

The September 14, 2010 meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Mayor Brian Burns, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Councilmembers:** Brian Burns Mark Kobasuk  
Doug Evans Curt Tiettmeyer  
Joe Harten (arrived 7:10p) Daryl Zornes

**Mayor:** Curt Cosby (absent)

**Solicitor:** Doug Miller

**Fiscal Officer:** Keri Everett

**Police Chief:** Tom Synan

#### Forest Hills School District

Randy Smith, 7493 Pinehurst Drive, Forest Hills School Board of Education member announced proudly, that the Ohio Department of Education recently rated Forest Hills School District as Excellent with Distinction for 2010. The FHSD has been rated excellent or higher for 10 consecutive years. Mr. Smith updated Council on the following issues:

At their recent meeting, the Forest Hills Local School District's Facilities Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Education, a plan that will consolidate Anderson and Turpin high schools into one school. The recommendation also involves consolidating the six elementary schools into four elementary schools and one intermediate school. Mr. Smith made it clear that this is what the Facilities Committee is recommending, not a Board of Education recommendation. The Board of Education will receive the report from the Facilities Committee Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Education will then turn it over to Superintendent Dallas Jackson for evaluation. The Board of Education ultimately makes the decision on what plan to approve. FHSD Board of Education Board Members are: Julie Bissinger, Forest Heis, Tracy Z. Huebner, Rich Neumann and Randy Smith. The Facilities Committee consists of: Board of Education Board Member Rich Neumann, Chairman, Board of Education Board Member Julie Bissinger, along with nine other people from the community.

The Forest Hills School Board of Education has decided to place an Operating Levy on the ballot in 2011. Mr. Smith said the Board is doing everything they can to "tighten the belt." The Board has recommended some cuts and Superintendent Dallas Jackson is also evaluating possible cuts. Mr. Smith said part of the challenge is next biennium; the FHSD is counting on an 8 billion dollar deficit in the state budget. Therefore, state funding for education will be definitely be impacted.

Mr. Kobasuk asked what magnitude of the levy would be. Mr. Smith said, unknown at this point. Treasurer Rick Toepfer will discuss such details at their Finance Committee meeting Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Smith said he has not seen the treasurer's report. He is of the opinion to look for something in the 3-4 mill range. The voters rejected a 5.9 mill levy in 2009. Mr. Kobasuk asked if the Operating Levy would be placed on the May or November 2011 ballot. Mr. Smith said it could be on the February ballot, but he does not believe so at this time. The Board is not sure if the levy would be on the February ballot; partly, because they would not know where the state is on their funding. He said whether the levy is on the February, May or November 2011 ballot, the collection of the levy would begin January 2012.

#### Newtown Quilter's Club

The Newtown Quilter's Club meets weekly on Saturdays at the Moundview Community Center, 3130 Newtown Road. The group makes quilts for cancer patients and the chronically ill. The Quilters recently presented its twelfth quilt to a local cancer survivor. Pauline Murrie presented Council with a thank you letter and a picture of the quilt from the recipient of the quilt. Mrs. Murrie thanked Mayor and Council for allowing the Newtown Quilters to use the space at the Moundview Community Center.

Parks Committee: The committee will meet Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Town Hall. Mr. Burns is chairman of the committee.

Special Council Meeting: Council will meet Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm to consider a CRA application submitted by OSI Enterprises, Ltd.

Moundview Community Center "Open for Business": A Baby Shower was given at the Moundview Community Center this past Sunday. This was the first paid-event for the Community Center. The people really enjoyed the space and said, "It felt like home." Please call Town Hall to reserve a date for your family gathering or business needs.

#### November 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting

Council cancelled the Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting, due to Thanksgiving week.

#### WinterFest Electrical Materials

An additional \$2,600 is needed to purchase materials to hang the lighting recently purchased for WinterFest. This amount is on the checklist; the Finance Committee has approved the expenditure, explained Mr. Burns.

