as a fireman, I respect that, I just still don't understand how,

whatever the average fireman makes, thirty five, thirty six bucks an hour, how do you save money when you have part timers in here at twenty bucks an hour. You're right Cindi, the MOU isn't going to work and I hope you stick to your guns in six months.

And I guess I'll make a quick comment to Mr. Rolfsen that's ridiculous. I live on Ross, since I was a boy. I've had eight cars crushed, I've had eight, nine windows busted out, I had my car keyed. No cameras. Cameras ain't gonna help. I want my privacy. No cameras.

Kerry Meyer, Fire Chief - I just got a question for Mr. Peck and Mr. Asbach. With the Ordinance passing tonight 5-2 does that take effect immediately or thirty days?

Mr. Asbach – I didn't bring my law degree down with me tonight but I do believe it's right away because it went through. It wouldn't had it gone regular course and had the third reading

(inaudible)

Kerry Mayer – Okay, just wanted to clear that up.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess my question is to all of Council and to the Administration. At what point do we stop taking from the reserves?

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm not comfortable taking from the reserves right now but you have to do what you have to do but I don't want to go any further lower than what we are right this minute. I mean I understand there's bills to be paid and we had to do it but I think Council, with the Administration, because I don't think it's just Council, I don't think it's just, I I I I think the Administration's gotta come up with some serious things of what they want to see or even better, the Finance Committee meetings start looking at the budget and just start taking money out of the line items and then you know what, people's hands would be tied. We have to do something. We can't, and I've been preaching up here for six months. We have to do something. I don't think anybody knows or wants to admit what the right thing is to do or the correct thing is to do. I, I, I definitely don't want to lose no jobs but we've gotta do something. If, I'll be honest, I live on a strict budget at home. If I don't have the money in the checking account, guess what guys, I don't get to spend any. And that should be the same way it is with the City. We don't have the money so I don't know if we put a freeze on as far as no more raises. I don't know what the right answer is but we need to do something and we need to do it now.

Mrs. Brickweg - I guess I'm just going to ask the question, John and Council, I need to know. I'm not getting answers anywhere. How low are you okay with the reserves getting? I'll start with John and then I'll ask Council because I'm getting no guidance.

Mayor Estep – Well you know you asked people from the different departments sitting in this audience, no offense to anybody, and they hear these reports, three hundred thousand, five hundred thousand down and they can't understand why we're trying to reduce some things like not replacing the street sweeper. We've done some things. We didn't replace the inspector at the fire house. We didn't replace the next guy that retired down there. People say we're not doing anything. We're not replacing the street sweeper. We're working on a MOU with the Fire Department. Was that what I wanted, no, but for right now that's the best thing we

could get. I wanted part time firefighters. I wanted two more Kelly days back. We tried to negotiate that. We ended up with the MOU. I'm thankful for Council to approve that tonight. So we have made some reductions. When people sit there and say we're not doing anything, we're doing what we can without opening a contract. How far do I want to go down. I don't want to go down another penny. Council controls the purse strings. You know last time we went through this we just gave the Department Heads, we said we were going to do a pie graph, and here's your money. But we cut into safety services and everybody was against that. Maybe that was the wrong thing to do. And if it was I'll take the blame. But we're trying to reduce some things and everybody wants to throw up their hands and say you're not doing anything. We can't cut this, we can't cut that and then we hear well we're three hundred thousand, five hundred thousand down. And then we start pointing fingers. I'm not going to point at Council. It's as much on our end as it is theirs. So you know, can I give you a number Peggy, no. I appreciate everything you do and all the numbers you give us and I don't like to hear them but those are just the numbers you get. I mean you're not making them up. I understand that. But we're going in the wrong direction and we're going to have to continue with these Department Heads. I think we're going to have a real tough meeting with them and then we're going to come back to Council meeting and the employees are going to come back and say well you can't take this. Well we're going to have to do something. I mean like Patty says, we don't have the money to go to Europe this year, we don't go. Well we're going to stay in St. Bernard I guess. You don't have the money you can't provide that service. We have great services, great employees, all across all the departments. But we're going to have to start reducing something without trying to do away with anybody's position.

