

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 21, 2016**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard village Council was held Thursday, July 21, 2016 in Council Chambers.

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

Mr. Tobergte – Could we also include a moment of silence for the police officers that were murdered recently?

A moment of silence was included.

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

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the last meeting. Mrs. Bedinghaus seconded the motion. Council agreed. 6-0.

Mr. Asbach – At this time I would like to make a motion to dispense with the regular order of business and allow the presentation of the First State Bank. Mr. Tobergte seconded the motion. Council agreed 6-0.

Mr. Bob Sawtell and Mr. Mike Pell spoke of the merger between First Safety Bank and First State Bank and gave a brief history of the two organizations and the services they plan to provide for St. Bernard.

REPORTS OF VILLAGE OFFICIALS

MAYOR Mr. Estep – Thank you Don Tobergte for asking for a moment of silence. That was on my agenda so I appreciate that. It's getting to be old every month asking for a moment of silence, terrible.

Our advising group met Tuesday and they were provided with some input by Paul Myers and several projects we concluded. The expansion of the Wiedmann Tap Room, which is going in. Everyone knows there was an article in the local newspaper about them going into Imwalle's Funeral Home. Also we signed a contract to begin construction of the Town Houses going on the property across from the Eagles this week. We're moving ahead.

I will be working with Don Tobergte and Cathy Wuebben to implement an "adopt a block" program with some incentives for community members to reduce trash on the streets and sidewalks in their neighborhood.

On a more fun note, adult night at the Aquatic Center is going to be tomorrow evening from 6:00pm until 10:00pm. We have a DJ, you must be 21 years of age or older, bring your cooler, no glass. We have some contest with prizes and a couple of people said they didn't get the announcement on Call Command so I wanted to make an announcement if they're watching the meeting and you know of anyone that are not getting those call 242-7770 and get on that list so we can include you in our Call Command.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's office prepared Ordinance 14, 2016 for tonight's meeting. This ordinance transfers \$1,460,000 from 01-5-A19, general fund transfer out into the following cash accounts:

04-1000 Swimming Pool Cash Account \$60,000.00

05-1000 Master Plan Cash Account \$400,000.00

31-1000 General Bond Retirement Cash Account \$600,000.00

51-1000 Employee Health Plan Cash Account \$400,000.00

It authorizes the Auditor to create the following new line items:

01-2-F-2 Marketing – Contract Staff

01-8-A-3 Safety Center - Cleaning

It authorizes the Auditor provide additional appropriations to the following:

01-2-K-2 Miscellaneous \$7,000.00

01-66 Unemployment Compensation \$20,000.00

51-07 Employee Healthcare \$650,000.00

It also authorizes the Auditor is to move the following appropriations:

FROM GENERAL FUND:

01-8-A-2 Building Maintenance - Safety Center \$2,750.00

TO GENERAL FUND:

01-8-A-3 Cleaning – Safety Center \$2,750.00

The new line items for marketing and safety center cleaning are so the Auditor Department can break out personnel expenses and supplies. The moving of funds from Safety Center Building Maintenance to Cleaning is because the original budget placed the cleaning in the maintenance and the Auditor Department will now be paying the in house cleaning out of the new line item created tonight.

The additional miscellaneous appropriations are for various items such as the extra expense for the levy election, Mayor’s Court Training, an OPERS delinquent payment from 1979 and additional softball teams that were added this year. The Unemployment Compensation increase is needed for an employee from last year still receiving unemployment. The employee healthcare is revenue the

Village received for healthcare from employee premiums and stop loss coverage that needs to be appropriated in order to use for expenses.

The Auditor’s office provided Council and the Administration with the June, 2016 revenue and expense spreadsheets at the COW meeting. Before I go into details regarding the revenues I want to address some concerns I have heard in regards to people saying the Auditor Department knew about the decline in revenues and we hid it. First of all if you know me and Nick, you know we would never do such a thing. Secondly I produce reports from the system once a month, create easier to read spreadsheets and analyze the changes and report these on television for all of the residents, administration and council to understand.

The YTD revenues were \$6,392,549.85. The revenues compared to 2015 are down \$715,937.56. The decrease in revenues is due to the following:

1. A decrease of \$523,462.48 in earned income tax, The Tax Commissioner will explain this with his report.
2. The decrease of \$176,653.06 comes from three items Governor John Kasich cut from local governments. Compared to 2015 Local Government Fund 69 is down \$25,276.33, Estate Tax is down \$33,038.22 and the TTP-Roll Back Property tax is down \$117,853.51. I am projecting the Village will be down another \$144,000 for these line items for the remaining of 2016. In regards to these line items for the future it appears the Village will be down approximately \$285,000 a year. The TTP-Roll-Back property tax goes all the way back to 1971. It is the 2.5% and 10% rollbacks and Homestead Exemption the State of Ohio collected and distributed to local governments. Governor Kasich put a stop to this and we did find out our cut until it was directly deposited into our account this June.

The year to date expenditures as of the end of June 2016, with grant and bond money removed were \$6,601,193.11, comparing the same expenses to 2015 they are up \$269,962.05. Most of this increase is due to the Jackson Street Road project and the increase in the monthly bond payments. If anyone would like to discuss the changes in revenues and expenditures in greater detail feel free to call me at 513-242-7774, e-mail me at auditor@cityofstbernard.org or stop by my office.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – I have received communication from Police Chief Steve Moeller about a possible Ordinance regarding our Parks. He provided me with several Ordinances from Canton, North Olmstead, Maysville, Union and Hamilton. I will research these myself and meet with Chief Moeller and go over what's needed for St. Bernard. After that I would like to most likely refer it for discussion to the Laws, Contracts and Claims Committee. We will likely also, in respect to the issues brought up by Mrs. Kneckt Underwood, who Mr. Tobergte referred me to, any suggestions the City would like to draft a Code of Conduct for the Parks as well. I think these will kind of dove tail.

Last night we had Mayor's Court. There were 100 tax cases, 24 cases for arraignment, 1 sentencing, 8 cases for payment, 4 cases for trial, 2 of which were tried and I would like to thank officer Bill Ungruhe and Charlie Barnes for their testimony and professionalism.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – This evening I have the report from 5th 3rd securities and our savings down there totaling at the end of June: \$1,215,000.00

The Star/Ohio account at the end of June totaled: \$2,713,247.81

The monument fund that we have at First State Bank totaled: 5,631.02

I also prepared the monthly Treasurer's report for revenue for the City.

Receipts for the month of June, 2016 \$1,799,303.95

Receipts for the year through June, 2016: \$6,392,549.85

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – I would like to pay a quick compliment, it's outside of my realm, but I'd like to thank the financial arm of the Village, the Auditor, the Tax Commissioner and the Treasurer for being so forthright and open about providing information about our financial status at any time.

Currently I have the monthly report for the St. Bernard Fire Department for the month of June.

