

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2017**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village Council was held Thursday, January 19, 2017 in Council Chambers.

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

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

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the regular order of business to hear from the Anointed Mission Cornerstone.

Miss Teruko George and another associate from the Anointed Mission Cornerstone explained the details and general operation of the Mission that will be established on Jefferson Ave. They also fielded many questions from Council and the audience to waylay their fears. (See attached)

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

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – I just want to thank everybody for their help with the budget. It's an ongoing process. It's something new that we're trying to work through. It was more of a brainstorming session and as with most brainstorming sessions you don't solve the issue or the problem with one meeting. So to get some input from the department heads and the employees was helpful. That narrowed it down a little bit and it opened it up quite a bit. I don't know how much progress we made but I think we got it going in the right direction and now we're going to get more input from the citizens and we're just trying to get feedback from all different passages and avenues in our town here so we'll continue to work on it and I look forward to the next meeting on the 2nd I believe it is. This week we're starting our meetings to plan for Fourth of July and Memorial Day.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – The Auditor's Department has prepared Resolution No. 1, 2017 for tonight's meeting. This is the annual Resolution that authorizes the Village to spend Village funds to purchase meals or refreshments for employees and public food. One example of what this is required for is when the Village purchases holiday foods to distribute to the children.

The Auditor's office also prepared Ordinance No. 2 and 3, 2017 for tonight's meeting. Ordinance No. 2, 2017 authorizes the Auditor to transfer \$1,253, 076.00 from the General Fund transfer out line item 5-A-19 to the following cash accounts; 05 – 1,000 Master Plan cash account in the amount of \$300,000.00, 10,-000 C-9 Trust Fund cash account, \$60,000.00, 18 –1,000 Capital Projects, Storm Sewer Improvement \$3,076.00, 31- 1,000 General Bond Retirement cash accounts \$400,000.00 and 51-1,000 Employee Health Plan cash account. And just to reiterate, this is basically putting money in that fund for money that's already been appropriated to spend. So when we write the checks it has to come out of that fund.

So it's just going into that cash fund. It's already been appropriate so even though it's called an additional it's basically it's just a transfer.

Ordinance 2, 2017 also provides appropriations at \$3,520.00 to General Fund 6-A-14 Police Tuition and Training, this is grant money that the police Department received that by law fails to appropriated and used out of this line item. It also provides an additional appropriation of \$23,660.00 to 31-01 Criminals Act Forfeiture. This is the amount in the cash fund which is for specifically expenses that the police chief feels he can use this year.

Ordinance 3, 2017 is updating of part time employee pay. The first year pay for part time pool attendants, craft assistants, and swim lesson assistant has to be raised to \$8.15\$ due to Ohio raising the minimum wage as of January 1, 2017. The Auditor's office provided Council and the Administration with the 2016 year end revenue and expense spread sheet and the cash fund report. The revenues which were not provided for with grants or refunds for 2016 for \$12,532,970.36. When compared to the 2015 the revenues were down \$570,273.61. The expenditures for 2016 with grant and bond money removed were \$12,959,551.21. Comparing the same numbers to 2015 the expenditures were up \$700,247.35. Taking the 2016 expenses with the 2015 revenues the Village overspent \$426,588.85. I also provided a five year revenue allowance for Council and the Administration to refer to when working on the budget. All of these reports are available at the door for the audience to look at.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Peck – Mayor's Court was last night. It went fairly smoothly. It lasted a little longer than an hour. There were two trials, private docket, a tax trial and traffic trial which worked out, thankfully. Additionally I was contacted by the Chief with regard to potentially duplicative Ordinances regarding nuisance dogs that I checked into as well and I'm going to look at a possible way of combining the Ordinance so I'll probably bring that up to Laws, Contracts and Claims sometime in the future as well as the Parks Ordinance that I think we want to hopefully complete by Spring.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungrue – This evening I received a statement from First Safety Bank. The balance there at the end of December is \$5,634.85. When I get the revenues report from the Auditor I'll take care of that and have it at the next meeting.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – It was brought to my attention after a Block Watch meeting that there was a concern regarding an EMS response to a residents home who had a DNR but the printed copy was not available. The question that was posed could we work on having a database where we have vital information on file such as DNR, and particular medical conditions. I agree that this is something that could be useful for both Police and Fire so I would like to work on this.

Aside from a database, I would like to look at an option if the computer could not be accessed, or a power outage or something like that, something similar to what they refer to as Vial of Life, life saving information for emergency. This is not a new program, it's something that has been available for a long time. This program allows individuals to have their complete medical information ready in their homes for emergency personnel to reference in an emergency. The system is simple;

* we will make forms available for citizens

*added documents such as EKG, DNR living will etc.

*all documents will be kept in a plastic bag or vial with a logo on it on the refrigerator or nearby and the logo will also be placed on the residents door so that responding personnel will know to look for this.

Between the two systems I'd like to make that available for the citizens but immediately I want to work on the Vials of Life situation and then or course move from there on the database.

I do have the St. Bernard Fire Department run report for December 2016. We had 38 fire details, mutual aid was given; 1 to Golf Manor, 1 to Norwood, 1 to Springfield Township and we did not receive any mutual aid for fires. Details of interest was 1 miscellaneous fire, 1 building fire, and 1 vehicle fire. EMS information for December of 2016. We had 87 EMS details with 57 patients transported. We had mutual aid given 6 times to Elmwood, 2 to Golf Manor, 1 to Norwood. I am not real concerned about the spike just for this one month for Elmwood. We're still trending well back to an acceptable level. We had mutual aid received by Norwood 1, Golf Manor 1 and Lockland 1. Details of interest were 6 auto accidents, 4 non-breathers, 3 unconscious, 3 psych emergencies and 1 overdose.

That does conclude my report and I'm actually going to excuse myself early to attend an event that I was obligated to but if you need to reach me you can call me at 543-3780 with anything.

SERVICE DIRECTOR Mr. Paul - I hope everyone had a good new year. We have put away our Leafer for the season. Please bag or can the leaves and we will still pick them up.

Johnson Alley has been completed. I will be looking for fencing to put up by the new wall. It is a small length and our guys should be able to do the job.

All our paperwork has been filed with MSD for the flood damage and I still am in contact with them.

We are in meetings with owners of Girl Scout Ln. And ShurFine. Dollar Tree refused to come to our table. We had a productive meeting and you should see improvements. As for Dollar Tree, well if they don't become compliant they will be legally fined for each offense. Please be advised, it was not the manager of Dollar Tree, but their Corporate office. The manager felt it was a good idea but was told by corporate not to attend. I am bargaining with them on our service department taking over their cleaning and them paying us instead of the company they have now. May be a win win.

The widening of the expressway continues and some of our residences are having problems. I will be compiling a list of addresses and forwarding them through to the proper people for further investigation. If you have damage please record and take pictures. If you had work done please keep receipts.

All in all, we've had a harsh but productive year. I hope to work within our budget and continue moving forward this year.

To my community; Well, we have completed a year. Let's go to our internal pantry and look for stuff we thought may have sounded good but didn't fix. Hmm. Let's see here. I guess I can throw out that packet of pessimism and the sack of sadness. Oh! I'll keep that pouch of peace and the hopper of happiness. Why did I ever want that crate of hate or this jar of jealousy or this carton of contrariness. Now this will be good for my new year living, a can of caring and a box of beauty. I see I must have had a bout of depression wanting a gallon of gloom and this mass of misery better throw it away. Ahh! A poke of positiveness! An allotment of acceptance. There now. Oh yum! A length of love. I should have a lot of love. They are like old fashion twinkies, they never expire.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mr. Moore – My report is brief. We have the numbers from December. I thought they looked pretty good. If there are any questions or comments I'd be glad to answer them. But I thought it was pretty straight forward. Just as an aside, I'd like to say to the Safety Director, when you develop this database make sure you're in line with HIPPA.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The Finance Committee did meet tonight. John and Tommy presented the ideas from the employees on cost saving and ways to increase our revenues. Anybody that has any other ideas can contact any Council member or give Tommy Paul a call here at City Hall.

We will meet again Thursday, February 2 at 5:30pm to discuss and rate the items on the budget list.

My first town hall meeting for 2017 will be Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00pm in Centennial Hall.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – I have the police report for December, 2016. During the month of December, police were involved in 626 calls for service. Of those calls, they responded to 46 accident reports and took 22 offense reports, clearing a total of 11 offenses. Officers made 74 misdemeanor arrests and 1 felony arrest. They responded to 60 parking complaints and issued 17 citations. Officers issued 21 traffic citations, 3 DUI and 22 warnings. Police responded to 43 calls for suspicious activity, vehicle or persons.