Mr. Culbertson – That was going to be my question, does anybody have anything, outside of personnel, what recommendations would be out there? Peggy, you included, what recommendations are out there.

Mrs. Brickweg – Honestly, I give you the numbers, that's your job and that's his job.

Mr. Culbertson – You have dealings with this too in the budget. We all should be doing this together. Outside of personnel what.....

Mrs. Brickweg – I don't know what there was a list of a hundred ideas, all I'm saying is I'm just going on the record that (inaudible) getting our reserves down to 2.5 million because nothing is happening because we can't all get in a room and figure this out. And it's going to continue to go downhill until all you get in a room and figure it out. And I'm really tired of getting the same report. I don't like these numbers (inaudible) I work with them all day and they don't move but it's really frustrating from my point of view because I just see it going downhill and if we don't stop it.....this is the lowest it's been since I was a Council member. I don't know if the reserves have ever been this low.

Ms. Hausfeld – It's my recommendation as Council, we were put up here to do what was right, and the Administration, you were put down there to do what was right. I think we all, I mean, it's great to have a Council meeting or COW meeting and discuss this for what, maybe five minutes but I do, and it might need to be a Finance Committee meeting since we are talking, sorry Donnie, we are talking about finances. We need to meet another day in the month. We said that earlier on this year that we would meet on a regular basis and hash out some numbers and

stuff but we haven't been doing it. And I think you're asking Peggy what her recommendations, she might have some great recommendations but she wants us to come up with recommendations too. Or our Administration and I'm saying we all did come up with recommendations, I still got that paperwork if you guys want to see it, back on January 19 I think it was, and there are recommendations, somebody has to do something and, and you're right. Unfortunately some of that stuff is not our call. Some of it is an Administrative call but the dollar amount is ours. So Donnie if you have to use an extra meeting day to take \$150,000.00 out of whatever you're talking about so that people can't spend it in other places I say go for it because every little bit that we save out of that budget is a little bit better and is working towards the right direction at least. That's just my opinion.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just want to say, it's not only tough but like I heard tonight about the revenues and you know we need to work on bringing in businesses and increase revenues, but as we say it lets follow through and do it. I keep hearing all these ideas and (inaudible) I will commend Paul Schildmeyer was in my office today and he had raised a lot of fees and really brought in the revenue. And he came into my office to sit down and compare his numbers. And I really commend him, he is just part time he really looked at it and he really sees it and is really trying and numbers are up I think it was like \$4,000.00. So it was really helpful with that but remember you can increase revenues also.

Ms. Hausfeld – Under that same recommendation, as the Charter Commission meets, that is something that Marge is saying and since you're standing there you're probably going to discuss some of those. That is something that she's been pitching for is promoting new businesses and promoting growth in St. Bernard to get the dollar amounts up and stuff like that so I too want to commend her because she does have the outlook on stuff and I'm not trying.....Marge you put it best, we shouldn't be putting anybody down. I'm not trying to put anybody down. I'm saying that we should go in her direction with what she is saying.

Marge Niesen – We need a plan where we are going, what we are doing and we need to understand that we have to build the businesses that are here. And also add businesses and as a committee of the Administration and Council that are working with those folks. I know we have a development department but the point of it is we also have contacts out in the market place. If we don't increase the income we're just going to get to a point and say don't go shopping. And the point of it is in fact we really need to reinvent St. Bernard. It's not the way we want it to look now. It has been but times have changed. It's not any one person's fault but we have to change. It's been the same for other communities as well. My thought is let's try to get more business interested in St. Bernard. I really think that's critical. I'm on the Marketing Committee, that's true, but I'm only one person and by the way the reason I'm on the Charter Committee is because I was on the original Charter Committee and I was asked for that reason. I hope that we are able to help resolve some of these organizational problems through the Charter as well as marketing. And every person that lives in St. Bernard is really on some Marketing Committee.

