

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2014**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, January 16, 2014 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Michael Peck – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – (read by Ms. Van Valkenburg) I am happy to announce that the Health Committee has reached an agreement and will be implementing Plan Option 14 on February 11, 2014. The final annualized expected costs are \$1,522,349.00. I know this is a little over the budget for the healthcare line item but I am confident that the employees, through this process, are better and will continue to be better healthcare consumers which will decrease plan utilization. An agreement was prepared yesterday (thank you Curtis) and has been signed by all the representatives. I would like to especially thank Sara Niemeyer and Elaine for all their efforts, all the committee representatives for their time, and all the employees who have shown their willingness to work together. It has not been an easy process, but I believe we are moving forward in the right direction. The committee will continue to meet and our goal is to develop a long term plan that will provide cost savings for the employees, as well as the Village. I would also like to remind everyone that the final design for the new St. Bernard Branch library will be on display in the main level of the Municipal building next Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:00pm.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office has prepared Ordinance 5, 2014 for tonight's meeting. This ordinance appropriates an additional \$38,299.98 to line item 05-MP-4, Property Management. This additional money is needed to pay half a year Hamilton County Property Tax on the Shopping Center. Late last year Council transferred the property from the Village to the CIC. The CIC has not received enough rent revenue in 2014 to pay this bill. Last year the Shopping Center brought in \$160,407.91 in rent revenue. The Village is still collecting the rent money for the Shopping Center so if Council wishes, this additional appropriation can be reduced from the revenues before they are transferred to the CIC. The reason it was not discussed at the COW meeting is because we just received the property tax bills this week.

Council and the Administration were given the end 2013 Expense and Revenue reports from our software system along with updated expense and revenue spreadsheets. Copies of these reports are also available at the front door of Council Chambers along with the payout schedule of the 18.5million dollar bonds. For the end of the year reports, I added columns to both reports with the 2012 revenue and expenditure numbers. At the end of 2013 the Village received \$12,923,856.27 in

revenues. If you subtract out the \$93,533.05 the Village received for the back of the Imwalle Property and subtract \$245,000.00 from the Village not reinvesting an investment that came due, the revenues were \$12,585,323.22. Comparing the 2012 and the 2013 revenues without any purchase of property or sale of investments the revenues were up \$150,947.41. The Village received a few unexpected inheritance tax revenues that totaled \$418,574.30. Most likely that will not happen in 2014. The expenditures at the end of 2013 were \$19,195,187.79. If you take out the major project expenditures that were paid for with bond financing the expenditures were \$13,005,284.64. This was much lower when compared to 2012 when the expenditures were \$17,987,175.09. In 2012 a lot of the expenditure money was for the Bank Ave legal fees, settlements with the home owners and gas well monitoring. In 2012 \$600,000 was appropriated to purchase property. When comparing the 2013 revenues with the 2013 expenditures, the Village spent \$419,961.42 more than was brought in. The 2014 budget also has \$623,747.35 encumbrances brought over from 2013. I provided Council with a copy of these encumbrances.

I provided the 18.5 million dollar bond schedule for everyone. If you look at the last column you will see the total yearly payment the Village is obligated to pay. Next year it goes up to \$847,000.02, after that the payments are close to 1.2 million dollars a year until 2033. Needless to say with the lower revenues it is going to be a difficult task to come up with balanced budgets.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Walden – I have been working on some special projects for the Mayor and the Service Director this week. Mayor's Court last night went very well. We had a number of people who have finished paying off their tax debt to the Village and it was a safe meeting and no one went to jail.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. Van Valkenburg – We met Monday with the Police Dept. and representatives of the Fire Dept. and the school continues to work on strategies for dealing with emergencies at schools and hoping we never have to use any of those but we continue to press forward with plans including finding places for the re-unification of families.

I also just wanted to let the citizens know, this is not quite my area but it is Health Services Commission. As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 the Village of St. Bernard will no longer be operating the St. Bernard Medical Bus. Those services obviously have been a convenience that the Village has provided for years. There are transportation services that are available. Laura Schmitt, Public Health Nurse, has put together a list of providers to help with that kind of thing. I believe that's available here at City Hall and if it hasn't been posted on the web site I'll see what we can do to get it that on the web site.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – Yes, that was part of my report. Not that I don't have more. The new hours for the Dial-A-Ride was put in everybody's box along with the list of medical carriers for places that will provide the medical bus since ours discontinues after February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is on the web site and passed over to the Seniors and everywhere we can think of. We just wanted to make sure every Council person had it in case somebody would call that you were armed with that information also.

