

Present: President Mooney; President Pro-Tem Peddie; Members: Abboud, Delaney, Mueller, Nunez, and Oen

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Wilson
Assistant Manager/Clerk, Marshall
Village Attorney, Ryan
Public Safety Director, Torongeau
Finance Director, McCarthy
Planning Commission Chairperson, Ostrowski
Parks & Recreation Board Chairperson, Hausman

Council President Mooney called the special Council meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Riverside Park – Mueller reported that some suggestions have been made for changes to the park including the installation of a dock/cover for the cauldron, encouraging mini-sailing, holiday lighting as done in other locations through the Village, more benches, clearing of the overgrown greenery, new signs, and access to the island. Ryan explained the ownership of the property and neighbors to the property must be considered for liability with open water. Mooney felt that a dock and bridge to the island may be excessive, but a landscape architect should be consulted for plantings. The Council agreed they would like to see the park cleaned up, but remain a quiet park.

Pocket Parks – Nunez explained there seem to be many pocket parks in the Village that are being overlooked or underutilized. He would like to see plantings done; particularly at the entrance to the Village at Greenfield and Beverly Road. He suggested considering fountains, plantings, benches, and holiday décor in keeping with the Village. Wilson explained that some of those spaces are public property, some are private, and some are owned and maintained by HOAs. Mooney asked administration to do an inventory of pocket parks and their ownership and then arrange a meeting between all parties involved including the Parks and Recreation Board. Ostrowski suggested a monument sign indicating entrance to the Village. He also would like to see the parks used to connect trails across the Village.

Beverly Park – Mueller shared there a lot of trees and plants have been planted at the park. Horseshoe pits, a new foot bridge, and workout equipment have been added this year. Wilson explained it has been difficult to get into the woods to do tree removal; the Village's tree contractor, JH Hart advised the Village to take trees out slowly, to avoid overgrowth of the underbrush. They have begun to remove the ones in worst shape. Mooney stated that the Pilgrim Oak in Beverly Park, the largest tree in the Village, has died. Ostrowski said that the Planning Commission is working on a tree preservation ordinance that would help with tree replacement. He suggested that administration keep a record of what trees are removed and why. Nunez shared that residents he has spoken to expressed interest in a dog park. Council was not interested in a dog park in the Village at this time. Nunez reiterated the importance of using the

parks and public spaces to bring the Village together and offer people a variety of uses for the space and reasons to foster a sense of community.

Events – Mooney stated that to see the continuation of events in the park, they need to be formally hosted as Village sponsored events.

Mooney felt that Council needs to consider a dedicated permanent millage for the park. Members of Council supported this idea. In an effort to generate Village support of a permanent millage, Nunez suggested there be show boards to highlight how the millage would benefit them. Wilson suggested that in looking to grow amenities that the Village consider what is missing from the region and focus on something that is lacking.

NEXT

Cris Braun, Next Executive Director, explained that a Joint Senior Services Committee was established in 2012 through an approved resolution that included seven governing bodies: Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Franklin, Southfield Township, Birmingham Public Schools, and Next. The committee was established to assess the needs of the 50 plus population in the communities that feed into the Birmingham Public Schools and recommend funding and governance to support those needs. The average age of a Next member is 72 and there are over 400 members under the age of 60. Next sees itself as a non-age restrictive social club. Currently, they are open 62 hours a week, membership exceeds 1500 people, participation in activities has increased more than 100%, and outreach services have grown by 17%. The current operating budget is up 31% to \$806,392; and municipal contributions have increased to \$127,000. The five-year budget projection is balanced if: Birmingham Public Schools in-kind continues at the current level and municipal contributions keep pace with inflation.

Next would like to see the Village and the other governing bodies work together to support Next as they develop a longer-term plan that includes renovation or replacement of their existing senior center, a sustainable funding model, and a governance model. The biggest challenge Next could face in the future would be if Birmingham Schools no longer offers Next free space for the Center.