Mr. Tobergte – Marge that's why I fought for two years to change some of these committees around. I fought for a Marketing Committee for two years now and it's finally being done. Before the Finance Committee meeting we've had Finance Committee meetings and Patty you sat there like a bump on a log and didn't say a word. I'm sorry but I brought up ideas, Cindi brought up ideas about the garbage,

everybody's got to work together, we're pointing fingers at everybody but there's only one or two people that bring ideas up. There like ideas, let's talk about them.

Mrs. Brickweg – The ideas are great but you have to implement your ideas. That's the part we're missing. Everybody has all these ideas but we need somebody to implement that and I'm here to ask John, as the leader of our Village, to start implementing some of these and Council to keep giving them and implement them. And I'm sorry Becky left, I'm not disgruntled but to say I'm very frustrated and I'm scared for our Village. I think would be a better adjective.

Ms. Hausfeld – I have never sat like a bump on a log. I have always been very boisterous and I even had the Cable lady tell me the last time, she don't even need the microphone because she can very well hear what I have to say and I told you several times, sorry I need my glasses on, January 19, we all got together. We all talked. I never sat like a bump on a log over this. I discussed this piece of paper as long as everybody else did. But guess what there's not much being done on this. So to sit there and say that I sat on here like a bump on the log, if there's one person that speaks up and speaks her mind, it's me.

Mr. Tobergte – I said at the Finance Committee meeting.

Phil Stegman, 19 Orchard – I really wasn't dressed to get up tonight and address Council. I do have to ask Don and Tommy a question on the position of the street sweeper, heavy equipment operator. It's being operated on the street today and when we go to salt when we're loading those doesn't that have to be paid at the rate of the person that was there. I mean that was in the contract at one point but got taken out. So the promotion, when you have the responsibility of a person, like if a laborer goes into a truck drivers position, he gets truck drivers pay, same way for the truck driver, goes into the heavy operator, they're being paid that to actually operate the sweeper and when it comes to salt time or to load with the pay loader, that guy is responsible for getting that weight. So with the promotion, and I'm not saying and I'm sure I'm not going to be in favor of the guys behind me, that eliminating the position, a person but not the position. The position needs to remain because (inaudible) by the numbers you're still going to have to pay that gentleman the wage to do the sweeping. And I don't agree that we do away with sweeping our streets but the heavy equipment operator for loading our salt into the trucks that are going to take care of the snow removal is another thing. So I think that needs to be really looked at. The position is one and like it was said, we were the ones that implemented more steps to where it's going to be a lot more savings to the Village when you hire new people on that we're not paying at the higher rate and it takes them longer to get there. None of them were in favor of it but I think they truly seen that we were out doing our numbers as a desire for the position and the job but I think the promotions should be looked at to go ahead and have that promotion but not put another person on at this time until further, you know, till we get back on our feet. Something that really needs to be looked at and I hope the Administration sits down with the Service Department.

Mr. Kalb – To kind of put you back on, Phil I looked that up in the service contract, you are correct. 'whenever an employee in the Service Department is temporarily assigned (inaudible) his or her immediately supervisor to the duties of a classification which carries a higher rate of pay than the employee's current classification rate, the employee shall receive the rate of pay applicable to the higher classification for each hour of work in the higher classification and the

employee may be called upon to an assistant to the foreman for a period of time less than one hour without additional compensation under this article. Any employee who is in a temporary assignment as one half of the employees' work day shall receive a full day's pay at the higher rate.

Ms. Hausfeld – You guys can take this with a grain of salt, I'm putting it out there. Does anybody here, Council, Administration, general public or workers that work for the City, would anybody like to meet and actually have a discussion and try to get something so maybe we can reduce something here to help our budget out this year? I'm more than willing to meet next Thursday night.