I'd like to also go into Executive Session tonight to discuss property.

Also tonight there is Ordinance No. 4, 2014 on the table. This authorizes me to enter into the agreement to sell twenty two parking spots down at our shopping center for the United States Post Office. ODOT is taking some of their property so the Village is working closely with the Post Office to supply them with parking. This has been discussed. It wasn't discussed at COW last week but it was discussed. Also the new Council people were pulled into Executive Session. The Post Office is really in a jam right now. I did get a call from Stephan Stenozzo of ODOT. They're going to let this project go between Mitchell and the Norwood Lateral. They were making sure the Villages are on a time pace to make sure we get out of the building as of October 1<sup>st</sup>. That's why they're pushing the Post Office to get this agreement because it all ties together. Once this is passed tonight and all the people that sign these Ordinances have to be here. I know the Mayor is not here but he is aware that I'm going to be running him down tonight so I can get this emailed off to the proper people at the United States Postal Service. I hope this goes over tonight.

It was brought to my attention that the Newsletter went out and everybody received it. It's been brought to my attention there were a couple of people left out of the bulletin. I apologize for that. Michael Peck, was left out, with his email address and stuff for contact. Curtis Walden and John Ungruhe were also left out. I apologize for that and in the next Newsletter that goes out we will put your contacts and your emails so that people do have those. It's Council people that get all the problems, not so much you guys, but you still are elected officials and should have been put in that Newsletter. We will definitely put it in the next letter that goes out.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Geiser – The beginning of the year for the Tax Office, we have a lot of information that has to go out, lot of mailings to go out. This year we're ahead of schedule. Those people that did receive a 1099 should have gotten them in the mail over the last couple of days. The notices for the tax returns cannot go out until the first week of February because we have payments coming in up until January 31<sup>st</sup>. We cleared all those payments when we sent out the updated credits for the tax notices to let people know how much they paid throughout the year 2013. At the end of the year 2013, I gave everyone a copy of our comparison report. That clears the 2013 tax year. For the Finance Committee and those who are interested, you'll notice that their numbers do not match up with the Auditor's Office. We don't have magical numbers, my teacher in high school said, it's the fact that the Auditor's Office had to change her accounting method at the request of the State Auditor and they operate pretty much when the money hits their bank account. We operate on two different dates. We operate on transaction date, for example, if someone has to file by a certain day we have to use that date. Then we use the deposit date. So there is a lag in time between, for example, when we put a check in the bank, when it actually clears into the City's account so the Auditor can account for it. Also, we have automatic payments coming out of people's bank accounts or checking accounts that there is sometimes a five or six day time lag until it's finally cleared. They won't submit the money to the City until it's cleared and approved. That's why you're going to see a little bit of difference each month now between what we record and what the Auditor records. If anybody has any questions you can be assured that we do at the end of the month and at the end of the year sit down and reconcile down to the penny with the Auditor's Office so we know where everything is. I just wanted to clarify that. If anybody has any questions you can let me know.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – First I want to apologize for how I am dressed tonight. Looks like it's going to be another snowy Thursday year. The Finance Committee will be meeting with Mr. Paul Myers on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm to discuss the ongoing projects in our Village. I'd also like to thank our employees who took part in the Health Care Committee for all their work.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – The next Block Watch meeting is this coming Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm in Centennial Hall. I also have the police report for December, 2013. There were 610 call for service; 64 investigations of suspicious activity; 50 misdemeanor arrests; 22 accidents were reported; 45 traffic stop warnings were issued; 17 traffic stop citations and 1 DUI.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I just want to congratulate and welcome Ray who is the newest elected board member of the CIC.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – No report.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

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

Committee of the Whole  
Jan 9, 2014

1. Council approved the minutes of the Jan 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meetings.
2. Members from the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance presented Council a plan to benefit the energy needs of our businesses. A special improvement district would need to be created for the program. Council will have to pass an Ordinance for each project when they are presented. Council okayed the Alliance to move forward.
3. Mayor, Bill Burkhardt
  - A. Reported that work is still being done by the Health Committee and the next meeting will be on Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.
  - B. Reported that there will be a meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM in the main level to unveil the new design and layout of the library.
  - C. Received a letter from Nicole Bussard, informing everyone that Julia was invited to participate in the Empire State Winter Games. The games are Feb 6-9<sup>th</sup> in Lake Placid. They won't find out until April about the Olympic National Team, but they were told that only potentials would be invited to events like this. What another great experience she will get, all thanks to the Village luge event that was held.
4. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
  - A. After a discussion on whether there was enough money left over, from the end of last year, for new police cars it was said that there wasn't enough for the purchase. The yearend report will be in our mailbox when completed.
  - B. Reported that she gave Council a copy of the corrected Ordinance #3 with the new figures.