I would also like to let the residents know that moving forward, the Block Watch meetings have been relocated down to the Safety Center. Typically they are the third Tuesday of each month but moving forward we will be meeting at 6:30 at the Safety Center.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – I have the service department report for December, 2016. There were 8 trucks placed at residences 25 dumpsters placed at residences, 79 special pick-ups at residences, 184.91 tons of garbage taken to the landfill. Under recycling there were 41.94 tons of recycling material.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

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

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – This weekend the community is trying something called a "Cash Mob" in an effort to support local businesses. This weekend's business of choice is the St. Bernard Dance and Fitness Studio's class called Total Body Tone. The idea behind the event is to "mob" a local business with support and cash. Other communities have had great success and I would like to see the organizers of this event to see similar success for our local businesses. So bring your cash and show up to the Total Body Tone class at 10:45 this Saturday so you can get registered and get ready for the class to start promptly at 11:00am. If you are unable to attend this weekend's "cash mob" just remember that shopping local and supporting local business in any fashion helps our community grow and thrive.

As a member of the Roger Bacon Alumni Association I am involved in a fundraiser this evening at Roger Bacon for their sports programs that started at 6:00pm. After the Ordinances and Resolution portion of this evening's meeting I am going to excuse myself so I am able to help there in a more timely manner as it

already started at 6:00pm this evening. As always if anyone needs to get hold of me my email address is atlarge01@cityofstbernard.org and my phone number is 513-265-7349. Never hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns especially on these budget issues right now.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATIONS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – I would just like to remind the residents about these budget cuts, we've had amazing services in St. Bernard and we need to remember that and I have two examples. My in-laws dog got away on Tuesday and I chased that dog around St. Bernard for an hour. I could not catch her. And Josh Gerhardt jumped off the back of the truck and he caught that dog for me. I never would have caught her and so thanks to Josh and I'm sure any service department employee would have jumped off the back of that truck to help me. So I thank the service department and I would like to thank Chief Kerry Meyer. I had an issue, it was a home health issue that I needed help with and he jumped in his truck and he ran up and helped me as fast as he possibly could. I'm sure any fire department employee would have done the same. So thank you to our Fire Department and to the police officers, if I could have called you for something I'm sure you would have helped me too. So thank you for our amazing services and I would like to hear from the residents what they would like to hear about these budget cuts.

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

Committee of the Whole

Jan. 1, 2017

1. Council approved the minutes of the Dec. 15th Council meeting.
2. Mayor, John Estep
 - a. Said that he met with the HIP inspector on Girl Scout Ln. and there was talk about having volunteers clean up the area. They will meet with the owners and tenants and discuss an eight foot privacy fence and enclosing the dumpsters and keeping them locked so people can't put their own trash in the dumpsters.
 - b. Thanked Council for the work on the 2017 budget. He met with the department heads to work on reducing the budget by \$250,000.00. He asked the departments to turn in suggestions by Friday Jan. 13th at noon to Mr. Paul. These suggestions will be discussed at a meeting on Jan 19th at 6pm and will follow up at a meeting on Feb 2nd at 5:30pm before the next COW meeting.
3. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
 - a. Asked Council for a Resolution that allows for the purchase of food and beverages for certain events. Council voted 6-0 to place it on the table at the Council meeting.
 - b. Asked for an Ordinance for the transfer of funds from the general fund to certain line items. Council voted 6-0 to also place it on the table.
 - c. Asked Council about getting a time clock for City Hall workers. Council asked for figures on the cost.

d. Reported that it looks like the revenues for 2016 were \$12,967,025.07 and the expenditures were \$13,901,305.52. A better report will be given at the Council meeting.

e. Mr. Tobergte asked about the new minimum wage for the summer helpers and Council voted 6-0 to place an Ordinance on the table. Safety, Director, Jonathon Stuchell

a. Reported that the pumper that was damaged in the flood is close to being back in service.

5. Service Director, Tom Paul

a. Asked Council for an Ordinance to contract with Hamilton County to dispose of unneeded Village property thru the County internet auction system. Council voted 6-0 to place it on the table.

6. Tax Commissioner/Administrator, Rick Moore

a. Said that he will have the December numbers at the Council meeting.

7. Treasurer, John Ungrhue

a. Reported that the total in the 5/3rd securities fund is \$1,015,000.00 and the total in the Star One account is \$2,219,565.98 for a total of \$3,234,565.98.

8. Finance, Don Tobergte

a. Said that the finance committee will meet on Thursday Jan 19th at 6pm so that the Mayor can present the suggestions on the budget cuts. The committee will also meet on Thursday Feb 2nd at 5:30pm to discuss and rate the suggested cuts.

9. Safety, Ray Culbertson

a. Reported that the next Block Watch meeting will be Tuesday Jan 17th at 6:30pm in the lower level of City Hall.

10. Highways & Transportation, Diana Schildmeyer

a. Said what a good job the service department did on our street with the snow.

b. Reminded everyone to drive safely and slow down, with it being dark and the kids going out to sled ride on snow days.

11. Council voted 6-0 to excuse the absent member.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Asbach

President of Council, Pro-Tem

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Estep,

I would really like to thank you for your rapid and hands on response, to my request for help concerning the damage to our home on Clay St. Caused by the construction work on Interstate 75. The fact that you came and stood in my home with me to experience what was going on, showed me that you really care about myself, my family, and my neighbors.

I would also like to thank Mr. Paul and Mr. Shipp for their help concerning this matter. It's comforting to know that we have people in our local government who are willing to go the extra mile to help out the citizens of our great Village of St. Bernard. You guys are AWESOME! Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas Van Hook

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2017. AUTHORIZING THE USE OF VILLAGE FUNDS TO PURCHASE MEALS OR REFRESHMENTS FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OR OTHER PERSONS AS SERVING A PUBLIC PURPOSE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 1, 2017. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Resolution No. 1, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1, 2017. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HAMILTON COUNTY TO DISPOSE OF UNNEEDED VILLAGE PROPERTY THROUGH HAMILTON COUNTY'S INTERNET AUCTION SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 1, 2017. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 1, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 2, 2017. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 2, 2017. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adopt Ordinance No. 2, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 3, 2017. FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THOSE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD WHOSE FIRST DATE OF SERVICE IN THE POSITION IS AFTER 1/1/2005, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 3, 2017. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mrs. Bedinghaus to adopt Ordinance No. 3, 2017 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobergte – I was working on Bank St. last week I had a couple of residents ask, Patty and John talked about, back in November, having a meeting with the residents down there and talk about Ross Ave. going through. Have you guys set up a meeting date or anything yet?

Ms. Hausfeld – No. I was actually going to get with John this week and set it up around your meeting or the CIC meeting because I'm sure he is going to want to have or we're going to want to have Paul there as well. But I was waiting until after the first of the year to get it together and since I was sick two weeks ago I gave it until this week. I'll get with him next week and then we'll give it enough time to where I can announce it a few times on Council before we actually have it so it will be somewhere in February.

Mr. Culbertson - I had a couple of residents call and ask when that meeting was scheduled so I thought I would ask.

Mrs. Brickweg – I just wanted to add to Andy's report about the "cash mob". The one thing he forgot to tell people that whoever comes needs to bring a mat. It is a floor class which is kind of like Pilates and Yoga together and it's an awesome class I've been doing it for two months. So I welcome a lot of people to do it but you will need to bring a mat. I think there's a couple down there that you can rent for two dollars but I would suggest your bring your own.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hausfeld – There have been a few people that have suggested as far as the five minute rule for the citizens to talk. I would like to be put on the COW agenda to discuss that. I know, I know some residents are very upset that they get up there and they are limited to the five minutes and I realize like tonight before we even got started I had suggested that we do away with the five minute thing and because I knew that was a hot topic and I knew people needed to be heard and I just don't think five minutes is a lot for somebody to talk but I would like to discuss this at the COW two weeks from now and get everybody's opinion and try it. We're trying new things this year, we're trying two meetings a month instead of four so especially since we're only having two meetings a month I think the five minute rule is a little bit outdated and I think that the citizens should have more time to speak their minds and address us.

AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Phil Stegman, Orchard St. - I promise Peggy I won't take more than five minutes. I'm finally seeing this for the first time. I know in December they were still looking for the tax revenues to be coming in. I guess I'm misunderstanding it. We ended up coming in at almost \$10.4 in the Tax Department and Peggy you're a little over two million for your department which we were only about a couple hundred

thousand dollars over expense for the whole 2016. And I know we had two major things, one of them being Franklin Alley at \$147,000.00 and we bought a piece of property which I had no problem with, Long John Silver's, which is actually part of that, so I don't know, I was a little bit late to see the things of cuts. What are we projecting next year in 2017. Because it was a Presidential election, revenues were down across the board everywhere. Have we contacted our top ten people to find out if that's going to continue before we might make cuts. Lets find out if the revenue is going to start declining or is it going to go back up. So, I'd like to see the other side of the coin instead of all these cuts that are being proposed. Do you have a projection this year for 2017 for the tax and from your department, Peggy?

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll let the Tax Department answer that. If I have a good year with property taxes are going to be two million.

Phil Stegman – Two million. Okay.