#### OPWC Grants

Engineer Bruce Brandstetter asked Council to prioritize the 2011 Village projects and confirm the percentage of the local match. Mr. Brandstetter also informed Mayor and Council that the Drake Street Bridge will be funded from leftover OPWC 2010 grant monies. Council prioritized the following:

- 1) Edith/Jefferson/Pine – 50% local match (CWW portion included in the Village's 50% match)
- 2) Ragland Road – 20% local match

Mayor Cosby, Mr. Burns, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Evans will discuss timeline specifics for the Drake Street Bridge project; to be discussed further at the 9-28-10 Council meeting.

#### 9-14-2010 Checklist

Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to approve the Checklist dated 9-14-2010, totaling \$84,605.57, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk. All Aye. Motion Carried.

#### Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee members: Curt Tiettmeyer (chairman), Mark Kobasuk, Daryl Zornes and Fiscal Officer Keri Everett met last week to review Village monthly reports. One of the challenges for the Village is that so much of our source of revenue is dependent on earnings taxes. The committee was astonished at how the funding from earning taxes is inconsistent. Ms. Everett has been providing a monthly report to watch these numbers more closely, since this is our biggest concern. The committee is pleased to report that expenditures for 2010 are inline. The Finance Committee and the Fiscal Officer will begin working on the 2011 Budget within the next month or so.

**Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mr. Zornes. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Tiettmeyer made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION NO. 34-2010 A RESOLUTION ADDING A NEW EXPENDITURE LINE IN THE CEMETERY FUND AND RECONCILING THE BUDGET AND AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2010, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Harten-Yes, Mr. Burns-Yes. Motion Carried.**

#### Council Minutes

**Mr. Zornes made a motion to approve 8-24-2010 Council Minutes, seconded by Mr. Harten. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

#### Website Committee

The Website Committee members: Mr. Zornes, Mr. Tiettmeyer and Mr. Harten recently met with Mr. Sund, Sund and Company; the website should go live in October.

### HR Committee

The HR Committee: Mr. Zornes, Mr. Tiettmeyer and Mr. Harten recently met with Joni Bierwirth, Towers Watson. Mrs. Bierwirth presented the committee with a comparison of salaries from local municipalities. In order to present a total benefits package, the committee will gather data pertaining to benefits and present a comprehensive study with recommendations.

### Hamilton County Storm Water Fees

**Mr. Evans made a motion to assess Hamilton County Storm Water District fees for 2011 to Village resident's property tax bill. The fee will be \$7.90 per tax bill, with no increase from 2009. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

### Maintenance Department Update

- Tele-Vac Environmental vacuumed and cleaned out five dry wells at various locations in the Village September 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The new 2011 Ford F-350 4x4 Pick-up Truck will be delivered within one week.
- Mr. Dickerson will look into purchasing a street sweeper for the village.
- Mr. Dickerson has been using the computer that was originally purchased for Town Hall; that computer no longer works. He will use Becky's old computer until sometime 2011.
- Mr. Burns commented on how nice the new Village signs look.

### Police Cruisers

At their recent meeting, the Finance Committee discussed a plan to purchase three new police cruisers. Before Mr. Kobasuk makes a motion for a non-binding letter of intent to purchase the three cruisers, he asked Chief Synan to explain the economics.

### Police Department - Police Chief Synan

In 2006, Chief Synan requested a study to see if there was a more cost-effective way to maintain the police cruisers. At the time of the study, the police department was replacing one car every year, which meant the other cars were kept about 4-5 years. The study showed that maintenance cost and resale value were two of the highest factors causing the most costs:

Vehicle Maintenance: Before the program in 2004, for maintenance and repairs, the police department spent \$5,569.98; 2005, the cost went up to \$9,933.09 and for 2006, the cost was \$10,028.96. Every year \$10,000 was appropriated for vehicle maintenance. The study indicated the amount appropriated would go from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for maintenance and either remain at \$12,000 or continue to rise. After the initiation of the three-year rotation program, vehicle maintenance went down to \$1,756.07. The second year maintenance costs went down \$4,480.04 and in 2009, \$4,177.37. Three years before the program, \$25,532.03 was spent just in vehicle maintenance alone, not including oil changes, fuel, etc. This amount would almost have purchased a fully-equipped new vehicle. Since the program was initiated, maintenance costs for the last three years totaled \$10,450.48; hence, a savings of \$15,116.55 over a three-year period.

