

## **Bethel Village Council January 24, 2011**

The Council of the Village of Bethel, Ohio, met in regular session in Council Chambers on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor James T. Dick presiding.

Mr. Cherry delivered the invocation, followed by Mayor Dick leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Upon roll call, the following members were counted as present: Council Members Priscilla Johnson, Janice Ireton, Donna Gunn, Rus Whitley, Tim Cherry, Solicitor George Leicht, Interim Fiscal Officer Bill Gilpin and Village Administrator Travis Dotson.

No minutes were available for approval.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Dick-Community survey went out a little late, please complete and return, all will be accepted regardless of date received.

Mayor on Council appointment-Has council taken the opportunity to review information. Both council candidates, Lucy Shepherd and Alan Ausman, were asked various questions by council members. There was a brief discussion on the time line for council to make an appointment to the vacant council seat.

A motion to appoint Lucy Shepherd to the vacant council seat was made by Mr. Whitley. No second, motion failed.

A motion to appoint Alan Ausman to the vacant council seat was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Mr. Cherry. Mr. Cherry, Ms. Gunn, Ms. Ireton and Ms. Johnson voted "yea". Mr. Whitley voted "nay". Motion carried.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Mayor James T. Dick**

State of the Village Address was read by Mayor Dick;

Greetings:

This marks my 1<sup>st</sup> address to the residents of the village. When you placed a vote of faith at the ballot box a little over one year ago, our Village government was transitioning. I can say now that the State of the Village is improving.

Concerning Police operations, last year auxiliary officers were added to supplement our full/part time forces. Additionally, this year the last of our department debt will be paid off and the replacement of equipment has been made a priority to ensure that men and women we've asked to protect us are given the basic necessities to perform their job. I applaud Chief Planck for his commitment to his department, fellow officers.

Concerning financial operations, 2011 expenditures were examined closely with some expenditures lowered or repositioned into more appropriate funds. Similar to 2010, 2011 appropriations were adopted at ~85% of anticipated revenue (Thanks to Council for adoption). In 2010, the General Fund debt was reduced almost \$160K with approximately \$195K remaining. Be confident that your tax dollars will not be spent at a level that equates to living paycheck to paycheck.

Concerning community matters, many of you have received a community survey recently and I encourage each of you to take part in expressing your opinion. I also ask that you think about how you may be of service to your neighbors by either volunteering through the school

or church, or serving on the Village Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Burke Trust Commission or as an elected person.

In closing I'll take a portion of an email I recently shared with village employees that "As God has instituted human government and serves as the ultimate authority, know that not only do I look to laws and regulation of our Village, State and Federal government but that I answer to a higher authority; for my judgment depends on serving right."

Respectfully submitted,  
James T. Dick, Mayor

Mr. Ausman was sworn in by George Leicht and took his seat for the remainder of the meeting.

**Village Administrator, Travis Dotson**

Recap of zoning activity in 2010-28 permits issued

Nature Works grant application for tennis courts is being worked on. Have a resolution to pass this evening pertaining to the application.

Community surveys have begun to be turned in.

**Fiscal Officer, Bill Gilpin**

No official report, last few weeks have been very busy with orientating myself with the workings of the village's finances, filing, etc. Also reported that the payroll module in the software has been activated, updated and is being used. Each day is getting better with the repetition of how things work in the village.

**Solicitor George Leicht**

Report on changing the conditions of immunity of government operations.

Presented the fiscal officer for the sale of a confiscated vehicle (\$3,325.00).

**Police Chief Mark Planck**

Nil.

**Finance Committee, Chairperson Donna Gunn**

Draft of financial recovery plan will be finalized for voting on at the next meeting. The next meeting of the financial planning and supervision commission will be on February 16, 2011 at 6:00 pm.

The next finance committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm. Mr. Thompson will contact Bill Gilpin regarding questions on the report prior to the next meeting.

**Public Works Committee, Chairperson Tim Cherry**

No meeting due to vacancy. Next meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 5:30 pm.

**Safety Committee, Chairperson Rus Whitley**

Nothing to report. Next meeting is February 14 at 5:30 pm..

**Personnel Committee, Chairperson Alan Ausman**

The next meeting will be Monday, February 28 at 5:30 p.m.

### **Burke Trust Commission, Janice Ireton**

Was contacted today about requesting \$12,000 from the Burke Trust Commission for use in resurfacing the tennis courts.

A motion to request \$12,000 from the Burke Trust Commission to assist with resurfacing the tennis courts in conjunction with the nature works grant was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Ms. Gunn. All ye.

### **Planning Commission, Priscilla Johnson**

Nil.

### **CALL OF MEMBERS**

Priscilla Johnson: Nil.

Janice Ireton: Come out and support the wrestling team. Thanks to the road crew for keeping the roads clean.

Donna Gunn: Also thanked the road crew for a job well done. Need an agreement for cleaning the walking path, which is being kept clean by Sheldon Corsi. Ms. Gunn thanked Sheldon Corsi for keeping the walking path clean of snow.

Ms. Gunn relayed to Mr. Ausman that he will be the chair of the personnel committee and a member of the public works and safety committees.

Ms. Gunn encouraged Lucy Shepherd to get involved with the planning commission, Burke Trust or another committee.

Rus Whitley: Asked George Leicht if the pay scale resolution needed to be voted on individually. George Leicht's reply was no.

Mr. Whitley referred to documents received pertaining to transfers of alcohol permits for two businesses in the village-What about a background check? George Leicht replied that unless the village has a good reason to deny it, a hearing will not be requested.

Mr. Whitley asked everyone to support their local churches who are in need of donations to support their programs.

Tim Cherry: Nil.

Alan Ausman: Affirmed the comments of Ms. Gunn to Lucy Shepherd about serving the community in some fashion, and encouraged anyone thinking about running for office in the fall to do so.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Lucy Shepherd thanked the road crew for the snow removal efforts and commented on the recycling program beginning.

Lucy Shepherd asked who designed the questionnaire. Mr. Dotson responded the the planning commission designed it. Lucy Shepherd remarked that they did a great job.

Mr. Dotson mentioned that the clothing store needs children's clothing.

### **LEGISLATION**

RESOLUTION 897 AMENDING THE VILLAGE PERSONNEL HANDBOOK, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

George Leicht posed a question-What if an employee does not answer their phone? Mr. Dotson replied that to date there has not been a problem.

RESOLUTION 898 AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY  
FOR THE ODNR NATURE WORKS GRANT

A motion to waive three readings of Resolution 898 was made by Ms. Ireton. Second by Mr. Ausman. All yea.

A motion to adopt Resolution 898 was made by Mr. Whitley. Second by Mr. Cherry. All yea.

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS**

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (checks 21995-22042) totaling \$44, 599.89 was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Mr. Whitley. All yea except for Mr. Ausman who abstained.

There was discussion on a charge of \$715.00 for incarceration fees.

A motion to approve the payment of the presented bills and expenses (check 22043) totaling \$44.31 was made by Ms. Gunn. Second by Ms. Johnson. All yea except for Mr. Whitley and Mr. Ausman who abstained.

Mr. Ausman asked Mr. Dotson if a resident could still obtain a recycling container from Rumpke. Mr. Dotson replied yes.

Council adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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James T. Dick, Mayor

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Bill Gilpin, Interim Fiscal Officer