During the month the Fire Department responded to 25 fire details. Mutual Aid that was given, 1 to Golf Manor, 1 to Cincinnati. 0 mutual aid was received in the Village by other Departments. During the month of June we had 71 EMS details with 37 patients transported. Mutual Aid that was given was 5 to Elmwood, 2 to Golf Manor, 1 to Lincoln Hts. and 1 to Cincinnati and 0 mutual aid was received in the way of EMS detail by our department. Just to give you an update on our Mutual Aid on EMS details to Elmwood Place; since our meeting at the beginning of June we have only been dispatched 8 times with one of those runs being disregarded. This is a much more acceptable level and a breakdown as to why we were dispatched;

- 4 Squad 39 was on another detail
- 2 Squad 39 was out of service for mechanical reasons
- 1 Elmwood Place PD for non-breather
- 1 Disregarded during dispatch

We plan on staying in regular communication with the Elmwood Place FD so that these levels do not increase. There is a possibility that they will seek to put ALS service out for bid and at that point we would most likely not entertain that.

I have some good news to report from the St. Bernard Fire Department. We were awarded a Safety Intervention grant through the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the purchase of one Stryker Power Cot and one Stryker Power Load System in the amount of \$32,944.02. The Village's obligation/matching funds for this grant is \$10,981.34 and will be paid for from previously budgeted funds in the Fire Department Equipment Line item. This system lifts and lowers the cot into and out of the ambulance which is ergonomically designed to reduce operator and patient injuries. The Power Load System is being delivered to Horton Ambulance to be installed in our new squad that is slated for delivery at the end of September or first part of October. Just as a reminder, Ordinance No. 50, 2015 authorized the Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the purchase of the ambulance and in Ordinance No. 61, 2015 the \$199,902.00 was appropriated for that purchase.

I will be asking for an Ordinance for the purchase of the Power Load System and Cot in the amount of \$43,925.36 from Stryker EMS. I would like to thank Lt. Bryan Young our Squad Chief and our Auditor for their assistance in having this grant awarded to us.

As discussed at the last COW meeting the Harvey Court parking situation was reviewed. Due to safety concerns by the police and fire departments it was decided that a test run would be done to determine fire apparatus and medic unit accessibility. This past Tuesday at 6:15pm, Chief Meyer brought Engine 91 and Medic 91 down to do a test run. At the time that we did this the volume of vehicles parked on the street was very low so we positioned cars in previously observed patterns for the test with the tires on the rounded curb. The engine was not able to pass through but the medic unit could with the guidance of the second medic. After witnessing this I was obligated to make a decision that might not be popular with some residents to eliminate parking on the south side of the street. Written notification was sent to the residents and I have received some feedback. Most of the residents understand the safety concerns and obligation that I have but I have taken into consideration some other concerns that have been expressed. The main concern is the lack of space on the street to accommodate all of the resident vehicles and visitors. Many have said that they would have to park in the plaza and I would not want an elderly person or any other individual to feel vulnerable while having to walk that distance.

I expressed an idea to Service Director Tom Paul about the possibility of concreting in the area between the rounded curb and the sidewalk so that cars could be parked farther off of the street. This would allow for the needed space for

full unobstructed access to the street and full 360 degree access to our equipment. Tom had a contractor look at this today and I will let him discuss this during his report as to the cost and feasibility. I am thankful for the residents who have been in communication and I have assured them that I would keep them informed of any progress. We are suspending the signage change until after we determine how quickly the project could be completed.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the residents and friends of the police department who have made kind gestures and offered words of encouragement to our police officers. I know that they truly appreciate it and I would ask that these sentiments continue during these trying times. Whether it is a tray of cookies, a thank you for your service, or even a hug could give them the encouragement and support that they need to keep protecting us. I would like to express my personal thanks to our officers and I pray to God that these senseless premeditated shootings stop. If we could please conclude my report with a moment of silence or personal prayer in honor of the officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in Louisiana and Texas.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Paul – As far as Harvey Ct. goes, I have contacted Ford construction since they were still in the City. I went down and I did the measuring. There's a large amount of grass between the curb and the sidewalk. It actually measures about 5 foot. With that being said I measured the entire street where I thought concrete could go and came up with 1,400 feet which would, when I contacted him, so it's 5x280 ft. which would be 1,400 and it would be about \$14,000.00 to concrete it all. That being said, you'd have to think that we could probably cut back and go one side of the street because we'll pick up 5 ft. So if you concrete and take the grass and concrete it and then the people can pull up. They can't pull up on the sidewalk but they can pull up on the concrete and that would open the street enough for the pumper to get down. You need maybe a foot. That'll give us well over a foot. I talked to two residents and they thought that was a pretty good idea. We will not touch trees or anything of that sort. Whatever is in the grass stays there and we concrete on. I think it's worth a thought. It is what it is but to eliminate parking, after we did the studies and people had to walk so far, they had visitors and all that, I don't know if that's a great idea either.

Jackson Ave. Is almost complete. The final touches will occur on Saturday the 23rd and the painting will be done on Monday the 25th. This was Ford Construction Company. Many of you on Jackson, have met the foreman and workers, who in my opinion, did a wonderful job. I also would like to thank our onsite engineer, who orchestrated the daily activities. Well done, Mark! Thanks to our engineer, John, who drew up the plans and in the course of the progress actually asked for my thoughts and concerns and accommodated them. Finally thank you to our residents for your tolerance. We will continue our improvements throughout the Village as we are able to.

I would like to remind Council that I feel the dump truck is a necessity. We also repaired another packer for \$1,045.00. Then this morning Packer #4 broke its front axle. Ball park figure is around \$1,500.00. We will do our best to keep them running but they are getting old.

To my community, it is easy to answer questions from your mind. But to answer questions from your heart takes practice as they are more steadfast. My family was on vacation, I waved to a man and my daughter, who was at the age of being taught beware of strangers asked, "Dad? Did you just wave at a stranger?" I said yes I did. She asked "why?" Well I said, I was helping him out in his life and strengthening my own. She asked "How?" First, I raised my arm, then he raised his forcing us both to increase our blood flow. I spoke and said "Hi" he replied "Hello" again

using muscles to get this accomplished. Most importantly though, I hope I made him feel good by sparking his heart. There is a glow in each of us, it can only get brighter by spreading peace and love. Picture St. Bernard as the heart, surround it by nations and let's get busy. It has to go somewhere and soon.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – Before I give my report I would like to request, could we change my title to something that starts with the first half of the alphabet so I don't have to follow Tommy all the time?

I put the first six months report for tax revenues in your mail boxes last week. I hope you had a chance to look at them. Without beating a dead horse, we're down about 9.3% on the year to date. That equates up to a little bit less than \$550,000.00. But if you really look at the one sheet that I gave everybody, when you look at the last 14 years, what I've noticed in the last 14 years is that, I'm sorry, the last 12 years, is that we go up and down. It's not steadily increasing in the tax revenue nor is it steadily decreasing. It does go up and down. I did a little investigating, and found that 6 to 8 of those 12 years we actually went down in revenue from the previous year. 6 to 8 years we actually went up in revenue from the previous year. 1 of those years that we went up I'm going to have to take out of the equation because we increased the tax rate. When I look at this it's probably just a normal thing. We're going to have to watch it and keep an eye on it, keep track of it because it's a fairly significant amount of money. I don't think it's an anomaly. I think it's something that has happened and will happen as we go forward. I think one of the reasons is, and a lot of people, especially the people that pay their taxes up front and we settle up once a year, they pay their taxes up front and then when we settle up we owe them credits or they owe us a little bit of money and we can't really always judge just exactly what that's supposed to be. I just thought you might want, when you take a look at those figures, you might take a look at that and see what you think.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – I would like to thank everyone that came out last Saturday to help clean-up our Village. Speaking from my heart I would like to especially thank Service Department driver Mr. Bill Helton. He has volunteered his time at almost all the clean-up days for the past 3 years.