Mr. Kalb - I'm available anytime when I'm not at the fire house but I'd be happy to meet. Just on a side note, we had a chance to save money this evening and we chose not to.

Mr. Asbach - I'm not trying to say we shouldn't do this, I'm just saying I think if this happens it should go through the Finance Committee. We passed fourteen Ordinances year-to-date. The only Ordinance that deals with cutting money is the one to repair Moeller Ave. Everything else is normal day to day operations. Too, I don't think it's Council's job to nit-pick and I'm not going to trust the Department's budget without a Department Head at the meeting. I don't know what goes on in each department and I'm not willing to sit up here and randomly as John said a few years ago, that's what happened and things were jeopardized so while I'm willing to make cuts I do them randomly and without input from.....if you run it through a Finance Committee meeting and handle it that way as opposed to just going off in different directions and it maybe a series of Finance meetings. One night with the Police Department, one night with the Fire Department, one night Service. I just, to start lumping everything together, you can talk for three hours and not accomplish a thing.

Ms. Hausfeld – Steve I don't disagree with you but I put it out there earlier and nothing was said so I was taking it upon myself to call a meeting for next Thursday night and I don't disagree with you. I think the Mayor needs to be there. I think every Administration person needs to be there. I think every Department Head and you know what I even welcome the department members, the employees because I am a firm believer that if you listen to people, there are people that are just general people that know more of what's going on than some of the educated people do. So I welcome everybody's advice to come and share and plan this input because it's a Village, what's that saying, 'it takes a Village' in I'm telling you it's going to take this Village to get you through this hard time and it's going to take general people to open up their voices and say, hey this is what I think or maybe this is not what I think. I I I don't disagree with you here but I agree with you there. It's going to take everybody's input to get us through not only this year, but how many years did you say that we're tied to that bond for the next forty years?

Mrs. Brickweg – 2043

Ms. Hausfeld – For the next 25 years our hands are going to be tied by at least a million dollars every year by that bond if not more. So the cost of things going up and the revenue going down, all that other stuff, we need to start working and I don't disagree with what the Mayor has said. We need to build our savings and this and that but it takes all of us. And, there are times when I may not talk because

maybe I'm not educated enough to talk about some things but you know what I've always shared my opinion and I think we need to meet. I think we need to meet.

Mr. Paul – I have been attending the Finance Committee meetings and my opinion and I think the other Department Head is here, I will mention Steve, I believe we're down to people. If you make any more cuts you're into city functioning. Once the functioning is gone, it's gone. Just like Charlie Vonder Meulen, the other COW meeting or it might have been a Council meeting, spoke and he said if you look at our numbers, we are 88% going out for salaries. So we're running our Village on less than what (ugh, the math) not doing well. So if you look, again, I believe that we are the people so I don't know what your answer is, it's hard to take, it's hard to say. The Fire Department has lost people, I would look for all departments to lose people across the board. That's the only way you're going to, and the numbers that you're trying to save are not going to occur by a mere sweeping elimination, by a mere MOU, not going to happen, it's just not.

Ms. Hausfeld – I don't disagree with you Tommy but there are, correct me if I'm wrong, back in 2005 when there was layoffs, we laid off employees before we eliminated frivolous things. Correct? We laid off employees that are protected by the Civil Service is that a wise statement? Versus doing away with something like Dial-a-Ride or doing away with something like concerts in the park or doing away with frivolous things. Don't get me wrong, I like those things as much as the next person, but what I'm talking about is, there are ways to cut and yeah we might have to get to the employees, I'm sorry guys, we might have to get there. But that would be my last resort.

Mr. Chastain – There is an alternative to the people in the percentages. That doesn't have to be. People or percentages. If I understand correctly your fire department took a 3% raise within the last year, I could be corrected on that. I commend the Service Department for the pay cuts that they've agreed to. Not necessarily cuts at this point, they're restructuring. If Department Heads hadn't taken a 3% raise, at \$65,000.00 we could have an extra man. So there's a balancing. No one wants to give up money but you don't have to cut people if you'll cut percentage pay. It's better than cutting a job in my opinion. So that's where the balance is. I don't think there is any alternative. We can talk about cell phones and fireworks and things like that but it's got to be people or percentages. I don't see any other way to make up the numbers you're talking about.