Abboud would like to connect Next with the Oakland County Seniors Advocate Committee to garner support from Oakland County. Ed Pugh, president of Next, explained that long term a millage would be ideal. Currently they are fortunate to have their space donated, but if that changed the cost of a space and maintaining that space would be too large to be managed without a substantial increase in support and funds.

FINANCES

Possible renewal of millage 2020 – Wilson explained the Charter Amendment was passed in 2010 for a 10-year millage, with 9.9 to Public Safety, 2.1 to the General Fund, and .9184 to the Public Library. Public Safety and the Library are levying their maximum mills, the General Fund is not. The Headlee Amendment has reduced the maximum allowable millage and will continue to be a factor. Based on current levy, spending would need to be reduced by \$628,000. The goal of the Village has been to make the Retiree Health Care Fund independently invested from the budget. If the Retiree Health Care Fund continues to grow by 2021 the revenue problem will be

solved Other potential solutions would be replacement revenue for trash collection, the library or road construction. The Village has been aggressively working on road construction; there is \$400,000 coming from the state of Michigan in accordance with Act 51. If the Baldwin Library was given a dedicated separate millage, that would free up that cost in the budget. There is a current levy per household for solid waste collection, however the Village subsidizes the difference. The Village could stop subsidizing by raising the rate, or using a millage for waste management.

Possible millage dedicated to trash collection – Ryan explained that under state law, villages are allowed, outside of their charter millage, to levy up to 3 mills for solid waste without touching the charter levy. This does not have to be on a ballot, it can be decided by Council. Members suggested raising the fees to residents to cover the costs. The fee would have to be around \$160-\$165.

Alternatives for financing major water and sewer projects including bonding – Ryan said that a special revenue bond through the state program could fund major infrastructure work. Ryan and Wilson will work to secure this funding.

E-payments discussion EFT – Wilson explained that currently the Village does not offer e-payments, but plans to make this available this year. There is a 2% cost that would be rolled into the cost to the consumer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

East side water lines - Wilson reported there are 10” watermains along the street that support the fire hydrants. There are a few blocks of 50-60 year old, 4” water mains. Most of them run through rear yards and some portions are located under garages and trees. Wilson explained these homes will need to be connected to the major water line. The cost would be significant, and Council would need to determine if this was a Village cost or if the homeowner would be assessed. Mooney suggested it was a Village cost to avoid problems with water in the future and it should be a bonded project. Oen suggested forming a committee to explore the scope of the project. Delaney felt this was a Village public works project, and would be our responsibility to assume the cost. Peddie pointed out this is a concern in a 4-block area, and there will be expense incurred by the homeowner to move their interior lines.

PUBLIC SAFTEY

Equipment – Fire engine and means of financing same - Torongeau explained the current pumper truck is 23 years old, and a replacement truck would cost approximately \$600,000-\$700,000 and requires 8-10 months to build. The current pumper truck needs repairs that will cost about \$5,000 and will be out of commission for that repair for approximately three months. Wilson agrees that the truck needs to be replaced. Oen suggested working with the same company that the ladder truck was purchased through. Mooney asked Delaney to work with Wilson and Torongeau to gather the necessary information and quote.

Neighborhood Watch Program – Torongeau explained that Public Safety is very active in the Village. Approximately 10-15 times a day police have contact with residents. He is not certain that a neighborhood watch program is needed since previous attempts were not very successful.

Peddie expressed concern regarding regulations of a neighborhood watch program. She also did not want to see civilians engaging in police activity.

Body cameras – Torongeau is in favor of body cameras and Mooney stated body cameras for all officers would be considered in the future.

CCTV for municipal and township offices – Mooney stated that this is a necessary safety precaution for the staff and residents. He asked Delaney and Torongeau to research funding and options with the Cable Board.

Delaney reported that the garage doors need to be replaced, they are 26 years old. Torongeau reported it will cost approximately \$39,000. Wilson verified that funds are available for replacement of the garage doors.