My third Town Hall meeting for this year will be Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00pm in Centennial Hall.

The 9th Annual St. Bernard Soapbox Derby will be held Saturday, August 13. Races start at 9:00am on Tower hill. I would like to thank the following car sponsors: Pat and Gerry Wiedmann, the St. Bernard Police, Fire and Service Departments, Greenlee Garage, Jerry Day Auto Service and finally Mr. Gil Richards.

If you know someone, ages 7-17, that would like to race call me at 242-9499 and I will put their name in a hat for the drawing.

The next CIC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16th at 5:30pm in the lower level conference room.

I met with Mr. Moore today to discuss our income. He has started to reach out to our business community to better understand our income shortfall. We still do not know the ramifications of the tax matter we discussed in Executive Session that could also affect our income. I recommend that we let Ordinance 15, 2016 go regular course until we get a better understanding of our income.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – The Police Department report for the month of June, 2016. During the month of June, officers were involved in 741 calls for service. Of

those calls, they responded to 20 accident reports and took 35 offense reports, clearing a total of 23 offenses. Officers made 57 misdemeanor arrests and 1 felony arrest. They responded to 48 parking complaints and issued 7 citations for parking violations. Officers issued 23 traffic citations, 0 DUI arrests and 45 warnings. They responded to 74 calls for suspicious activity, vehicles or persons.

The next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday, August 16th at 6:30pm. Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge Lisa Allen will be discussing the heroin issues throughout our County.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the Service Department report for June, 2016. There were 29 trucks placed at residences, 32 dumpsters placed at residences, 134 special pick-ups at residences and 201.95 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. The recycling report; 37.07 tons of recycling material, 254 pounds of scrap aluminum, 11 pounds of brass, 3 pounds of copper and 3015 pounds of scrap metal.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – I know John reported on the condo on Tower Ave., but we Council members all got a thing from Paul Myers and I just wanted to read the top part in case anybody wanted to see the actual drawings, we all have the actual drawings for you guys too at if you want to see them. It says: To Council: Attached are several 2 sided sheets depicting the Townhomes on Tower. There will be three 2 unit building erected with price points around \$215,000.00. The developer, Renee Duncan LLC, is working with Perry Bush Builders. We are working on final details and anticipating work starting late summer. Respectively submitted, Paul Myers, Building Department Director. Like I said, we have drawings here if anyone would like to view them, I'll be glad to share mine with you.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – I have placed a draft copy of the sandwich board application and rules in all of Council's mailboxes as well as the Administration. I would like to be placed on the agenda for the next COW to review the application and prepare an Ordinance for the sandwich board and outdoor dining areas.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Schldmeyer – Absent.

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

Committee of the Whole

July 7, 2016

1. Council approved the minutes of the June 16th Council meeting.
2. A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session to discuss employee compensation. Council voted 7-0 to do so.
3. Council met in executive session and discussed employee compensation.
4. Mayor, John Estep
 - a. Thanked everyone that helped with the 4th of July celebration. He gave a special thanks to the police, fire and service department employee that worked that day. He will have a follow up meeting to see if there can be improvements for next year.
 - b. Said that there will be a department head meeting on Monday.

5. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg

- a. Gave an update on the revenues and expenses and will give better update at the Council meeting.
- b. Asked for an ordinance for additional appropriations, transfer of funds and additional line items. Council voted 7-0 to place the ordinance on the table.

6. Law Director, Mike Peck

- a. Gave Council an update on Mayor's court from the night before.
- b. Will give some changes for the grass Ordinance to the Laws, Contracts & Claims committee.

7. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell

- a. Reported that the "No Parking" signs on Ross between Broerman and Greenlee will stay up for now.
- b. There was a discussion about a crosswalk on Vine St across from Phillips Ave to the east side of Vine St. It was decided for safety reasons that because of the closeness of the area to the curve by Chili Time it will be left as is.
- c. Asked residents of Harvey Court to voice their opinions about removing parking from one side of the street. The fire truck will be taken down there to see if it can make it between the cars. If it will not fit parking will be eliminated from one side of the street.

8. Service Director, Tom Paul

- a. Discussed a new packer and dump truck for the service department. Because of money issues we will revisit after the department head meeting next week.
- b. Reported that the final layer of blacktop will be done on Jackson in the next week and a half.
- c. Reported that he is going with a new company for the cleaning of the Safety Center. This will be done for less money and the Fitness Center will be done also.

9. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

- a. Said that they sent out 475 letters to those who didn't file taxes for 2015.
- b. Said the Deputy Tax Commissioner has issued about 100 warrants for court.
- c. Went to a seminar in Columbus and he said the Home Rule bill is not a priority, but it's still on the table. They are still talking about central collections where we send our tax money to the State and they will send them back to us.
- d. Said that he was at his granddaughter's birthday party and a member of the Bad Habit's band said what a good time he had at the 4th of July celebration here.

10. Finance, Don Tobergte

- a. Said his next cleanup St. Bernard day will be Saturday July 16th. Please meet in the lower lot at City hall at 9am and it will conclude at noon. Refreshments will be provided by Ju Ju Beans and Don.
- b. Said that he signed a contract to sell the 4604 Vine St property that was owned by the CIC to the Blue Pearl. This is a think tank organization that Paul Myers talked about in his power point presentation. He will let Andy give more details about the business at a future meeting.

11. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Reported that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday July 19th at 6:30 in the lower level of City Hall.

12. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Cindi Bedinghaus

a. Thanked Mr. Peck for the info on the grass ordinance from Robert Evans and Jonathan for the two other items.

13. Business & Industry, Andy Kalb

a. Said that his committee met to discuss ordinances # 13 & 14. It was decided to combine both ordinances into one ordinance. It will be discussed at the next COW meeting when Council has the rules and application fee info.

14. Mike Wiedmann, service department foreman, addressed Council on the garbage truck and dump truck. After some discussion there was a motion to place an ordinance on the table for the dump truck since it was budgeted. Council voted 7-0 to place the ordinance on the table.

15. A resident addressed Council about some safety issues on West Ross. The Safety Director said he would meet with her right after the meeting. Another resident asked how much the CIC building was sold for. He was told \$80,000.

16. Cindi Bedinghaus said that Miss Lilly Middendorf will be competing in the Miss Pre-Teen competition July 15-18 in Columbus and wanted to thank everyone for their support.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to read this evening's Resolutions and Ordinances by title only. Motion passed 6-0.