Mr. Tobergte – Cindi will you be available next Thursday? We'll have a Finance Committee meeting next Thursday here in Council Chambers and instead of looking at cuts I would rather see ways of bringing more revenue in. I know Tommy's been getting with the Water Works to find out if they're going to do the garbage fees. That should be like \$200,000.00 maybe.

Mr. Paul – Yes, we do do that.

Mr. Asbach – Depending on how much you charge, it was in the neighborhood of \$250,000.00 if we did \$15.00 a month, closer to like \$165,000.00 or so at \$10.00 a month.

Mr. Tobergte – I think we could look at that and the numbers that you're talking about for the dumpsters, that's more revenue.

Mr. Kalb – I just want to piggy back on what you said. Back in December when we actually passed the budget we had a Finance Committee meeting and I brought that up as one of the possibilities was to open up the three contracts and not ask for, I mean it is a reduction in pay, but at that point it hadn't received it yet. To just eliminate the raise going from what they were making last year into this year. And that also just the raises that everybody else was getting as well. I believe the rough number was around like \$180,000.00 almost \$200,000.00. And that's not considering the pension portion that we would have had on that. That would have been a \$220,000.00, \$230,000.00 savings if we had implemented that or worked towards that back in December but again there's many ideas here that have fallen to the way side and I agree I would never want to cut personnel. My first thing would be as I suggested back in December would be to figure out the percentage and just going into next year think about the same plan going into next year. I believe, and I might be wrong, but all three unions again as well as some people in City Hall here will get a percentage raise of some sort. That's something we could look into. It's not really a Council thing, it's more of having to negotiate, now obviously the unions would have to agree to that but you could just eliminate what the raise would be next year. Not cutting money out of their pocket today but preventing future money moving on. I do, I commend the Service Department for taking those steps and moving forward and reducing the pay. I know it was a hard pill to swallow and a hard pill for me to swallow at some point looking at some of those numbers because I thought they were too low and I think we did correct it a little bit more appropriately the word is right now and I'm not but we do need to kind of step up to the plate and also in all three departments and maybe look at that. I know others take the services departments are doing something very similar to that. I know Colerain did that in an effort to keep hiring full timers they reduced the pay of future firefighters. It wasn't the ones that were already there. Nobody was affected but the negotiation with the Township that they did ways to reduce what the current top out pay for fireman were. I know that's not what anybody wants to hear, nobody wants to sit there and ask all our employees, all three departments including everybody down here to work for nothing. I understand that. But when there's nothing to give something has to go.

Mr. Culbertson – Mr. Kalb when you're talking about the freeze and the raises and not giving increases you're just referring to the contractual ones or are you also referring to the step increases that are built in.

Mr. Kalb – Just the percentage raises. I believe, the steps you really can't mess with. You might be able to but that wasn't what I was getting at. Just say the Fire Department gets 2% next year and the Service only gets 2% next year. You might be able to through negotiations ask and if every party is, if all three parties agree to not take that 2% raise it would save whatever, say \$40,000.00 here \$40,000.00 there. That's not going into those pocket and taking \$2,000.00 out it does keep them from maybe making \$2,000.00 next year but it's not taking anything away, it's just slowing the, as I suggested, I made it back in December, that is what, at the time, that would have cut the \$400,000.00 deficit in half and along with a few reductions in staffing, the nurse and a few other minor changes that we added at the \$450,000.00 we're right at that \$400,000.00 mark what we were over.

Mayor Estep – I'm going to ask to set up a meeting with each one of these union presidents of these departments and sit down and ask them if they would forgo the next raise. I would have to have a vote from the union and if we could get that

accomplished that would be a much better move than anybody. We will do that this week.