5. Safety Director, Valerie Van Valkenburg
  - A. It was reported that if the baby Jesus statue is returned, or a replacement is bought, it will be micro-chipped to make it easier to locate.
6. Service Director, Phil Stegman
  - A. Reported that on Monday and Tuesday he called everyone that had used the medical bus to make sure they were aware that the service will no longer be available after January 31<sup>st</sup>. There is also a new Dial-a-Ride and Fitness Center schedule that will go into effect on February 1<sup>st</sup> and there are copies on the website, fitness center and Dial-a-Ride bus.
7. Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser
  - A. Reported that he and Mr. Walden met with our tax lawyer. There was mention of a company that is getting a refund and that information was asked to be kept confidential. He reminded Council that things that are discussed in Executive Session must be kept confidential and not repeated to anyone.
8. Treasurer, John Ungrhue
  - A. Reported that there was \$5,616.96 in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fund.
9. Finance, Don Tobergte
  - A. Met with the Fire Chief today on a five year plan and will try to meet with all of the other department heads to do the same.
10. Safety, Ray Culbertson
  - A. Reported that the next Block Watch meeting will be on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 in the Centennial hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Steve Asbach  
 President of Council, Pro-Tem

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 4, 2014. AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO ALLOW THE ST. BERNARD POST OFFICE USE OF LAND FOR THE POST OFFICE VEHICLES AND EMPLOYEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 4, 2014. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 4, 2014. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2014. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 5, 2014.

**REMARKS**

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Peggy, in your opinion, do you think we should take this out of the expenses because it's CIC. What is your recommendation as you deal with the State Auditor is the best tactic.

Mrs. Brickweg – What the recommendation was, as I said, right now, we are continuing to collect the rent for the Shopping Center even though the CIC is owning it. It would be kind of different for them to pay their rent to them. Like a Pizza Hut, it's not like a local thing here. So we're continuing to collect the revenues, it's going to the same revenue line item it always did. What I'm saying is that at some point when the CIC transfers over they can take it right out of their revenue money. They just haven't collected enough revenue to be able to pay \$38,000.00 in property taxes. I don't believe the Village should pay for it, I'm saying that's why we're doing this.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – So that's your recommendation to do it that way?

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – So do we need to do.....

Mrs. Brickweg – Well we have to appropriate the money now and then we can deal with that later on when we go to transfer the money back to them or write a check to them.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – OK, thanks.

Mr. Stegman – I'd also like to throw a little thing out there of my opinion. When we transferred this over we collected a whole years worth of rent down at the square. The Village put it in their coffers. That's what pays the operation. November is when we transfer over to the CIC. So this money we've collected, we should actually be paying the tax bill for them because they're always six months in arrears. This is like the first quarter, that's what it says on the bill. So this is like January through June. They take it over in November so I think the City should go ahead and pay the first six months and then, as you say, we're collecting this, the next tax bill should be sent to the CIC and taken out of the revenues of what they're collecting. Like you say, the tax is always six months in arrears. We collected the money as the Village so normally, at closing, you sit down at the closing and all the taxes are paid up front and you begin new, where we just transfer because it's the CIC, an arm of the City. I just wanted to put that in there because I don't know that we should make them pay \$68,000.00 back of something that was collected all last year and this Village put in their coffers, unless you want to transfer all that money over to them and then pay for it. That's just my two cents.

The motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adopt Ordinance No. 5, 2014. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Tobergte – I'd like to make a motion that we go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss the purchase of property.

Mr. Kalb – I'll second that.

Motion passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Mr. Asbach – Before we go into Executive Session, because I'm assuming we'll probably shut the TV off, the next COW will be January 30<sup>th</sup>, because of five Thursdays, at 7:00pm. I just wanted to put that out there.

Mr. Stegman – Also, if we go into Executive Session, all the Council people go back. I just want to make sure all the people that need to sign this Ordinance don't dart while we're in Executive Session, Curtis.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mrs. Schildmeyer to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.