NO. 14, 2016 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, MOVE AND TRANSFER FUNDS AND ESTABLISH A NEW LINE ITEMS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 2016.

REMARKS

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Peggy, thanks for the very detailed report but I just want to make sure that nothing has changed with the cleaning. That's going to include the workout center?

Mrs. Brickweg – Oh I'm sure, yes.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Okay. I just wanted to make sure I didn't miss something.

Mr. Tobergte – Peggy, under Section 2, the Marketing Contract Sale. Is it safe to assume that you will take money out of the marketing line item to put in there?

Mrs. Brickweg - I'm going to start using that line item in the next year since we've already been using it this year. I'm going to continue that and then divide it up next year.

Mr. Tobergte – Okay.

The motion to suspend passed 6-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 14, 2016 as read. Motion passed 6-0.

ORDINANCE NO.15, 2016. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL AUTO FLEET GROUP FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE DUMP TRUCK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Asbach – At the request of the Finance Chair, I make a motion for Ordinance No. 15, 2016 to take its regular course.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – I second that.

REMARKS

Mr. Kalb - I have a few questions and concerns about this. I know in the past couple of years we budgeted for a new dump truck and it was taken out of the budget last year and took it out of the budget the year before, we were kind of discussing it last week how we kind of need it for the salt removal and snow removal. I didn't know we were going to be going possibly regular course. What's the timeline for getting a new truck in? If we wait another month or two are we talking that we're through the snow years. I know trucks sometime, like the cop cars took 5- 6 months to get in and now we're talking about January and all that, and the Ordinance here, it's just authorizing the Service Director, it's not, at least the way I understand it. Mike Peck could maybe answer that question, its not forcing him to buy it so we could authorize him tonight and then between now and the next Council meeting, if he feels that the income, whatever, that we can wait and re-discuss it but at least it gives him the option that we would be able to buy it between now and the next month. Because if we're putting it off another year and then we're talking about next year not having money either, I don't find us facing a budget for a \$70,000.00 truck next year and then we're talking about 5 or 6 months again. So my concern, in my opinion, I would like to see this pass tonight. It is budgeted for the money.

Mr. Asbach - I made the motion because the way Mr. Tobergte read I wasn't sure whether we had to vote to do it. If everybody is in favor of voting I'll withdraw my motion and make a different motion.

Mr. Culbertson - I'm also in favor of letting this go regular course until we get a better understanding, some more explanation as to what might be going on. I know Donnie alluded that Rick has reached out to some of the tax shortfalls. Maybe we can get some more answers. I think at this point, again, yes it was budgeted for it, but it was budgeted for with revenues a half a million dollars more than how

they're coming in. I have a hard time until I get more answers on our revenue short fall supporting any major expenditures at the moment.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – For a couple of weeks until we discuss this, I also express that I would be willing to move forward with this relative to, I know it was in the budget, after hearing and seeing some of the numbers tonight, and I thought about this even over the last couple of weeks, I was wondering if we thought about, because I know there is a truck on running condition now but you never know, they are getting old, I understand that. They could take us through the year, they may not. But if they do not, if something would happen and did we think about what we might be able to do to contact somebody that can clean our streets for the snow? If that was not to happen. If we did have a truck and it went down because some thoughts proactively thinking about what we could do.

Mr. Tobergte - I know Cindi asked me that the other day and yes there are major landscaping companies, I don't want to mention any names but they do do part of Cincinnati streets over in Hyde Park. I don't know if you have to sign a contract with them but it wouldn't be cheap I know but right now I don't see, we could be possibly over a million dollars short, we don't know yet. I would rather wait and lease it out to another company and find out exactly what is going on.

Mayor Estep – Maybe another option would be to lease a truck. We could have the employees do the manning. Maybe Tom could look into that.

Ms. Hausfeld – Mike, I'm going to put you on the spot today, sorry, I know I talked to you today about and I'm not sure if it's the dump truck dropping the stuff that I talked to you today about or if it was actually the packer. Do you remember?

Mike Wiedmann, Service Department Foreman – Patty that was the garbage truck. and the reason that happened was that was the back-up garbage truck which is 11 years old and the seal in the back is just metal on metal and its old, it degrades. I would go up and try to take care of that today for you after you talked to us. I hope we have it taken care of. Right now we're not real appreciative of talking about farming out our jobs. First of all I didn't appreciate that. We'll be able to do our jobs with whatever we need to do it with. The reason I was talking about this truck is it's time. You guys have one meeting a month now, which is fine, its taking a little more planning for the Service Director to ask if we need it and everything but I can only tell you what happened in previous orders in previous years with these trucks. They take, I don't even know if anybody here remembers one time the old Service Director, Ray Schrand, he ordered a truck early in October, they said it would only take 3 to 5 months to get. It was budgeted for the next year. He actually had one sitting on the lot and we got it in 2 weeks and since I've been here, 27 years I've been here, that's only happened once. These trucks are pieced together. This is time sensitive, you guys ask me are my trucks running, yes they are. I'll tell you that I myself have stood in back of a pick-up truck with a shovel and salted the streets with that. If that's what we need to do, that's what we'll do. I'm just bringing the stuff up, its time sensitive, appreciate your time.

The motion to have Ordinance No. 15, 2016 take its regular course passed 4-2.
Mr. Kalb and Ms. Hausfeld voted no.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Asbach - I'd like to make a motion, I have it on the agenda to talk about at the COW, which is the A frames and the outdoor tables. This silly Ordinance has taken three months and I don't think that we should jeopardize the businesses. I'd like to make a motion that we allow them to put the A frames up temporarily and could we pass this because from what I gather nobody has a problem with the A frames and they're just working out the logistics of the outdoor dining which is going to take up more of the space of the sidewalks. I'm just entertaining my feelings but I mean these businesses want to use them, it will be the end of summer by the time this passes. We should just allow them to use it.

Mr. Tobergte – The rule is not being enforced now so.

Mr. Kalb – Currently there are some sandwich boards up there and from what I understand, I don't want to put words in anybody's, like Walt Moeller's mouth, but they're allowing them to have them because they know we're working on it currently and most likely its going to be in favor of it. They don't want to say no to one and yes to another and have them all taken down just to have them put back up so they're kind of just allowing it to happen unless it blocks the sidewalk. So, correct, currently they are not allowed and illegal in St. Bernard. I will second that motion if that does allow any legality to them.

Mr. Peck – It's not really your call.

Mr. Asbach – I'll withdraw the motion. If they're not enforcing it that's fine, I just, I've seen "My Dad's Place" with it up against their building because they don't want to put it on the sidewalk. It just doesn't seem like in three months we should still be kicking this around. If they're not enforcing it, that's fine.

Ms. Hausfeld - I'm going to say something that I'm most probably going to get clobbered by most of Council but we wouldn't be messing around with this for three months if we had meetings every week and because we have meetings every other week things get held up for a month or a month and a half, two months at a time. That was my whole point when you guys decided to go to every other week. It's like nothing gets done and it takes forever to get it done. That's my two cents.