Mike Wiedman, Service Department Foreman – Not to offend anybody, the Service Department is fully aware of the city's financial situation. And we would not be pushing or doing something that would jeopardize that or hurt the city or the Service Department in any way. Everything we've suggested is fully funded by our cuts and what we've accepted to do and if asked we would fully cooperate and help in any way possible.

Ms. Hausfeld – I know it's been said of the departments but I think it needs to be across the board. Does that make sense? I can't see us just asking our full time, lifelong people that have given their lives to our City to protect us, to pick up our trash to save us in a fire or to save us from shooting guns. I don't think it's fair just to ask the three departments. I think it needs to be across the board. Every, every, that's why I said, every employee, every Department Head, I think they need to be at these meetings because if you're not at these meetings, I'm sorry, it's oh yeah we're in a budget crisis, oh well, who cares. It doesn't affect me, but it does. It affects every employee, it affects every citizen of St. Bernard. That's my belief. I think it needs to come across the board.

Brian Young, President of St. Bernard Firefighters, Local 450 – There's a lot of numbers being thrown around tonight. I think we've been chastised before for throwing out false numbers. I think some of you people on Council need to drop back and look at their numbers because I think they're wrong. We took a 2% raise this year. We did not take a 3% raise. In that process we gave up things to get that raise. Back in 2012 when we negotiated the last time with the past Administration we did the same thing the Service Department just did. I give them all the credit in the world for doing that. We did the same thing five years ago. We put our new people at lower rates, took a step out. We're doing the same thing. I don't want to get into a conflict. It doesn't accomplish anything by departments fighting each other. We all need to work together, Council, the Administration, the Department Heads. I talked to the last Administration and the current Administration and I said we were more than willing to sit down and talk numbers. We're certainly not going to lose our contract doing things willy nilly. However, if you want to sit down and talk we're willing to sit down at the table. Just as the Service Department said that they are I'm sure the Police Department feels the same way but kind of what Peggy was saying, the last five or six months we've gotten nowhere with these numbers. All we've done is argued for two and three hours a night on Thursday nights and we still got, we've got a little, I can't say nowhere, not gotten a lot accomplished, there's still many things we can do. We're trying. I mentioned it at the last meeting. We're doing auto accident billing and medical billing.....we're trying to save money but we're not getting anywhere, anybody by going back and forth and pointing the blame. I like Patty's idea but at some point we need to sit down and everybody needs to work together to move the Village forward not one department or the other, we don't need fighting about it, we just need to move forward. As a resident I'm really getting kind of tired of coming to the meetings and having the same thing and going in the same circle for four or five or six months. So whatever we can do, I'm more than happy to sit down, Don you made the suggestion to sit down with the union. Don, if you want to get together, whenever you want to meet I work four days out of the next seven. So call me and we'll meet.

Mr. Tobergte – Rick, when we met last month, you talked about going to several bigger businesses, getting feelings from them, have you done any of that yet?

Mr. Moore – Not yet Don. We've been wrapping up 2016, processing all the returns but it is at the top of my priority list to do over the next few weeks. I would like to contact all of them especially the top ten and talk to them to find out where they are and what they got going and what's happening, if there will be any changes, etc.

Mr. Tobergte – I know Ray asked last week, last meeting, I won't talk about it on Council, I'll talk to you later.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW is Thursday, July 6 at 7:00pm.

Mr. Culbertson made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Hausfeld – One quick thing before we adjourn, John can you put that on Call Command that there is a meeting next Thursday night and we are definitely talking to everybody who, to give input and maybe somebody comes and shows their inputs on how they can help us. How they can save us money, how we can increase revenue. I think it would be a wise thing to do that. That and I also, the CIC meeting since we are talking and discussing about the shopping center, I do believe those two meetings need to be on Call Command to all the residents so that we can try to get, you know, people involved and see what's going on.

Mayor Estep – Sure.

Mr. Asbach seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.