Mr. Moore – Phil I projected we would do this year pretty much what we did in 2016. I don't see any major changes. I have spoken to most of the top ten, probably within the last six months. I haven't spoken with them lately but just to get some idea of where they're going and what's happening. So I don't anticipate, unless a new business or Proctor's has a big announcement that they're opening a new building or something like that, that those revenues would increase.

Phil Stegman – Okay so basically we're going to be bringing in close to the same amount that, what was the actual budget for '17?

Mrs. Brickweg – We're projecting 12.3 and the actual budget that was voted on was \$12,703, 451. 70.

Phil Stegman – Okay and that's with the \$200,000.00 built in for the Moeller property?

Mrs. Brickweg – Yeah, yeah.

Phil Stegman – Well I know they were talking about cutting that and that's going to be the worst thing you want to do because like I say, we went out for millage for our streets and that money is coming in through the tax payer, so you don't want to start cutting money that's actually being brought for road projects, that's one of the bad things you don't want to start cutting projects that the tax payers are taking extra millage out. So. I just wanted to get a better handle on what's coming in and what's going out. It wasn't very precise at the end of the year but all of a sudden we're hearing cuts and not a lot of what's coming in on the other side of revenue coming in. Can I get a copy of the budget and a copy of this because I borrowed this from a lady over there because they are out of them.

Mrs. Brickweg – I can get you a copy but Phil I'm not sure I've been telling you all year that we were down. I've been saying the revenues all year so I don't know why you didn't hear that.

Phil Stegman – Oh I understand it I've seen that the economy is down and cuts.....

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes well you said you were kind of surprised at the end of the year.

Phil Stegman – No I'm surprised that we're almost dead on what we spent and dead on what came in. Other than the \$200,000.00 over. And those were a couple of things forecasted and we got a \$3,000,000.00 reserve. And now I've been hearing this and I'm going to tell you, that \$3,000,000.00 does not have to stay in that fund. I would like for somebody who keeps on saying that we have to keep it because of the bond. That bond issue is done. We don't need to keep \$3,000,000.00 in that reserve to keep the bond. The bonds are done.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll be more than happy to give you the email that Andy sent to us. Andy, you know Andy.

Phil Stegman – I know Andy.

Mrs. Brickweg – He said that you and Bill and Paul guaranteed him that with all these wonderful new businesses we were bringing in that our reserves would go up to five to six million dollars. And if you want to continue, actually I'll read it to you. I think I have it here.

Phil Stegman - I would like a copy of it.

Mrs. Brickweg - I'll be more than happy to give you a copy of it.

Phil Stegman – And it says we must maintain three million dollars for the.....

Mrs. Brickweg – I'll get you a copy in just a second.

Phil Stegman – Okay. Because that's not how I portrayed it. It would be ludicrous to say that if I bought a house and I told the bank I have four thousand dollars in a savings, that once I buy the house that I have to maintain four thousand dollars in my savings. A bond is, it's over.

Mrs. Brickweg – Phil if you remember correctly, you guys didn't let me be in those meetings so I don't know what was said or not but basically it is due to a bond rating. And I will read you what Andy said and he approved this email. He even said in here that he approved this email because we talked on the phone. And I was uncomfortable writing down what we talked about so I wrote the email, sent it to him for him to approve before I sent it out. And he also talked to Price-Findley. So I am not making any of this up.

Phil Stegman – Okay.

Mrs. Brickweg – Like I say, you can even have this copy.

Phil Stegman – Thank you.

Mrs. Brickweg – Andy; I have talked to you, I hate to ask you this but since we talked on the phone and I have to update Council and the Administration about what we discussed. Will you please review this email for me, feel free to make any

changes or corrections. Thanks so much for taking the time to help me. I really appreciate it.

I was asked by the Finance Committee to contact the bank regarding the amount to keep in the reserves in regards to the bond. I was able to track down Andy Brochures who no longer works for Fifth Third to discuss this with him. He called me on the phone to discuss this so I do not have anything in writing but if you would like to contact him for what I am saying the phone number is attached. When I told Andy the current reserves was 2.9 million and that's what they were when I called him he stated he was surprised the (inaudible) had not contacted the Village yet. I believe they have not contacted us because they request our final audit each year and when they received the 2015 auditor financial statement they showed \$3,927,268.57 in reserves. My goal is to invest the \$200,000.00 by the end of December into Star Ohio to bring the reserves back up to the 3.1 million. Andy and I discussed the reserves and what the anticipated goals for the reserves were back in 2013 when the Village obtained the bond. Please remember that I was not included in most of these meetings because the Administration did not want my feedback. I felt as Auditor we could not afford the bonds and I knew after talking to ODOT regarding the Fire Department that we did not have to spend the nine million on a new one. Apparently at the meeting it was discussed that the Village needed to build the reserves back up between five and six million dollars. The hope was cuts and many new businesses coming to St. Bernard this could be done. Obviously neither of that happened. The reason Fifth Third Bank and Moody want higher reserves is for sound business protection. The majority of St. Bernard's income comes from earned income tax. And the majority of that comes from companies. The fear they have is anything what happens to this company St. Bernard would be in a very bad financial straight. If Council and the Administration insists on not following the advice of Fifth Third Bank and the securities advice and cashes in the investments we would basically get an F on our credit report and Moody would down grade our rating. The current interest rate is locked in so that would not change. It would however prevent the Village from being able to refinance and/or borrow additional money for the next 28 years. In the meantime since I received this I did get a report from Moody and put in our, two of the ratings we were averaged on and every other one we were below low. But we did not have enough money in the reserves for the amount of bond money we had borrowed. So I'll be more than happy to give you a copy of this but it was right from who you dealt with. I had nothing to do with it.

Phil Stegman – Right, and they are no longer there and like I say, I still heard you read that whole thing and it doesn't say that we have to guarantee that there is money that has to be left in the reserves.

Mrs. Brickweg – Andy said that you guys promised and that Moody is going on the feedback that we're going to build it up to five to six million because what would happen if the big company went out of town. So I'm not going to play this thing with you.

Phil Stegman - I'm not going to play games with you Peggy.....

Mrs. Brickweg – Yes you are.

Phil Stegman – All I asked for is something in writing that said it had to be three million in reserves at all times.

Mrs. Brickweg – Okay. If you pull some in you get an F on any refinancing or any financing. Our credit rating is at A-2. If you would like us to cash them in and bring our credit rating down to a B or something, I don't recommend that. I think it's good that the city has a good credit rating. I also think it's good that we have reserves for when something happens. And in here like I said, Andy approved this, Andy said that he was told and Moody's was told it would build to five to six million. So Andy even said, I'm surprised they have not lowered your rate already. That's why you do not want to cash in these reserves. And Andy, you're right, he does not work for Fifth Third but he does the same thing for the company he is with.

Phil Stegman – I'm not saying to the Administration or Council to go and spend that three million dollars. I'm just saying on shortfall of a few hundred thousand dollars, it doesn't say that it's guaranteed that it has to stay in there. We should keep the three million in as long as we can but if something happens and it needs to be spent. And I still would like a copy of that because I would like to have a copy of this too because I would like to give this back to her.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Just for the employees to know the young guys and whoever is worried about lay-offs, we have already passed the budget for this year dipping into the reserves for \$300,000.00 so the next thing I think we're saying is \$200,000.00 after the budget meeting which is a fluctuating number, I think. So just so the young guys know that we're not looking at lay-offs. I'm not interested in lay-offs, if somebody else is I would want no part of that.

Mrs. Brickweg – And I'm sorry if I sounded frustrated but I got a few phone calls over the week-end that I guess people gearing up for the next election. It is in November and that I have been making up numbers and making up lies about investments and that really bothered me. A number is a number and there is the email. So if I sound frustrated that's why, because I take a lot of pride in being very honest in giving the numbers out there. And when people are at their private parties and saying these things it really does affect me and my integrity so I do get upset about that. I'd be more than happy to give anybody anything they want because everything is open record and I have absolutely nothing to hide.

Ms. Hausfeld – First of all I wanted to apologize that I missed two weeks ago. I was sick. But I did hear Mayor Estep, as far as accountability, I know, Peggy had asked for a time clock and you said something about having time sheets and I just wanted to know how that was going?

Mayor Estep – At the end of the month they turn in time sheets to me and then I keep records of all days off and why or whatever. So we did have a meeting and we went into a sign in sheet. We tried it for a few days and maybe I over reacted. I thought and I told them I'm not here on a full time basis, I'm not snooping, trying to say you came in at 9:01 or left at 4:59. But I would like to see if we could find a system to make sure that everybody is on the same page. I reminded them that they are all adults, they're all professionals, they don't need me to babysit them. The sign in sheet worked for a couple of days and there was some grumbling and I don't think it really benefitted anyone. It may have caused some hard feelings so we did away with it and we're going to go back to where we were before.