Mr. Tobergte - I know John had talked about the Power Load cot and the Power Load System, can we put that on the agenda if we need an Ordinance for that? And Paul has drawings, some simple drawings downstairs for the pocket parks that are going out for bids and get an update on that for Vine St. and put that on the agenda for next week also.

Mrs. Brickweg - I'm just curious. Are they planning on using the Vine St. Streetscape money for that pocket park?

Mr. Tobergte – Yes. He said that was part of the Streetscape.

Mrs. Brickweg – It was never part of Streetscape and I was on the Streetscape committee.

Mr. Tobergte – A lot of the stuff in there was not a part of the Streetscape.

Mrs. Brickweg – All I'm saying is I was on the Streetscape committee and I don't remember ever, ever discussing even another park on Vine St. With that money.

Mr. Asbach – I don't want to start any trouble but weren't we also told that there is so much money in that fund that we have to use on Streetscape? It was at COW but it's not going to just sit there and we can't pay off the bond with that money so we have to use it.

Mrs. Brickweg – And I agree, but I think we could do more things with that money like use some of the money down in front of the shopping center when they move to the shopping center. I discussed with Tommy Paul the sporadic placement of the flower pots and the garbage cans. There's a ton of them in one place and none in another place. I really think like buy more of that, make it more. It kind of looks like Vine St. is half finished. Which doesn't make any sense to me, I mean they look beautiful where they are but there are many places where they are not. I'd rather use the money and finish the project we started and actually make that look really well and even do like some of the sidewalks instead of just putting, I don't know, if I would let my little child or even grandchild play on Vine St. Park. I'll be honest.

Mr. Tobergte – First of all, the shopping center, Paul is working with a developer with that. He's hoping that they'll redo the sidewalk the same way as what is the rest of Vine St. In the drawing he gave us, it was more of a sitting area, a gazebo, with no playground equipment there.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Bringing up the Streetscape, Tommy, I know that the lights on those trees, I asked you a couple of weeks ago and you said people would come along and pull out the plug. Not real sure if all of that is pulling out the plug. They're a lot of lights that are burnt out, I think they're burnt out and if we're going to have them, I think it looks wonderful but as they burn out we either have to keep it up or turn them off because I think that looks worse.

Mr. Paul – There are lights off up by "My Dad's Place" someone could look at and someone unplugged the second strand of lights. They weren't taped together so.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – That could be it but I know,

Mr. Paul – I'll take a look.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – Okay, thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Estep – Under new business I'd like to ask Jacob BoBo, our marketing person from UC to step to the microphone and give us an update.

Jacob BoBo – Thank you for having me. I don't want to take up too much of your time but I want to give you a brief update on some of the projects that I've been currently working on and on some stuff you'll see in the upcoming months so, first and foremost I've been meeting with a bunch of different organizations in the community whether it be PAC (the Positive Action Committee) or a bunch of other organizations like that. I've met with Bob Sawtell and tried to help with some of those things that they had going on. To really get myself involved and dive into St. Bernard and make sure I'm really knowledgeable about what all is going on. I tried my best to reach out to all the groups but if there are any I'm missing and you're listening right now, please feel free to reach out to me at marketing@cityofstbernard.org I'll be happy to meet with your group and go over how I may help you out. This past week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we

did hold our marketing focus groups here in City Hall. I think they were a huge success. Everyone that came was very passionate about what they were talking about and they were very helpful in terms of getting information that I think will benefit our marketing effort while moving forward. Again, if you were not able to come to the focus group and still want your opinion heard, the electronic copies of all the questions that were asked plus some extra ones are on the website and the Facebook page and if anyone needs help finding those, again, contact me. Be looking for a new look for the Dial-A-Ride bus. I'll kind of post the designs of what that's going to look like going forward but keep a look out for that. The next big project I'll be making some huge changes to the website, not in anyway the information on the website, if anything, I'll add more but the functionality of the website is very out of date so I want to kind of update that and make a new system or use a new system and go from there. Social media has been revamped or updated along with adding some social media that we didn't have before in terms of like insta-gram, things like that. I know some people might not be fully versed in all social media but I can assure that you will see an improvement in social media in terms of followers and active feedback on that. Looking to create and work with the Chamber of Commerce on a cross marketing campaign, and a marketing 101 campaign to kind of help businesses in St. Bernard help each other out in terms of their marketing strategies and to also maybe give them some knowledge in terms of marketing that they may not already have in terms of either promotion tips, classes, I'm not really sure how that looks yet but it's something that we're looking to do here in the future. I've been working on contracts with news, the radio, the Enquirer to help promote our events. I'm continuing to meet with these guys. They're news department or whoever is taking an event, that sort of thing to really get St. Bernard events published in the Enquirer and the radio stations or on the news. This was one thing that was brought up during the focus groups. I think we did a great idea. I want to kind of look into it. I want to see how this would work but I am looking to possibly create a marketing committee in terms of if this is a continued position in terms of an intern to kind of give him access to a committee of really passionate and dedicated community members who are looking to improve the kind of brand that is St. Bernard. And then I'm also looking to create more service events to attract college students so you're not only creating these service events to help the community, there are some strong and passionate students at not only UC but Xavier and other NKU, other places around the area that you, by having these service events, you're not only helping your community but you're building that connection between St. Bernard and these upcoming graduate students. That is what I have for you all right now. Obviously if you have any questions feel free to give myself a call. My extension is 7700 and my email is marketing@cityofstbernard.org.

Mr. Asbach – You just mentioned TV and the radio and it reminded me that, and I know I hate to do school info, but on August 13th, Roger Bacon is holding a flag football game and there is going to be a piece of the World Trade Center down there. I know our meeting is not until August 11th so people may not see it but its through the Good Timers Org. They're bringing this piece of the World Trade Center building in and its apparently, what I understand, and I've got this on the floor now that you mentioned it, all the people that teach that day in the building, their names are supposed to be on this, and Interfab down on Spring Grove are building a trailer, so if anybody is interested in seeing it, it will be down at Roger Bacon Stadium, August 13th, a Saturday, I hope that's the right date at 6:30pm, I believe. I just wanted to pass that along if anyone is interested in that.

Mr. Tobergte – So go to the Soap Box Derby first and then go down there.

Mr. Asbach – Hot dogs and refreshments for a buck.

Mr. Tobergte - I left the Block Watch meeting and the subject came up, do we want to put it on the agenda for the COW, the once a month meetings? Discuss that again if we're going to continue that for the rest of the year or not? We talked about this going through September and maybe we should discuss that at the next COW.

