

Present: President Peddie; President Pro-Tem Abboud; Members: George, Hrydziuszko, Mooney, Mueller, and Nunez

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Wilson
Village Clerk / Assistant Manager, Rutkowski
Public Safety Director, Torongeau
Finance Director, McCarthy
Planning and Zoning Administrator, LaPere

President Peddie called the special Council meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

FINANCES

The Village millage passed in 2010 will expire at the end this Fiscal Year (06/30/2020). Without a new millage proposal, the total operating millage would revert to 11.0 mills, which would leave roughly 9 mills for Public Safety (PS) and 2 for General Fund (GF), without library. With library (.8 mills) included, it would leave roughly 8.5 mills for PS and 1.7 for GF. Council asked Administration to meet with Baldwin Library regarding the library rate.

There are several renewal options that Council could consider. Seek renewal at current operating levels; 9.1 Public Safety, 1.9 General Fund and 0.84 for Library; for 11.75 mills total. This is higher than the Charter allowance (11 mills) but less than the 12.9184 approved in 2010 and temporarily fiscally sustainable based upon best projections. Council could pursue other millage issues independently.

Council could pursue renewal at current operating levels with specific earmarks; 9.1 Public Safety & 1.9 General Fund & 0.85 Library & 0.25 Parks; for 12.8500 mills total. This would generate roughly \$150k annually for parks. It would sufficiently operate GF and PS at current levels.

Council could pursue an increase with specific earmarks; 9.9 Public Safety & 1.94 General Fund & 0.8184 Library for a total of 12.6584 mills. If a dedicated 0.25 mills for Parks is added, this will create a new total of 12.9084 mills. Council also discussed proposing a 0.32 dedicated Park millage. An increased millage rate for PS would allow for the PS Fund Balance to grow quickly. GF would continue to operate at the current level.

Administration provided the Council with scenarios for cost to residents based on a \$300K, \$400K, and \$500K homes, including the average cost increase based on home value, and also the rate if the millage fails and reverts to 11 mills for the same homes. Council will need to determine language for the ballot and whether they would present these as individual proposals or an omnibus proposal.

The priority will be showing residents what it would cost per household, where costs will be rising, where costs will be reduced, and where costs saving measures have been taken.

James Delaney, Riverside, suggested that the millage vote should be considered for the August ballot as opposed to November ballot. Mooney believes that it would be better suited for the November ballot.

Administration and Council agreed on a 12.9184 mills renewal and to put a 10-year sunset back to 11 mills. The major change will be the monies allocated for the Parks.

George would like to see the Village address walkability and bike paths. Children walking to school should not have to walk along roads without safe sidewalks. Grant programs and sidewalk requirement programs should be considered.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Village has a few blocks of 4" water mains, all over 60 years old. Most of them run through rear yards and some portions are located under garages and trees. Although consideration has been given to replacing these, it is a costly project, and they have not experienced any problems in this area.

The Water and Sewer Fund Balance will be back to the positive in FY 2019-20. The Council will want to consider passing along the 4% increase that the Village will see every year. It will be 5-7 years where the funds will return to where the auditors suggest it be.

Council discussed the ongoing problems with water in yards. There is a water problem for some areas of the Village; however, property owners are responsible for water drainage on their private property. More education about how soil works for drainage would be helpful for residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department currently has 24 officers on staff; the hope is to hire one more officer. Torongeau agreed that he would like to see more diversity among the officers; however, there is a need for officers across the state and a shortage of graduates. His current plan is to retire within the next two years.

Torongeau and Wilson will meet to develop a communication plan to ensure that Administration is aware of any resident calls to Public Safety on off hours and weekends. He will also provide Council with copies of the Emergency Preparedness and Protocol Handbook.

PERSONNEL

Comeau continues to provide all Public Works for the Village. Marty Collins will be retiring in 2020 and is training his replacement over the course of the year. Council and Administration should begin to consider a long-term contingency plan; they would be hard pressed to find another company that provides the level and quality of services that Comeau does.

Wilson reported that SAFEBuilt; the current contracted company for Planning Consultant and for Building Inspections; submitted a quote of \$60,000 to provide full time code enforcement. In Wilson's opinion, if the Council hires a full-time code enforcement officer, the contract with SAFEBuilt would be ideal. Furthermore, a full-time code enforcement officer would be available to check in at building sites through the Village daily.

There was conversation about the concerns related to habitual offenders, ticket follow up, enforcement, and reporting to Council. There are a few contractors working in the Village that are consistently working in violation of Village ordinance. At times the sites have been shut down by Administration. The Council agreed that at work sites enforcement of codes regulating fences and lot cleanliness need to be consistently enforced. They would like to see a code violation cost put back onto builders.

It was agreed that a clear code of conduct for builders and developers working in the Village was necessary. Without those requirements it is difficult to enforce “good neighbor behavior.” Administration will meet with Village Attorney Ryan on the legality of banning repeat offenders from continuing to work in the Village. LaPere will meet with Ryan to begin drafting an ordinance.

COMMUNICATION

The website was completely overhauled several years ago. The hope is to work with the company that designed the site to make the search function more user friendly. Rutkowski reported that Facebook engagement is up and the page is active. There is also a weekly email that is sent out to residents who have opted in.

VILLAGE BOARDS

The Council agreed that there is value in having long standing members of the Boards and Committees, however it can be discouraging to residents who are interested in applying or becoming involved. It was suggested that any position has a 3-term served (9 years) limit.

Toni Grinnan, Planning Commission member, spoke on the importance of the perspective brought by having a variety of members from related fields. She believes that experience is vital and the longer someone serves on a Board or Commission, the better they get at fulfilling their role.

Hrydziuszko, Nunez, and Abboud will discuss potential changes to Boards and Commissions related to term guidance, number of members, and by-laws.

OTHER

Peddie, Mueller, and Hrydziuszko will work with the initial tree ordinance submitted by the Planning Commission to develop a new ordinance. They will also consider a tree census of the trees along the right of way. It is important to begin establishing new trees before the mature trees begin to die and to maintain the canopy.

Peddie and Hrydziuszko will work together to research a potential backyard chicken pilot program.

Administration will prepare a Village based branch pickup (independent of weekly trash pickup) proposal to be placed on an upcoming agenda.

The buckthorn removal project has been ongoing at Beverly Park. Most of the buckthorn has been cut down and removed, but there are still piles of buckthorn and dead trees southwest corner of the Park. Unfortunately, the project was a much bigger undertaking than the company hired initially thought. The cutting project was supposed to take place in sections over two years, however, it was almost all cut in one season. There is a plan in place to remove the rest of the buckthorn and then the brush in the spring. Continued communication with neighbors will be necessary.

Peddie, Nunez, and Hrydziusko will comprise a subcommittee to consider options for moving away from traditional lawns and maintenance. Residents have had issues with code enforcement when they don't maintain lawns in traditional manner. They will also explore ideas for holiday lighting or banners in public areas.

Administration continues to work on efforts to allow online payments for water bills and taxes.

Council discussed revisiting welcome signage. Peddie and Rutkowski to report back to the subcommittee with sign options after their upcoming meeting.

Motion by Mooney, second by Mueller, to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Motion passed.

Lee Peddie
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk

Elizabeth M. Lyons
Recording Secretary