Ms. Hausfeld – I didn't think to give my two cents two weeks ago because I was sick but I will tell you for many, many years I was a bookkeeper for Walgreens and

for those people that did not clock in and out and they had a time sheet and they had to write down and somebody had to be accountable, somebody had to, knew that they were working those hours because somebody has to initial off on them. I know as the bookkeeper that I was not expected or allowed to pay them unless things were written down correctly including their sick time and their vacation time because if it is not then it's theft in office. And theft or at a workplace and if there is an issue or a problem I just hope that it's dealt with by the Administration and we don't keep letting things happen just as a good ole boys system and not paying attention to it. Because I don't care if you, if it's me or if it's the lowest man on the totem pole, if somebody is lying about their time sheet or their work on or off the clock, that's theft in office and that needs to be addressed and be taken care of.

Mrs. Brickweg – And to be honest this is the first I've heard of that. That the sign in sheet is gone. No one told me that. I guess it disappeared when I had to leave yesterday. Basically, yes people were disgruntle about it but basically people, basically people were disgruntled about it, I'll be honest the people that were disgruntled about it were the people that were being suspected and of the people that I suspected the people with me basically said they don't remember that any more and that everybody is going to distance themselves from me at City Hall because I'm like an evil person that wants to keep people accountable, which is fine, I still think we have an issue. I know there's one if not two employees that got extra vacation days this year because they weren't here and they put in they worked. So that's up to you guys if you want to do anything with that. To me, I was a citizen I would be fuming. I reported it and nothing happened. I can't do any more than that. I really can't. I just think that the majority of the employees, and if you are disgruntled about signing in and signing out, I know that's a little bit of a red flag. It didn't bother me at all to sign in when I came in and left. It really didn't. It was accountability, I would have liked to compare them to the time sheets but they're all gone and like I said I went in to sign out last night and I didn't see it until I had no idea that nobody did inform me that they were gone. They were just gone. But there is an issue so at some point you might want to look into it.

Ms. Hausfeld – What do you mean they're gone?

Mrs. Brickweg – The sign in sheets were in the copy room where we did it and they're not there any more.

Ms. Hausfeld – Well I can tell you I know from my personal experience as the bookkeeper, you have to keep payroll records for two years, including time sheets or sign in sheets and stuff like that so I hope we still have those somewhere.

Mayor Estep – We do have the records, I think payroll gets everything that is kept and as far as, you don't have payroll sheets?

Mrs. Brickweg – What Patty is saying is I asked for the sign in sheets to put into the payroll file so I can coordinate them together because she is right and Patty by our law we have to keep everything for fifty years.

Mayor Estep – What I was going to say was we did away with the sign in sheets Tuesday. I asked Tommy and I'm not going to blame Tommy, I'll take blame for not letting everybody know, but I didn't see you Wednesday to tell you. We did away with them. I'm in and out, I'm part time and I know nobody wants to hear that

but like I said, I'm not here to check on anybody, we're all adults and if we could prove that I'll certainly follow up on that I will.....

Mrs. Brickweg – I already gave it to you.

Mayor Estep – If you can prove that. I want proof beyond reasonable doubt and I won't discuss personnel in this meeting but we can talk about it.

Mrs. Brickweg – You didn't do it.

Laura Schmitt – Just a quick comment. When I sit back here and I hear some of Council, and this isn't personal, keep referring to make sure that these young men aren't worried about losing jobs and all of this it's offensive to me as an eleven year employee. It bothers me. You have a lot of older women and older men out here that are just as worried about their jobs as the young men. That's all I'm going to say.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Laura, that is me that had said that. I felt like you guys should already feel like you're safe. As far as I'm concerned I'm telling you from my personal, Laura, point of view, as far as I'm concerned, I will not support anyone losing their job. This is the first time I've heard somebody who has been an eleven year employee has been concerned about their job. I will not support one person losing their job. This is not the first time I've said it.

Laura Schmitt - I know that and I appreciate that. And I appreciate the job that all of you do as Council with no disrespect, however, the last time, it's been, I was told that my raise was going to be discussed at the beginning of the year last January and I was guaranteed that. It hasn't been mentioned yet. So the faith that we have in some of this, you have to understand, is not very good.

Melissa McManus – For you guys that don't know me I own Atmosphere Salon on Vine St. and I also recently bought a house with my fiancée who is probably hiding in the corner. Anyway, normally I call and I'm super happy and excited and I'm usually actively working on something trying to better the community, right. Yeah, well you know the people that see me up here that's usually what I try to do. So I have to bring to this Council the issues of social media and actual news media. I have to say I am absolutely horrified of the fact that any time something bad happens it is everywhere. Five seconds. Five seconds. We could make up something silly as we may have, just sitting here making each other laugh and I bet that's all over social media. Word of mouth. I bet we're all going to walk out of this room right now, any single thing they said tonight, or not said, assumed, it's on social media, right? That's a problem. What about all the great things that have happened? I bet they don't even have a clue what's going on and I'm telling you it's got to be good, right? I bet the news media doesn't have a clue what's going on that's really good. Every time that I hear about St. Bernard in the news lately what has it been about? Something horrible, something bad that makes us look really bad. The reality is that there are so many worse things going on around this world, around Cincinnati, around Ohio, or right across Vine St. into North Avondale, everywhere there's something bad going on. Do you hear everybody going to the news about that? I don't. So I mean I just have to say is that anybody that wants to have a voice, if it's not a good voice, what you're doing is putting myself as a business owner, we just bought a house here, who is planning on getting married, who wants to have a life here, you're going to make me leave. Just want to say that

right now. I am looking to expand my business hopefully within five years, that's my goal that's the goal I've given myself. The last time I gave myself a five year goal, that was to open the salon, I did it in a year. Okay. Where am I going to go? Why would I be here if every single voice spoken is bad. Why would any other business owner want to come here? Why? Tell me. So they can then get harassed for anything, everything? I don't know. It's not important, it's not going to help them they're not going to do it. They're not going to show up here so they can get yelled at, argued about, being sad about. I mean heck, every time for the past year that I have tried to do something good, I joined the woman's group, positive action committee, you don't know how many things I do that I think negative about that. I bet they're trying to do something bad. No, actually not really. Not at all. Nobody's trying to hurt anybody, everybody's trying to make it better. You can't even have positive in the name of something without somebody in this community ripping it apart. I mean that's really all I have to say because it's all been true. And I choose to typically say good things and I try to stand up for what's right but the reality is that everybody is going to say the things bad. This community is going to be bad. It's going to be the worst nightmare.

Mayor Estep – Thanks Melissa. I agree with you. There's so much room for some positive things on there. Facebook, we're talking about Facebook, we know it. It's a great vehicle, we should use vehicles like that for posting when a meeting is, when the Fourth of July is going to be celebrated, and I'd like to challenge everybody who puts something negative, it's a choice you make. It's your opinion, naturally it's your opinion and then you sort of twist it into a negative vein. I'd like to challenge you to just sit back for a week and not put something negative on there at the end of this meeting when you wake up tomorrow, when you go home tonight, try and find something positive or a compliment to give. It's hard. People stop me and say did you see what was on Facebook? Is that true? No it's not true. It starts with rumors, then they go right to the jugular vein. It just gets old hearing that. I guess I have, I don't know six hundred and some friends on Facebook and I interact with a lot of them and I see a lot of positivity with students, former teachers, friends from other communities and sometimes we'll go out of the community for dinner and somebody will stop me and say, hey, I saw on Facebook, did that really happen? No. And it's embarrassing. They think St. Bernard is a circus sometime. So I'd like to challenge all you people in this room out there who is going to listen to this, to just for one week see if you can keep your hand off that post it button when you got something negative to say about somebody.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Melissa I think that I have said thank you to you on Council floor. I appreciate everything you've done for this community. I stay off of Facebook when it comes to the Villages' affairs. I try not to get involved but I just want you to know how appreciated that you are in this community. So please don't give up on us.

Mrs. Brickweg - I also talked to Melissa about this the other day but I will say it's easy to stay off but when you know something is a lie it's a lot easier to go on and stop it because there's a lot of stuff going on this week end and a lot of people that knew the answer and that we're reading it and if they could have just squashed it right from the git go they could have stopped it. It's one thing and I put this on Facebook, it's one thing not to comment but if you know it's a "no" and that is not true, then put that there and stop it. Just stop it. And I think ignoring it is what makes it continue to grow and grow. I'm sorry Facebook, snapchat all that is way the younger generation and we're all getting old and we need this young generation

to look over this Village and make it a better place. So we're going to have to give and take a little bit here and that's the way to communicate. But if you notice there's a lot more younger people in the audience and that's why and they told me that's why. But I'm just saying if you see something on there and you know it's not true, if it's an elected official, an appointed official, you should put there hey, this is not true. That's all you have to say. You don't have to say any more. But just ignoring it makes it grow.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I did see all the Facebook posts. I did not know the answer. And I refuse to engage in this on Facebook and I refuse to answer a question that I cannot give an informed answer to.

Mrs. Brickweg – None of Council knew.