Ms. Hausfeld - I'm all up for discussing it. John or Jonathan, one or both of you. I know I got a phone call and I'm assuming each and everyone of you guys got a phone call from the Fire Department representative saying that we went to a five man standings, staffing. And I know it was mentioned by a five but nothing was told, at least to me, definitely that we were doing this and I understand that the money is not there and I understand that kind of stuff but in my opinion things like this should be emailed to us or called to us or something before getting a phone call from a concerned fireman about the staffing. I know years ago when we went to five man, I'm going to be honest with you and I'm probably not allowed to use this word but all hell broke loose and I just don't want, I'll be perfectly honest, I have two brothers that are firemen and I have a lot of friends on the fire house, the fire department and I just, if there is a major thing that happens, I don't want to have to rely on somebody else to come in and save me. Not saying that they couldn't, not saying that it wouldn't work but I do feel very adamant about the five man staffing. I don't think its good for our citizens. I can remember and Chief Meyer you may correct me if I'm wrong but didn't we get some sort of a tax break years ago because we did have adequate staffing and its something to do with the percentage and I'm not even sure what it is but I remember hearing about it that there's all these different focal points that you get good points and bad points for different things and one of the things that we got the good points for was having the six man staffing. I'm just upset that I had to hear from a concerned fireman which I'm very thankful that the person did call me or I believe he called each and every one of us, to let us know what was going on because I think that is something that we do need to know. I understand there are problems with the finance right now. I do understand that but I also think that there are certain things that.....John you call us sometimes and leave messages for other stuff and I just can't believe it wasn't said to us and you know in a more different manner than us getting a phone call from a fireman.

Mr. Stuchell - I'll just go before the Mayor, that's fine. Basically what we proposed at this point and I'll let the thing evolve but basically what was suggested was that we would in lieu of overtime for right now before we, so we could determine whether or not our financial situation is a trend because it ultimately, the additional appropriation that was made for the overtime line item is not going to be adequate based on the number of personnel that we have out. Initially what was estimated was based on two firefighters being absent. Since then that has increased so we had some additional coverage that needed to be made up for. So basically what we asked or implemented ultimately was not five men minimum staffing but basically what we were doing was that in lieu of paying overtime for those shortfalls for the times that we're short staffed that the firefighters would take it in the form of DTO (deferred time off). No one ever said it was going to be permanent. No one said it was going to be long term. But before we go and immediately go and start and ask for another \$100,000.00 or whatever we would need to finish out the year to supplement for this that we ask that they give a little. Yes, they still have the ability to be there, to keep the manning at 6 minimum staffing but what we were asking of them is to give a little before we go and say look how we keep piling the overtime

while we're at ten foot training towards, obviously reduced annual income for the Village, it was a security matter here as far as financially without trying to jeopardize ultimately anything for the safety of the residents. The fire department still has the ability to have the manning on staff but they just take it in lieu of overtime. It's their choice and ultimately, just to let you know, I understand that everyone is concerned about the safety. There is a huge difference in our response from what we had once before when we were at five man minimum staffing. The difference as far as Hamilton County dispatch, we no longer have what is referred to as just mutual aid. We have automatic aid. So basically at the same time we have a known structure fire in town there are other departments that are automatically rolling at the same time and quite frankly ready to set up and take this stance at the same time that our personnel are as well. So I don't believe that we are jeopardizing anything at this point. And as I said this is not an ideal situation. And nobody wants to ask for a five man minimum manning but yes I can tell you that that has been a situation since we ask for the DTO that there was a day that I know of that at least once where we did have just five personnel on duty because there was not anyone willing to come in on their DTO. But that is on their own report. Yes, we probably need to discuss this further but I do not want to just go ahead and run that overtime line item out and then not have the ability to fund it. There is an obligation that we have to maintain the minimal amount that we have in there. There are people that are going to be cashing out at the end of their time. We also have a situation where regardless of the DTO we're still obligated to pay overtime in particular situations where if we have an emergency situation with a medicom where they're being held over or whether we have a fire and they're being held over. Whether or not we're able to meet our minimum obligation to staffing an advance life support medic unit or we don't have an officer on duty, we actually have to pay the overtime so for right now I don't see how we can come right to Council immediately and say let's put out another \$100,000.00 just to stack it when all we need to do is determine if we're trending in this matter and it will be addressed. I don't believe we're in the situation where we honestly have jeopardized anyone's safety. And Patty, what your question, I believe what you're talking about is the ISO rating.

Kerry Meyer, Fire Chief – Yes Patty, what the Safety Director said, you're talking about the ISO rating that we have done every five years. We just had that done and we're currently a number two which is the second highest that you can get which is very good. It has nothing to do with taxes. It has to do with insurance rates. With our automatic aid I don't believe that this policy is going to affect that. It probably will not be in affect, hopefully, in affect the next time we get rated in five years from now. To also echo what the Safety Director was saying is, I don't believe this debate has anything to do with safety. I believe this debate has to do with compensation. The Union, Union has the full ability to keep six people at the fire house 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Now, there is a debate to be had about the compensation. I understand their argument and I think it is legitimate as they want to be paid money and not DTO for that time. But the fact of the matter is if union member choose to work, they're authorized to work with six just like we always have. So anytime we're running with below six because no union members are willing to work for DTO and that's their right. We cannot make them. But never in the past in my whole career have we ever run with less than minimum manning for money. So I believe this argument is actually about compensation and not really safety or minimum manning unlike the last time when you spoke about when all hell broke loose it was different. We actually did run with five with no option for our union members to work up to six. That is different this time. They do have that

option, its just a personal decisions that is their to make which is their right and I understand it but it is the decisions that they are making.

Ms. Hausfeld – Correct me if I'm wrong though, DTO is if they take the time off now, we still have to pay them eventually, correct?

Chief Meyer – Well DTO can be cashed out when someone retires. The plan is for them, hopefully, that they will take that time off. If you recall, we did this back in 2014. There were 1414 hours that were earned by the members which would have put a liability on the City. Of that 1414 hours 1050 have already been taken as time off. So about $\frac{3}{4}$ of that liability to have to pay later is no longer there because they chose to take it as time off in lieu of getting paid at the end of their career.

Ms. Hausfeld – But if they do chose to at later in their career, we're actually paying more money because we're paying at the higher dollar amount then if we would pay them now, correct?

Mr. Stuchell –in this situation for a temporary fix until we can determine where we're headed in the infinity side. The maximum hours that can be cashed out only at the time of retirement were 360 hours. We increased that threshold to 400. 400 hours that they can bank. But they still can only cash out 360. So basically that extra 40 they still would have to take it as time off. Am I wrong?

Mrs. Brickweg - I'm going to tell you right now, first of all yea but they have to be able to take it off. With the scheduling right now the men can't even take it off. You have an DTO veil and an idea and I've said this and I'll say it again, DTO veil is ridiculous, it's the dumbest idea I have ever heard of. The whole plan was get rid of your, and it was Council, get rid of your big expenses when people retire. You voted to take away the sick time pay out and all things like that. The DTO was cut down and whenever there seems to be a money crunch it's like lets do DTO. You have some brand new firefighters in the \$40,000.00 mark that could earn this DTO if they choose to and they have every right to choose, not to cash it out they can choose it out when they are Captain. They either choose liability and save money now and just so we know they are running with five men today.

Chief Meyer – A couple of things, first of all we've run with five guys about, at the least, five or six days. I know you were not aware of that and Peggy is correct. Actually it's been five or six days. As far as kicking the can down the road in liability, yes, theoretically there is that possibility but history has shown that's not what happens. Like I said in 2014, you know, that liability took off $\frac{3}{4}$ that was taken as time off and not paid for a savings of about \$51,000.00. So, yes, the Auditor is correct, theoretically a brand new guy could work it and hold it for thirty years and cash out at a higher rate, that is correct but my experience has been that that's not really what happens. But it certainly is possible.