PERSONNEL

Staffing level in municipal office – Wilson reported that the staffing level is in a good place. Mooney asked that the auto attendant be eliminated and that an actual person answer incoming calls.

Definition of duties for Code Enforcement Officer – Wilson reported there is a job description for the Code Enforcement Officer and he can provide that to Council. Mueller expressed concern that some codes cannot be enforced, and the Code Officer has limited ability to follow through. Mooney asked Mueller, Nunez, and Wilson to meet to review and suggest changes that could provide improved enforcement.

Definition of duties for Park Rangers – Mooney suggested that they need additional staff this year. He would also like to see them take on additional responsibilities.

Performance evaluation of senior staff – Mooney recommended that Wilson and Torongeau be evaluated in the upcoming year.

Additional joint meetings with Boards – Mooney stated Council will continue to have a yearly joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the Parks & Recreation Board. Ostrowski would like to see the Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation and Zoning Board meet, as well as have liaisons cross attend the meetings.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Mooney suggested the Village host the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner again, hosting staff, board and committee members, and Council at a restaurant in mid-September.

Discussion of reviewing professional contracts – Oen stated the current contracts with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Langworthy, Strader, LeBlanc, Plante Moran, and Tom Ryan should be reviewed, and in some cases, consider putting them out to bid to ensure the Village is receiving the best services for their expenditure. Mooney asked Abboud to review the LSL contract, Oen to review the Plante Moran contract, Peddie to review the HRC contract, and Delaney to review Ryan's contact.

CHARTER AND ORDINANCES

Discuss Charter review and report proposed changes – Delaney has reviewed the Charter, particularly the sections involving election of Council and filling of vacancies. Several of these have been overruled by state law, and the Village should consider re-drafting the charter. Ryan confirmed that if the Charter is overruled by state law that the Charter doesn't have to be rewritten. Mooney asked Delaney, Ryan, and Marshall to work on rectifying conflicts.

Nunez has reviewed the Village ordinances, and has found many that are obsolete. Mooney instructed him to prepare a list of obsolete and archaic ordinances for review.

Resident Grinnan asked for clarification on the snow emergency procedure. Ryan explained the Village cannot remove vehicles on private property. Enforcement of regulations on private property can only be done with authorization from the owners of the property. Mooney asked Administration to contact all homeowners associations or owners of private roads and notify them of their option to allow enforcement by officers with written consent.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Improvement of website and Facebook presence – Wilson continues to update the Facebook page, and has given posting abilities to Parks & Recreation Board member, Molly Borgon. Marshall continues to maintain and update the website.

Ensure website and Facebook are mobile accessible – Marshall explained that Administration plans to go out to bid for a website redesign to make it mobile device friendly.

Other mobile applications – Marshall explained that the Village uses GovDelivery for emergency and Village alerts. There are approximately 1,600 subscribers. The link to sign up is available on the website.

Mechanisms to increase use and enrollment – Council and Administration discussed the Next Door application. It is primarily a citizen discussion site that is used by neighbors within a particular area. It is used for discussion, recommendations, and referrals. The Village could possibly use this to distribute information, but it is primarily resident driven.

Direct contact – Marshall stated that she mails the newsletter to all residents, as well as the calendar.

Phone system revisions – Mooney would like the phones answered by the receptionist.

Logo revisions – Abboud stated that as previously discussed, the Village is looking to update their logo and streamline signs throughout the Village. Abboud presented several ideas generated by the subcommittee on how to solicit for the new design. After extensive conversation, it was decided to put out a request to a design company for several options that represent the vision of the Council and Administration for the Village.

Dedicated web czar – Marshall continues to maintain the website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Motion by Peddie, second by Oen, to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Motion passed.

John Mooney
Council President

Ellen Marshall
Village Clerk

Elizabeth Lyons
Recording Secretary