Theresa Schrand, Church St. - I just wanted to put out that St. Clement is having their annual spaghetti dinner on January 30th starting at 4:00pm at St. Clement cafeteria. Any other questions you can call up to school and speak to me or Theresa Strotman.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – What day of the week?

Theresa Schrand – It's a Monday night. \$6.00 for an adult, \$3.00 for kids and \$5.00 for Seniors.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – The phone number of St. Clement is 641-2137.

Theresa Schrand – And extension 804 if you want to get in contact with myself or Theresa Strotman.

Mrs. Kathman - I would like to thank Mr. Paul for the new clock.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW is Thursday, February 2nd @ 7:00pm. And as been mentioned many times there is a 5:30pm meeting with the Finance Committee.

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

Addendum

Motion by Mr. Tobergte, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the regular order of business to let the Church group talk about the home on Jefferson Ave. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. George – Good evening everyone. I'd like to thank you all for allowing us this time to come out and explain our intent and our purpose for the home purchase on Jefferson Ave.

Mrs. Valerie Valkenberg-Walden – Could you please state your name for the record and what group you're with, please.

My name is Teruka George and I'm the group home administrator for Anointed Mission Cornerstone which is the name of our group home. The organization is Anointed Word Fellowship. I just want to start off by saying we are a church organization and running group homes and operating group homes is part of our outreach program. We actually do have a group home already up and has been running for a year over in the Roselawn district. Depending on the need of the people that need servicing is how we chose what areas and what part of the city to purchase homes and look for property to, you know, build our establishments. So that's how we came across Jefferson Ave. Because there was a need in this area according to the um, what is it, the Central Health Community Board is who we're contracted to. I have a little mission statement here I'll just read, you know, so I can give you some understanding, you know, about what we're all about.

Anointed Mission Cornerstone is a state licensed family home, housing 5 women who have mild mental illness. Our clients are processed through mental health programs like Mental Health Access Point and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral. Clients are assigned coworkers, counselors and other avenues to aid them in becoming as self-sufficient as possible. When a client is in need of housing, there is a state regulated organization called Central Community Health Board that acts as a middle ground in aiding the process of finding housing. CCHB screens clients' files, including history and mental health conditions, to match them to appropriate living situations. Referrals from CCHB are then mailed to our group that may be compatible with certain clients depending on their needs.

At Anointed Mission Cornerstone we receive referrals, we go over the history and the mental health condition of that individual and establish an interview. If the client shows forth certain mental capabilities, and a willing attitude to work toward their future goals and to comply with state, local and house rules, then will we accept them into our home.

While in our program, clients are supervised daily by staff. We are staffed 7 days a week, 24 hours a day including weekends. It does state 7 days, I'm sorry.

Our program consists of teaching and encouraging the women to maintain good hygiene, budget finance (where applicable), prepare meals, sort and wash laundry, and maintain a clean and healthy living environment.

Beyond teaching basic living skills, we encourage those who can continue their education and to find gainful employment. Our hope is to help these women heal where possible and to overcome the obstacles that may keep them from living their lives to their full potential.

Like I said when I get referrals, by the way, all of our staff members that work in our group home are volunteers. They're retirees from the church, seniors and one of them happens to be my mother, so I carefully screen the clients that we receive.

We don't take, you know, what's in our capability and what we're able to handle. I don't accept clients with, what the rumor was saying, pedophiles, sexual abusers or anything sexual like that. Schizophrenia or anything like that. We take on the milder cases like depression, anxiety. Mild MRDD. You know, we deal with those types of clients. Those are the type of clients we have in our other group home. They work in the community, they come and go, you wouldn't even know we're a group home. We've just been doing real well in the community so I just want to ease your concerns. There are several different types of group homes out here and they can function, you know, as, um, whatever you desire to set them up as. But we are dealing with women with mental illness, very mild cases of mental illness. Bipolar, and depression. Like one of the young ladies we have in our other program, she has been in the foster care system all her life and there comes a point where you have to cross over and become grown and get out there try to survive on your own. In doing that and come to that point of her life she had a nervous breakdown, suffered from anxiety and depression and instead of just letting her go, you know, we have places like our home that can let her live there and cope and develop and not have to deal with that transition. She's working in the community and everything is going for her. She has been there with us now for a year and, um, until, you know, every six months we access them and see where they stand and what they're able to do and then they cross over into, you know, transition into living on their own. So, um, does anybody have any questions about what we're here for or for me to elaborate more on what we do I could answer

Ms. Hausfeld – First of all I'm sorry what was your first name?

Ms. George – Teruka.

Ms. Hausfeld – Teruka, hi I'm Patty.

Ms. George – Hi.

Ms. Hausfeld – Um I, I'm going to put it out there. I, first of all, I'm not on Facebook so

Ms. George – Me too I'm not

Ms. Hausfeld – I, I only heard rumors.

Ms. George – Uh huh.

Ms. Hausfeld – Through the phone and stuff. Um, but you're right, there was all kinds of rumors out there.....

Ms. George – I don't know where it.....

Ms. Hausfeld – That you guys had to take recovering drug addicts, prostitution, uh you name it, it was mentioned. So you're saying that none of that is going on. It's strictly mild cases of mental illness?

Ms. George – That's what I'm saying. However I will say the, the, the company that we're contracted with, through, they have cases like that. But the manager's discession, I can accept or not accept. But like I said, we're not equipped for

anything of that caliber. We have mild mental cases, so what we're able to handle and deal with and personally, yeah.

Ms. Hausfeld - I, I will let you know that, um, that was a big issue as far as those issues were mentioned.

Ms. George – I understand that.

Ms. Hausfeld –But as far as your group home, there are rules and regulations. Are there like, um, I guess, did you submit to the city the rules and regulations and do these people have to be in the house by a certain time. I mean I had people that lived in half way homes that were recovered drug addicts and I know yours isn't like that but if the home is run efficiently it could be a good place.

Ms. George – Exactly.

Ms. Hausfeld – But if it is not ran in that controlled, it can be a horrible place and that is where the citizens and all of us are concerned about.

Ms. George – And that's why I'm glad we were given this opportunity because of that. I actually ran a group home for MRDD for 13 years and I've seen incidents and situations, and like I said there's homes, halfway houses, if you want to call it, each house has governs by there own set of rules. Our clients have to be in by 10:00 unless they're out working. We have a couple of them that work and they catch the bus so they wouldn't be home until after curfew, 11:00 the latest I think, depending on what the situation, you know, is, you know, if they miss their bus or not. But most of our girls are, they comply with the rules and they're in by 10:00. When they come in our home, we have a set of rules and regulations that they have to follow and most homes, you know, um, are not staffed 24 hours a day. We're not, we're not even by state, they don't, we don't have to be 24 hours. We choose to be 24 hours to ensure the safety of our clients and the safety of our home and the environment because we are dealing with people with mental issues, you know, and I've heard horror stories and I, I've witnessed them and that's why we are staffed 24 hours to disperse any conflict or any situations that may arise if one of our clients has a crisis where they break down and we need somebody on hand to help them deal with that. So we are a 24 hour 7 days a week.

Ms Hausfeld - (inaudible) Did you actually purchase the property already?

Ms. George – We actually did. Yes.

Ms. Hausfeld - (inaudible) I just heard about this night before last. But I was told that city officials knew about it a lot longer. I would like to know what or who you talked to (inaudible)

Ms. George – Before we even purchased.....

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm sorry, it's in my Ward.

Ms. George – Uh-huh.

Ms. Hausfeld - (inaudible) the citizens of (inaudible) are upset because I (inaudible) they're concerned.....

Ms. George – Exactly. We were in contact with the city of St. Bernard before we even purchased the property to make sure it was even zoned for such an establishment as what we wanted to do. And I'm, I want to say, Bob Ostertag is our point of communication to ask was the area even zoned before we even purchased the home. And also..... and then we also got a phone call (inaudible) from Bob stating some other regulations and stuff and fees that we owed so they did know and the morning that all that stuff got posted on Facebook, I guess, that was Tuesday, um, I just received communications with him that morning, um, just to discuss some other things that we had to get in line for the group home. So I was in communication and as far as I know when we received the paper work and the phone call down at the (inaudible) center we were assuming that they knew, they knew, like I said, had a point contact.

Audience –What had happened is that she called and I really honestly don't remember speaking to her but she asked the question about zoning and asked what the zoning was, I turned around in my office and looked at the map and told her what the zoning was. It made it good for her group home. But we didn't discuss at that time that it was a group home or what it was. I had no idea what that was and as soon as I found out though the tax division which was the 28th of December, which just (inaudible) whether they had taken occupancy or not. And there was a gentleman, looked like he was doing some minor repairs up there. That's the first that we actually knew (inaudible). And here's the other thing too, if I had known it was a group home I would have suggested something to Paul just because I don't know the ramifications, but in most cases, the kind of group home they are talking about, five or less, it falls under regular residential rulings. We have no authority, zoning or otherwise to interfere with their operation or what they want to put there. The only time it would become an issue for us is if they expanded and went to more people and it fell under what would be called an I-use.