Mrs. Brickweg - I just want to say something about DTO. I agree with you to a point but then how come some members total numbers maxed out? They do serve it.

Chief Meyer – That's because most of the cases where the people have maxed out, they earned that under the old system where they could work their Kelly days. And the union members couldn't voluntarily work their Kelly days whether we needed them or not for DTO. So most of the people that have the high hours, including myself, they were earned under the old system that is no longer in place. But that is

why most people are higher. The only one I know of that doesn't fit that is Brett Vogel who earned a bunch of hours by going to USSR training. Other than that I think all the other people that have high numbers were almost all done under the old system.

Mr. Culbertson – That's kind of where it was leading when you said it was five or six days with five guys?

Chief Meyer – Correct.

Mr. Culbertson – Does that mean that every other person not on duty at that time declined the DTO?

Chief Meyer – That's correct.

Mr. Culbertson – Is there, I guess they have personal reasons, but is it because guys are maxed out they don't want to take the time? Is it because, seems like if they get time and a half while they're there, you wouldn't have that problem?

Chief Meyer – There's only one person, I believe has so high that he could not actually step in if he wanted to or not. I believe there is only one in that situation. Was the second question about not paying time and a half money?

Mr. Culbertson – No, no, no. DTO is earned at time and a half. I'm just trying to figure out why five times now nobody would be willing to take the DTO other than being maxed out?

Chief Meyer - I can't answer that. Brett may want to answer that better than myself. I'm sure he's going to get up here and speak after I'm done.

Mrs. Brickweg - I have a question and I really do not know the answer to this. I know there is something in the National Standard or something.

Chief Meyer – About manning?

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes. What is that?

Chief Meyer – I believe we need 14 firefighters there in eight minutes is the NFTA standard which we do reach with automatic aid obviously there's no possibility for us to do that with our department size unless we want to increase our budget by several million dollars. But the automatic aid is what enables us to reach that NFTA standards.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm going to be very blunt here, Elmwood might come to my aid but is it most of the time. If my house is burning down or I'm having a heart attack or whatever, would Norwood be mostly who is going to respond?

Chief Meyer – Let me explain. If we get a run for a structure fire, at the exact time that we are toned out of our building we also get, these departments also get the toned out. We get an engine from Elmwood, we get an engine from Golf Manor, we get an engine from Norwood, we get a ladder from Springfield Township and an ambulance from Wyoming. All those departments get dispatched at the exact same time and they are on their way as we're going out the door also. That's assuming they're available. If they're busy on another run then a different

department would be called. That is our normal set up so if your house is on fire and you call it in, your house is on fire that's what the response would be.

Mr. Stuchell – That's on a first alarm. That's just the initial response even before additional manning would be requested. That's what would be rolling at the same time as our department.

Mrs. Brickweg - I went to the showing, I know how fast that room lights up and(inaudible) I think if you wait three or four minutes you can imagine what is going to happen, so my question is how long does it take them on average to get there? There for my safety.

Chief Meyer – Actually those numbers are being worked on. I do not have them. That is a number that we want and we need. Again, I just want to reiterate that if the union members are willing to work for DTO our staffing will not be affected at all. It's only if they, if we can't get them to work for DTO, that's the only time it happens so I understand the quandary they are in and it is totally within the union power to keep the manning exactly where it was before.

Mr. Culbertson – One more question. Kerry, Jonathan, Brett, whoever, I had some conversations with you guys, could somebody clearly tell us what is lost, from having five guys verses six guys staff, person, sorry?

Chief Meyer – It's significant. Our current policy is that with six members we actually enter a building for inside structural firefighting. With five members we do not. We do not enter until we have mutual aid on the scene. It is a very significant difference between six and five. I don't want to down play that part of it. There is a big difference and I'm certainly not in favor of running with five. But you know, hearing the discussion on the dump truck tonight it's kind of a decision the Mayor, the Safety Director and myself made was I don't think any of us had any confidence if we ran through the money we currently have in the budget, say we run out in October and we come back to you that there would be any kind of guarantee that we would have another \$50,000.00 come our way. And if we run our money down too low the Safety Director was saying there is certain times that we would have over time. So we couldn't run it all the way down to zero anyway and if we get to October and we only got \$10,000.00 left in our budget and people are calling in sick we could end up running with two, three, four guys instead of even five or six. And we didn't want to be in that position. If, and I think the Mayor and the Safety Director agree with me on this point, if we get four Council people to say they don't care, this is too important, and they're willing to commit to whatever overtime it takes to do that to the end of the year, if Council is willing to do that I think we would all be okay with that. I'll put the ball in your court and ask you guys if you're willing to make that commitment right now we can certainly go back to the old system but short of that I don't feel comfortable running that line item down.

Mr. Asbach – Tonight's the first night we heard about this when Patty brought it up so I'm not going to vote on anything tonight without any discussion with Jonathan or John or anybody else. What I've been hearing all night long, sounds like we have to have these state reps come to a COW and ask them to have the Governor to quit stealing money from the small cities and villages and give us the money back. Norwood can't even buy bullet proof vests for their officers. How much are they going to bleed from the small communities just so they can build a pot for the State. I don't know, maybe we need to make some phone calls.

Ms. Hausfeld – Steve, since this is the first time you've heard about it do you think you we could discuss this at COW?

Mr. Asbach – This is an administrative call. This is not, we're legislative. Until they come and say that they are in favor of us, I disagree Patty, it's an administrative call. We're legislators, its not up to us to micro-manage the Safety Department.

Mrs. Brickweg - I'm going to disagree with you on one point. Your job as a Council person is financing and appropriating money. Now I do agree that Kerry or John would have to come to you with the numbers, but to say you don't control, this is up to you, you do control, if you give him the money you can have six man minimum. So it does come down to money. Now I don't have my most recent report, do you happen to know what is left in the line item or close to it?

Chief Meyer - I think its probably 60 to70.

Mrs. Brickweg – So there's 60 to 70,000 in there and that's probably where I come up with the issue because I'm just going to put it out there and probably somebody is going to ring my neck but if anything would happen and we have \$70,000.00 in a line item and we're just saying we're not going to use it and we go down below minimum manning probably not the smartest move that's made. But if there's 60 to 70,000 in there, granted you do have the office doing things like that, but if they gave you a number and he said to you this is the number I need to get me to the end of the year, it is Council's job to appropriate that number or not.

Mr. Culbertson – That's the point, it's the administration's decision to do that.

Mrs. Brickweg – Ok then ask John. John, would you like them to appropriate more funds for the fire department?

Mayor Estep – Is Council asking me a question?

Mr. Paul – No the Auditor was.

Mayor Estep – That has to come from Council. Doesn't it?

Ms. Hausfeld – Why does it matter who it comes from as long as somebody is asking the question. To me it doesn't matter if a citizen comes up to that microphone and ask you questions. It's still a question that somebody asked you.