Resale Value: The old police cruisers sold for about \$500 to \$1,000. The new cruisers sold for \$8,000 each. This money is put back into the General Fund to offset costs for purchasing new cruisers. Chief Synan said he understands, initially, the money to purchase the cars comes out of the General Fund but a portion eventually comes back to the General Fund from selling the cars. In the past, when the department was on a one-year program, an average life of a cruiser, the cost for vehicle maintenance, purchase and equipment was from \$34,000 to \$40,000. That cost has been reduced to around \$28,000 for the purchase for the life of a cruiser because of the three-year plan.

When the study was first commissioned by Chief Synan, in addition to the one and five-year plans, he also considered how effective this plan would be over a decade. If the plan of replacing one car every year had been continued, by 2020, the cost would be \$445,425. The five-year plan would have cost \$478,891 to replace two cars and three cars every five years. The current program of replacing vehicles every three years costs \$354,540. Over the one-year plan there is a savings of \$90,885 and \$124,351 saved over the five-year plan. Safety, fuel and resale value were factors considered when the police department changed from Ford to Dodge, not because the cars were cool. An example of the resale

value, the unmarked car was purchased equipped and maintenance costs for three years totaled \$23,839. In April, a car dealer offered to write a check for \$17,000 to purchase the unmarked car. Due to the budget, replacing the unmarked car has been extended and now looking to resell the car for \$12,000 to \$15,000. Chief Synan said even if the offer of \$17,000 had been taken, to purchase, operate, purchase equipment and maintenance of car would have cost \$6,839 over three years. Once the car hits 50,000 miles, the value of the car significantly drops.

Police cruisers are constantly being used 24/7, as Police Chief, Chief Synan said he must also consider risks to employees and citizens. These cars are not used just to catch people speeding. Police officers are responding to burglary, domestic violence, and high-priority emergency calls going from zero to 50-60 mph and also having to use the brakes. Tires are replaced frequently, partly due to preventative patrolling. In a one-day period, police officers may patrol one's cul-de-sac fifteen to twenty times putting wear and tear on rods and tires. Annually, the insurance company looks at the police department's training records and mileage on the cars when considering the liability risks. Chief Synan said the insurance representative has actually sent letters to other municipalities recommending replacing their vehicles that had too many miles. The three-year plan has saved significantly on the expense of maintaining the cruisers and the resale value also plays a big role in the success of the plan. Chief Synan said purchasing the car yields a greater investment.

**Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to approve a non-binding letter-of-intent to purchase three police cruisers. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion.**

#### Discussion

Solicitor Miller asked what the "non-binding" letter-of-intent meant. Mr. Kobasuk said the non-binding letter-of-intent allows Chief Synan to place the order for the cruisers. Chief Synan said he would send a letter to Dodge with intent to reserve and purchase three cars if financing allows. Dodge only produces these cars once a year; they just need to know the amount to manufacture. Once the Finance Committee reviews the numbers and Council approves the purchase of the cruisers, Chief Synan will convey this to Dodge and cars would be delivered in January. Dodge would sell these three cars to someone else if for some reason Council decides against purchasing them. Chief Synan said the unmarked car is used by the police chief, detective and for drug investigations.

**All Aye. Motion Carried.**

#### Mayor's Monthly Statement for August 2010

**Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to approve the August 2010 Mayor's Monthly Statement, seconded by Mr. Harten. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

#### Executive Session

**Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Lake Barber property acquisition. Mr. Harten seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call: Mr. Tiettmeyer-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Harten-Yes, Mr. Burns-Yes. Motion Carried.**

Council meeting reconvened at 7:54pm; no action to be taken as a result of the Executive Session.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Zornes. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Transcribed by Becky Fairley