Ms. George – Umhuh.

Audience – And they're not talking about that. So there really wasn't any cause for an action. I can't, I can't precipitate an action that's not provoked. So there was no reason to do anything with it. And (inaudible) that they had purchased it I did a rental form because I figured it might fall under the rental program and then Walt suggested that the maintenance man that was there that if they did anything major like plumbing or electric we didn't have any idea what the scope was and that was the last Friday in December that this happened to make sure that they got the proper permits. And she has since come in and we have given them information and paper work (inaudible) and so nobody has held anything back, nobody has kept anything a secret, nobody worked on anything behind anybody's back it was just that simple.

Ms. George – And you know, I'm used to dealing with the city because as I said, we have another one in Roselawn and you know we're open to follow whatever rules or regulations St. Bernard requires of us and we just didn't understand the protocol if we didn't follow it which I apologize but you know we're here and open to do whatever we need to do move forward with this.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I have a question. Do you have any reservations because this has been a very widely debated topic within our community that this may not be a

welcome situation? Do you have any reservations about moving forward in your plan?

Ms. George – Not at all. I just want to give you all some comfort that, you know, that like I said, we're 24 hours 7 days a week. Just to assure there's, there's people on hand and like I said, we've been in business for a year over in Roselawn. We have no, we haven't had no problems, no police issues or craziness that you hear and for that reason why I carefully screen who I take. I, I, don't, I look at the criminal background, their aggressiveness, like I said, we have mothers over there, people who has not had, you know, experience in this type of work and I don't want them to have to deal with behaviors they're not equipped for. They're there for nurture, redirection, correction and to talk to these girls and, um, my concerns are I don't deal with the sex offenders because the majority, well all the women, they're women, our staff is women. I would never have them overseeing and watching over men that can be aggressive, you know, so

Ms. Hausfeld – You said something about mothers, will there be children at this house?

Ms. George – No. I mean

Ms. Hausfeld – Just to make sure.

Ms. George – No. When I say mothers I mean mothers of the church. Mothers of people that can act as mothers advocates for the women that we take.

Mrs. Bedinghaus – What about visitors?

Ms. George – They are allowed visitors from 9:00 to 10:00. Visitation hours. Like I said the women have to be in the house by 10:00. Visitors got to go by 10:00. No over night visits. No private visits in the rooms. They can with the door open. No male visits nothing like that going on. Smoking is allowed for those who do smoke outside but not inside the home. Yeah, so visitors are allowed and the last thing I was going to offer, you know, I'm a surgical assistant at Good Samaritan Hospital and I'm off on Thursday and I make periodic steps. I'm in business over at the church and, I mean over at the group home at Bedford. I'm off on Thursdays, anyone is welcome to come by and see how we ran, how we run and how our establishment is set up. You're welcome to do that to bring some more comfort or understanding or calmness to you. We're willing to do that. Let me know, I'll have business cards I can give, pass out and you can set something up. If you just want to go through our home and see how everything is ran. If you like.

Mr. Tobergte – The business cards on the table at the entrance and also Heidi put your handout on the city website anybody not here can take a look at it there too.

Mr. Culbertson - I would just like to say thanks for coming down and taking the time to explain the situation and maybe put some people at ease with what's going on. There was a lot of misinformation, you know, communicated and I appreciate you taking the time to come down.

Ms. George – Thank you, Thank you all for hearing me out.

Ms. VanValkenberg-Walden – We do have some questions from some citizens. One at a time please. Let's everybody be polite. Come to the microphone too.

Ms. Hausfeld – Mike, can she sit in your chair for a second because she can answer the people back and forth.

Mr. Peck - (inaudible) laughter.

Ms.. Hausfeld – Sorry Mike I just picked you.

Mr. Peck - (inaudible)

Stevie Tempel - I live in St. Bernard. Um my question is, you did say the police have never responded to Roselawn facility. Um, Chief Moeller is here, can he get a hold of the police in that area and confirm all that for us.

Ms. George – You have the correct address. Ours is 7723 because there are several other group homes in that area.

Ms. VanValkenberg-Walden - I'm sorry, what was the street address. 7723?

Ms. George – 7723.

Ms. VanValkenberg-Walden – I'm sorry, what road?

Ms. George – 7723 Newbedford Ave. 45215, 237 I'm sorry.

Stevie Tempel – As far as criminal background, what is it that you accept coming into your home?

Ms. George – When I look at criminal background, I look for things, any criminal acts of aggression.

Stevie Tempel – What does that include?

Ms. George – Any kind of violent crime, acts of aggression, because like I said, I don't want our women to.....

Stevie Tempel – So nobody who's committed an assault? No one.....

Ms. George – Exactly.

Stevie Tempel – Ok, what about other crimes like burglary, robbery, you can commit other crimes without aggression as far as I know.

Ms. George - (inaudible) laughter.

My name is Loreka Masters. We don't receive into our home anybody that's coming directly from prison or jail or anything like that. In the paperwork we gave you we outlined the process that's taken place with screening of clients. It's not like people walk up to our door and we just accept anybody. We can't, we won't jeopardize our workers for them. We try to stay, like Ms. George said in the realm of our capabilities of handling these people so we're not going to put your

community at risk because we're not going to put our workers at risk. Does that help at all?

Stevie Tempel – It helped (inaudible) I would like to know a little bit more. I think I will visit your Roselawn facility.

Ms. Masters – You guys don't mind, just call in advance, let us know that you're coming so we'll be aware and prepare for your presence.

Ms. George – What I really prefer is you would come on a Thursday. I'm there anytime on Thursday. Sum it up with me so I can go and walk you through the house and explain the whole process and what we do when we're actually bringing new clients and that whole process of what we do with them (inaudible)

Stevie Tempel – Alright, thank you.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I have a question for the church. Who has digression on who is admitted?

Ms. George – I do.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Ok and what are your qualifications to say that you're qualified to say these people are, you said you work in a hospital, what are your qualifications to say that somebody is ok to be admitted into our community.

Ms. George – Their background is a big, is one of the things I go by. Their background history, their aggression, their willingness to work with us to help them with transitioning over. And like I explained it to them, and when I'm interviewing them I get an understanding if they're willing to cooperate and really want the help. And a lot of these women, also, that we get are homeless or on the street. Battered women, some are battered women whose been bounced from shelter to shelter. They only get 30 to 90 days in the shelter and need immediate housing. So you know it depends on their willingness to cooperate with the program and the willingness, we got one young lady, she was, what, I think 19 and she still liked to party but our curfew is 10:00, that wasn't a good situation. She's no longer in our home. They have to comply by the rules.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I understand what you just said but my question was what is your qualification? You just said everything about the client. I'm asking what are your qualifications are to say that you think that this is a person that should be here?

Mrs. Valerie VanValkenberg-Walden – I think she's asking mental health training or

Ms. George – Like I said, I've been a group home manager for MRDD for 13 years. I was (inaudible) aide for 8 years, currently I'm a surgical assistant. So I just have a heart and the passion for helping people so, you know, I think that qualifies me to be able to extend my desire to help people and even at the church organization that's what we do. We reach out and help people in the community. So, you know, if you have a heart and compassion for people and willing to help people who have been broken by life and in a situation I think that qualifies me. I don't know if that's what want.....

Ms. Masters – Can I comment on that as well? Besides her 13 years of managing a facility like we said before, we're not the only ones screening. These people have to come through a mental health access point, they got to go through GCB and then they go through CCHB, so you already have professional counselors at the top screening these people before we even get the referral that say, hey, this person we believe will match your home. Then from there our additional screening is what allows us to say whether or not we're going to accept that client.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – This is my last one. Actually I don't promise because I don't, I'll probably talk again. You're using a lot of initials when you guys speak that I don't understand so maybe if you could provide us with what those initials mean so we can provide it with our citizens.

Ms. Masters – Ok.

Ms. Hausfeld – I have one question.

Ms. Masters – CCHB stands for Central Community Health Board and GCB is Greater Cincinnati Behavioral, um, and like she said that's on the paperwork that we gave out.

Ms. Hausfeld – Two questions. One I know at the homes where my friend lives there was a rent that the person that was living there had to pay. Is your home based on the 5 people you have living there, do they pay rent or are you getting help from like a government agency.

Ms. George – Exactly, through CCHB. Central Community Health Board who we're contracted through. They get a per-diem from the state and they contract and buy our bids and we get paid from them per bid. And that per-diem rate includes meals along with that.

Mrs. Van Valkenberg-Walden – Anything else Ms. Hausfeld?

Audience – Good evening, how are you and I appreciate your coming to have this conversation. I can tell you I am a Jefferson Ave. resident. Very upset that we weren't even conferred, talked to, we've owned our homes for 20,30 years sometimes and this wasn't even brought to our attention. We were right across the street when you all were there. I have children, I'm very concerned, I've heard a drug house, I've heard prostitutes, I've heard um that it's going to be for battered women, I've heard for mentally handicapped, I have kids at my house, I'm very concerned.. While everybody doesn't think it's a huge deal our property values, I mean what happens to that. What is your answer for that? To put a group home in the middle of our community?