Mr. Asbach – Let me put this to bed. We can bring this up at the COW. We're not going to pass anything, you need an Ordinance to pass no matter what amount you would put in, it's not going to be done tonight anyway. So if you want to talk to us at COW you can bring it up at COW, but it's not going to be done tonight without an Ordinance so it's kind of a moot point.

Mrs. Brickweg - I understand what you are saying but here's the moot point. The moot point is that is the safety of me, the safety of my husband and the safety of his brothers and you can roll your eyes all you want but I'm married to a firefighter, I know a lot more about it. No, there's still \$70,000.00 in that line item. That's all I'm saying. There is money in there if somebody would give some guidance. If it's his decision not to do then it's a decision not to do it. But the 60 or \$70,000.00

could get through until the next COW or the next Council meeting. I think that's all they're asking for a little bit of guidance. All their asking for.

Mr. Asbach – Am I right though, we cannot do a thing about it tonight?

Mrs. Brickweg – Mr. Asbach, YOU ARE 100% RIGHT. You cannot vote on an Ordinance but you can give them guidance on how you feel you're likely to go in the future so they'll know if they could use the money that's already appropriated.

Mr. Assbach – Once again, I don't think that's our call. The money is in there we already appropriated the money. That's the administration's call.

Mrs. Brickweg - I agree with that.

Mr. Stuchell – Ok, so just putting it in simpler terms. Basically put, what it comes down to is whether or not, we're in a situation, I think, Mrs. Brickweg is asking would be, how Council would view this, as far as, how they would favor it because ultimately, administrative side and the decision that what we thought needed to be made was because if we trended not just trending on incomes ability, but trending on what we're paying out in overtime, what we have will not be adequate to make it though the year. If we had an idea from Council's side, if indeed we exhausted that amount and whether or not Council would favor the idea of adding additional funds to keep manning at a guaranteed level, that's kind of the direction I'm looking at. That's all. I guess ultimately, and our point, we had to make a decision to make sure we were not going to run out of money by the end of the year because there wasn't any guarantee that if we were put in the situation that there would be anything there. That's what I believe and maybe I'm wrong.

Mr. Asbach –I don't want to give the perception that I'm against safety, the scary part to me is besides the wages, after four months, we had \$100,000.00 in there to begin with, and after four months we appropriated another \$100,000.00 and almost less than eight months in that's almost gone. So we hear nothing but how we're having money issues this year, I don't think we can have an open check book for overtime. Like I said, I'm not against the safety aspect of it but we just can't have an open check book to continue to pay the overtime with everything else going on. If that's what the administration feels then we discuss it at COW and decide if we're going to put another 40, 50, 60,000 in then so be it. Tonight that's not going to happen is the point I'm trying to make. The discussion has to be made and the discussion has to be at the COW.

Mr. Stuchell - I'd be glad to entertain this. I think it's my responsibility I'd be glad to entertain this at the COW if we wanted to discuss this, if we can put it on the agenda?

Mr. Asbach – Already there.

Mr. Tobergte – Am I allowed to talk now? Just to set the record straight, we started out the year at \$100,000.00 and the last report Peggy gave me was from 7/6, there was \$80,000.00 in overtime and \$2,100.00 overtime grants that went back in so we actually appropriated \$182,100.00 and as of 7/6 there was \$106,661.70. That's all the information I got.

Chief Meyer – The one number that you don't have in there, I don't know, we just did payroll, but the payroll before there's a \$37,000.00 liability for comp time that's already been earned. It's just a matter of when the guy, when this year, those

people will cash out. You have to take that off of that number. So you take the \$37,000.00 off of the \$106,000.00, I guess that leaves you with \$69,000.00. So that's really where we're at because there's basically \$37,000.00 plus whatever was spent this last period that's already been spent out of that line item but we're waiting for the guys to cash that in. So we have to factor that in when we look at the number that's left.

Ms. Hausfeld – Two weeks ago and you guys can correct me if I'm wrong, but we were asked to go into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation. Maybe I was in a different meeting than everybody else was, but I didn't hear anything about employee compensation. I heard what was discussed in and that was from Peggy and Rick, but did I miss something at that meeting?

Mayor Estep - I asked to go into Executive Session to discuss compensation. When we got in there I said the reason I asked you in is because I want to tell you that merit raises for the two Chiefs is on the table right now and there are some reasons, we don't have the money right now. There are two people downstairs that also are in line for raises, we don't have the money for them right now and I wanted to help you understand it and help somebody explain it better than me. I asked Mr. Moore to explain our situation.

Ms. Hausfeld – Then I do apologize because I don't remember hearing that part of the conversation and I just heard Mr. Moore and Mrs. Brickweg giving us their reasons and as I thought we were going in there for something all together, so I apologize for that then.

Mrs. Brickweg - I will agree that I believe what Mr. Moore and I discussed should have been discussed on public floor. I understand your point, but what we discussed should have also that should have been public floor because there are six reasons to our Ohio Sunshine Law in discussing the budget and a lack of funding is not one of them. So that's why I gave my report when we came out because I am very uncomfortable with that. And I felt like it should have been out there. John the original thing, yes, that would be but the budget and all the numbers should have been brought to public floor. Maybe that's why I got accused of whatever I got accused of, I don't know.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Brett Vogel, President of St. Bernard Professional Firefighters IMS Local 450 - I appreciate your time and therefore I will take as little of it as possible. I'm here to talk with you about minimum staffing at the fire department. Within the last two weeks the decision has been made to reduce our staffing from six to five. Tonight I'm here representing the Local and to publicly inform you that we are against that decision. That being said, Local 450 recognizes the importance of cooperation as pertains to fiscal concerns of the Village of St. Bernard. However, monies do remain in the fire department overtime line item which could be used for staffing and that has unfortunately not been happening. So many of my members have been operating in short staff several times since this decision has been made. To me that's unacceptable. This mode of operation makes an already dangerous job that much more dangerous. In addition, it affects the property of our citizens negatively. Due to this dictating, no interior fire fighting attack, with the exception of life safety. Part of the reason for the overtime usage to this point has been injuries sustained by a number of my members. Reducing our minimum staffing from six to five increases my members risk of injury by 71% according to the National Fire

Protection Agency. In the past when the same situation has occurred regarding the reduction in minimum staffing it was for different financial reasons and occurred at a different point in the year. Which in answer to your question, Ray, as to why people, the fire department may not be coming to work for DTO, you know, ultimately that is their personal choice. We are in the heart of summer and a lot of people make plans with their families this time of year. So making the decision to change those plans and take DTO verses overtime pay might be part of the reason. I think in the past when we've done this with the DTO it's been more towards the fall of the year and some people schedules might be a little lighter at that point with family planning and stuff like that. I'm asking you tonight to please give the citizens of St. Bernard what they deserve and expect which is a properly staffed professional career department so that we have the tools needed to iradicate the fire, rescue and medical needs of our citizens. If any of you have any questions for me please don't hesitate to ask. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to excuse the absent member. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 11th not the 4th at 7:30 pm.

Motion by Mr Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Kalb to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0.