Ms. George – That's why we're here. You're talking on a lot of rumors and those were rumors, that's why we're here to let you know what we're about and how we conduct our business. Um, to give you some peace of mind about that. (inaudible) we take in.

Audience – This is a generational town, I mean there's risk to our family, the changing of your people every 5, 6 months. We don't know those risks. Nor do you, I know you say you screen these people

Ms. George – (inaudible) neighbors. Up and running for a year.

Audience – My neighbors introduce their selves when they come over or when they buy a house there.

Ms. George - (inaudible) We haven't even moved in the house yet. Given the opportunity, we will introduce ourselves.

Ms. Masters – And like she said we have open door. We're not trying to hide anything and we're not trying to make things more difficult. As far as your property value is concerned our church maintains our home. We built the home we have right now, we did a lot of maintenance, our church put a whole lot of money to make sure that this home is nice. So there's nothing that we do that's going to depreciate your property value because we keep our home in tact.

Audience – So you don't think I'll have a problem selling my home, with a group home across the street.

Ms. Masters – You shouldn't.

Audience – Is what you're saying.

Ms. Masters – I don't see how a group home could depreciate your property value. If you know you can enlighten us but I have no idea how that could take place if we are a people that maintain our home and our property well.

Audience – And just out of curiosity, if you were planning to put a group home there why would you not come to this forum prior to purchasing the home to get the feeling from the citizens that have lived there 20, 30, 40 years.

Ms. Masters – Well that's why we're here tonight and like we said, we've been in this for a year and we only dealt with the city where we didn't encounter this.

Ms. George – And we followed the same protocol. (inaudible) we're willing to do that. We just didn't understand the process. We didn't come in and bombard and do anything underhanded. We just didn't understand the process. Like I said, we have one within city limits. They didn't require all this. So we just followed the same steps. I apologize if that upsets you but (inaudible)

Ms. Masters – If we were we would not have shown up tonight.

Audience – Just one more question. Why did you not make this purchase in 45220 where the church is located instead of 45217?

Ms. George – It was the demand of the area.

Audience – So there are people in St. Bernard

Ms. George – We're dealing with people with mental illness, um, they're territorial, you know, they stay in familiar areas that they're use to. And like I say, we have one in Roselawn, we have one now in, in, in, we want to establish one in St. Bernard. Do to developments maybe in another location. Given the CCHB just

different avenues and landmarks for clients that are territorial (inaudible) autism with a search area (inaudible) that's why we chose St. Bernard, um, because there was a need in that area according to the people we were contracted by and just like (inaudible) Forest Park.....

Audience – Across the street from your home?.....

Mrs. Valerie Valkenberg-Walden – Ms. (inaudible) you have had two times up here please sit down.

Ms. Masters – I have a question if you don't mind me asking because it seems like people are thinking that we are talking extreme mental illness. Someone, you know, can't function, you know, with certain morals. But if you think about what is classified as mental illness, if you've ever struggled with depression and couldn't pull yourself through and needed medication they consider you mentally ill. If you've had anxiety and couldn't shake it or get over it and needed medication they consider you mental ill. These are the type of people that are in our home right now. People that need extra help. And the young ladies that we have they have come from foster care because of no fault of their own, you know, they may have had bad parenting situation, things like that, they are not violent criminals. They are just young ladies who need help. Somebody who is willing to support them while they get a foundation. They're not a threat to your community. Like we say we're not going to put our workers at risk so you should know we would not put you guys at any kind of risk at all.

Ms. Hausfeld – Couple questions. One, where is the Anointed Mission Cornerstone church located.

Ms. George – Vine, right down the street.

Ms. Hausfeld – Down past like Walgreens.

Ms. George – The day care center?

Ms. Hausfeld – Yeah.

Ms. George – We were down there, the bottom portion of that was our church but its maybe be a month now, we just moved.

Ms. Hausfeld – OK.

Ms. George – We've been there for 14 years.

Ms. Hausfeld – OK, my other question to you is, the ladies that you have in your home, is there a set time limit that they're allowed to stay at your home? Or, I know if there's an issue or a problem you kick them out but if there's no issue, no problem and they're abiding by the rules and they're doing what they need to do and they're getting their skills they need, is there a certain deadline that they get.

Ms. George – Yes, there's a two year transition period. Every six months we do assessment to see how they're coming along with their goals. If there's any changes we need to make with their goals to help them accomplish that two year mark. And if that two year mark comes and we collectively feel like they need a little bit more

time, we will allot that time for them but, yes and the ages range from eighteen on up.

Mrs. Schildmeyer - I'm sorry Valerie I wasn't going to talk, I haven't had a starburst yet. Mr. Peck, they keep referring to workers in the house, so does that make this a business.

Mr. Peck – They're volunteers.

Mrs. Schildmeyer – I think that needed to be clarified because

Mrs. VanValkenberg-Walden – Can we make sure that we are not asking any more repetitive questions. Are there any concerns that have not already been addressed.

Mrs. Brickweg – It might not be repetitive but there's some (inaudible) if that's ok. I've heard you speak of criminal records, I understand you saying it's not aggression. But I think this might be part of the issue that people are having. So would it be possible if somebody was a drug offender or a prostitute that is not aggressive that they could be in the house. I think that might be where some of it is coming from. So maybe you can clear that up. If they're not aggressive, is that a possibility that they could be in the house? Like a recovering drug addict. If they weren't aggressive would that be somebody that would be considered for the house. I'm trying to help you clear up the rumors.

Ms. George - We have not accepted anything nor do we currently have anyone like that that even comes our way, no.

Mrs. Brickweg – Ok, so like as an example when you say they might have a criminal record like what happened.

Ms. George – Our girls don't have criminal records.

Mrs. Brickweg - (inaudible) have a criminal record at all.

Ms. George – Not the ones that I would accept in my home.

Mrs. Brickweg – Ok.

Ms. George – The CCHB will definitely have clients like that but those are none that I would accept.

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm curious because this is where a lot of the issues happen. When you first contacted the Village, did you give them an address? Or did you say you were thinking about purchasing something?

Ms. George – No I gave them, I said we bought the property and what that property was zoned for what we were trying to do.

Mrs. Brickweg – Was that some time in Decemeber?

Ms. George - (inaudible)

Mrs. Brickweg – I'm sorry, hold on. I was just curious because if they called in November and gave an address, I think at that point maybe I should have been made aware of it.

Audience – All she asked was what the zone was, I gave her the zone.

Ms. Hausfeld – Bob, Bob, stop. You need to be on record so you need to be on microphone.

Ms. George – I asked was it zoned for a group home.

Mrs. Brickweg – Bob, hold on can I just ask her and then you can say yours. Did you ask him was it for a group home.

Ms. George – I asked was it zoned for a group home.

Bob Ostertag – I work in the Building Department. Here's the problem right here and I'll apologize up front if I'm a little out of line here but I'm getting a little hot. These people came here as a curtesy. This is considered under state law. With the parameters that they have told us they are going to operate under, five or less, for the most part, the only thing the building can do is look at this as a residential home. They are licensed by the state. We have no authority with zoning or any other building to influence what they do with this house. It's handled just as anybody else buying a house in their neighborhood. You don't have a person buy a house down the street and come here like this, voluntarily and be treated like this. This woman has given her time, they've been courteous, I think they pretty well explained what they're going to do with it. She can't possibly describe each and every individual that's going to enter that house. But most of all she doesn't need your permission and that's where I'm coming from. As a building official, I have no authority to tell this woman what she can do or what she can't do because she's protected by state law and we are told by state law because the building department is controlled by state law. What our parameters are. And that zoning is handled as a regular residential house. And unless they change that considerably to a different use which would open the door for us to get involved, I can't view that house any different than anybody buying a house anywhere so there would be no reason, Peggy, for me to come upstairs and tell you that somebody called me and asked me what the zoning for that street was. And even if she had exposed to me that it was a group home there would still be no reason for me to run upstairs and tell you that somebody called me about a group home.

Mrs. Brickweg – May I speak now, I wasn't done, I was interrupted. I don't think I had my five minutes by the clock. In regard, Bob, I don't ask you to come to my office, I'm just trying to clear the rumor (yelling)EXCUSE ME IT IS MY TIME TO TALK, PLEASE, I LET YOU SPEAK. What I asked her is when she contacted the city, if she gave the address and if she said it was for a group home. The reason I asked the question is because the people that live on the street that were told by the Village that the Village had no idea and that nobody had contacted the city, I think they have every right to know that this woman did. (yelling)I'M NOT DONE LET ME FINISH. I AM NOT ATTACKING HER I'M TRYING TO CLEAR UP THE RUMORS AND FOR SOME REASON YOU'RE ATTACKING ME BECAUSE I ASKED THE QUESTION. THEY CAN GET UP AND SAY THAT I'M TRYING TO CLEAR IT UP BECAUSE THEY PUT THAT ON THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE. I felt sorry for them and I called and apologized. I

left a message because I felt like people were saying things that weren't true and they let us use things that were not true so that's why I called to apologize. So that's why I'm trying to clear that. I am not attacking you by any means.

Bob Ostertag – The reason I directed that to you is because you had just said why weren't you made aware of it. Why would you be made aware of it and why would you, it didn't matter when she contacted me and at the time to be honest with you, I don't remember her mentioning it was a group home, I think she just asked me- what the residential ruling was because anything in a group home or questions about zoning I go to Walt or to Paul because that's not my job down there. So more than likely I spun around in my chair and I looked at the map and told her it was residential. R-2 or R-3 whatever it is. And she knew because she owned a group home that that fit what they needed.

Mrs. Brickweg - I was just trying to clear up all the rumors that were out there (inaudible) that's all I was trying to do.

Members speaking altogether. No one on microphone.

Ms. George – I am willing to answer whatever will make people feel comfortable. Because we will be in the neighborhood and these are going to be our neighbors.

My name is Nancy and I live on the corner of Franklin and Kemper. I've been able to watch from my kitchen window the goings on. Anyway I worry like some of these people are remiss in taking their medication. I worry about violence, I have a handicap daughter myself. A lot of you know my daughter, Lisa, and she walks our dogs a lot of time, well all the time, and I just, you know, she's scared to death. She says I don't want to get beat up and I mean it's something to worry about.

Ms. Masters – I understand where all this is coming from because like I said there's other homes out here make us look bad. Our home is not like this. As far as medication that's one of our rules. They have to abide by their medication regiment. We actually monitor them taking their medicine. We go to the closet, we hand them their bottles, we watch them take their meds. We watch them swallow their meds (inaudible) that's the most important (inaudible) regular on their medication. (inaudible) the break down.

Nancy – Yeah, I know some bipolar people can be sometimes violent.

Ms. Masters - (inaudible) their medication.

Nancy – Right.

Ms. Masters – That's why we make it, that's one of the most important things we do and we document while we watch.

Nancy – Another thing too, you said a year, a year is really not a long, long time.

Ms. Masters - (inaudible)

Nancy – I hope it continues, thank you.

Kerri Imhula – I've lived here about 7 years. St. Bernard is very close to my heart, I'm very protective of St. Bernard. I would just like to share that before I worked at Children's I worked at two different mental health facilities. I have a couple of people, some of you know one of them, that have a mental illness. I understand the benefit of that working in mental health facilities. I also understand that the organization that you mentioned are all well grounded organizations in Cincinnati. They have been around here 20 years or more. Those people when you're talking about who is experienced have 4 years or more. Typically a Bachelor's degree. Your looking at a case manager that's probably vetting and that's where a lot of the concern is coming from. So that makes me feel good. Where I have concerns, when you mention mild mental disorders, bipolar is not one of them. So I'm glad you mentioned that the medication is something that has to be regimented because a person that truly has bipolar is a very dangerous human being if they are not on their medication. So if they're not on their medicine and you're monitoring it, you know, we would like to know that you have kind of aand they wouldn't be able to continue to say if they're not following those types of rules. I think that something that might comfort a few people, I don't know if this is, you know something that is allowable or that would work but for all intent and purposes if they're living there they're citizens of St. Bernard. Most citizens here register, you know, as citizens so nothing that someone, you know, is here a week or two would register, obviously not, but it doesn't sound like you're going to have someone there for a week or two, you're really talking about people living in our community trying to function. So again, I don't know if that's something that the city, you know, would want or that your residents would want but, you know, becoming part of the city is how you alleviate fears. So just something to consider. You know, obviously not to be decided upon today but um I really think there's something to that. Moving into that neighborhood, you know, my name is on with the city. My mom's name is on with the city. Most of the people here, their names are down with the city for better or worse. My daughter's name is down with the city, you know. If you're working here, like you mentioned, you know and you're part of the city and you're wanting to become independent then, you know, if you're living here for a long period of time, register.

Ms. George - (inaudible)

Kerri – No, no. You mentioned this area was demographically a city need. Yes and I'm saying one of the things St. Bernard has is kind of unique is a lot of our citizens register at City Hall. So that allows us to get phone calls and you learn about all kinds of stuff and different events and things and I'm saying that might help integrate the women and help them become more than residents but actual citizens if they're registering because it sounds like they're going to be there for a period of time. That's no different than a renter coming somewhere staying a year and then leaving.

Ms. George – That's a requirement of St. Bernard?

Kerri – Well we have for example pool membership and fitness center membership and that's tied to residency.

'Mumbling

Ms. George – We're also dealing with people,

More mumbling

Mr. Moore – Where would they register, they would register with the Tax department. Right here. All they simply do is fill out their name and address, so forth and that's so that we have them on record. That's really all that they do. The way I would look at it is if you all.....

Ms. Masters – Accountability purposes and things of that nature?

Mr. Moore – You all are landlords because we do have a rule.....

Kerri – Because then they are able to take part in

All talking at once.

Ms. George – Then they could be involved in the community, that sounds good. Another way to get them involved in the community and do like fitness, I would have no problem with doing that.

Ms. Masters – I have a question concerning that, what is the minimum time frame that they have to live in St. Bernard before they can register? Is there a minimum time frame or can they just to it.

Mr. Moore – I don't think there is one. Like someone said, we should use common sense, if somebody is there for a week or two and you kick them out for whatever reason, no. But if somebody is there long term, if they're going to be there a year or 15, 16 months, then it would make sense to have them come down and register. The way I would look at it is, you all are the landlords and we do have a law and a rule here in town that the landlord has to let us know when their tenants move in and out. Ok, it's for a variety of reasons. We're not big brother watching over everybody but there are a variety of reasons. And I would look at that with you all. I mean if somebody moves out we'd ask you to let us know. That way we can strike them from the books.

Ms. George – We have no problem with that.

Ms. Masters – We don't mind accountability.

Mr. Moore – And we don't ask private questions. I'm very familiar with that law.

Ms. George – Ok.

Ms. Masters –Ok.

Cheryl – My name is Cheryl, I live on E. Ross. The community that I lived in before I lived here had the same issue. We had a group home that moved in on the street that I lived in, lived on and everybody was all up in arms like they are here. Well as it turned out this group home fit in the community and on the street better than a lot of the residents that lived on the street. The kids played well, they played well with the kids, um, they took care of their house, their yard, better than a lot of the people that lived on the street, um, you didn't even know that they were there. Um, there were no problems at all. I don't know why everybody is all up in arms. This group had slightly mental disorders. The bus came every day in the morning,

picked them up for work, brought them home at the same time every day from work. They'd sit out on the porch, they walked the dogs, they talked to you, you know, I mean there wasn't a problem like I said. You'd have more problems with people that owned houses down the street that didn't take care of them then you did with these people. That's all I'm going to say.

Ms. Masters – What is your name again? (laughter)

Cheryl – My name is Cheryl.

Ms. Masters – Cheryl, thank you so much.

Laura Schmitt, Public Health Nurse – I do want to speak up professionally as a nurse. I understand some of the concerns that the community has but what I'm going to tell you is if you look at the majority of people out there today, there are far more, the number is far bigger than you can imagine, of people that take medicines for mental health. Whether it's anxiety, whether it's depression, whether it's mild bi-polar, the majority of our population any more are on those types of meds and you know what, they function everyday in our society. They work, and you don't even know it. And, it's not my business to what meds they're on. That's all I'm going to say.

Mr. Stuchell – I have a question. I was going to eventually set up a meeting with Ms. George as the Safety Director, my self and the police chief and the fire chief just to introduce ourselves to see if there's any concerns and so we can get familiar with the staff. If there needs to be any medical or police response so we can get to know you all. I'd like to try maybe at some point when you get further along if we can meet and just try to welcome or something.

Ms. George – Ok thank you. And as far as the process and where we are, we did purchase the property and we just are doing dorm renovations on the inside and obviously we got to do things on the outside so, um, we're thinking maybe 1 to 2 months we'll have clients in there.

Tommy Fox - (inaudible) Chili Time (inaudible)

Mr. Culbertson – Tommy are you worried about the kids at Chili Time?
The kids hanging at Chili Time?

Tommy Fox – TV.

Mr. Culbertson – On TV?

Tommy Fox – Yeah.

Ms. George - (inaudible) or are you worried about the kids in the neighborhood?

Tommy Fox – The kids (inaudible)

Mrs. Schildmeyer – Ok he's worried about a different issue. This is a different issue he's worried about. Thank you Tommy.

Tommy Fox – You're welcome.

Mrs. VanValkenberg-Walden - I'm going to give out Ms. George's number, it's on her business card, I think there are more over there and the information will be up on the website. The number is (513) 602-4195 again (513)602-4195. Alright, thank you. We are going to conclude this end and we're going to take about a five minute break and then we will resume Council.