

REGULAR COUNCIL

March 15, 2007

Mayor Poole called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the following members present: B. Blue, C. Hofstetter, J. Jemison, S. Klein and B. Wallace. Council member E. Davis is excused due to back surgery.

Also present: C. Osborne – Fiscal Officer, D. Weir - Admin., Tom Lee – Village Solicitor, B. Provost – Village Engineer, S. Roessner – Zoning Inspector, Carl Hornung, John Borkholder, Julie Rose – Community Care Ambulance, Don Hobbs – Community Care Ambulance, Chuck Stahler – Maple Leaf, Faith Whitcomb – The Villager and Jennifer McKevitt – News Herald.

Agenda: Add to First Readings – Res. 07-09

Minutes of March 1, 2007 meeting were presented for approval. Hofstetter moved to approve the minutes as presented. Klein seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

Payment of Bills Totaling \$179,440.52 was presented for payment. Blue moved to authorize the payment of bills totaling \$179,440.52. Jemison seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

Recreation Director's Report – February: included in the council packet.

Ambulance Report – February: Included in the council packet.

Bank Report - February – included in the council packet.

Financial Report – February: included in the council packet.

Investment Report – February: included in the council packet.

Detail Trial Balance Report – February: included in the council packet.

CCA Report – January: included in the council packet.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FIRST READING

Resolution 07-08: Authorizing the Village Administrator to Enter into a Ground Lease with the Middlefield Volunteer Fire Department to Allow the Village to Construct a Storage Shed for Recreation Equipment Owned by the Village.

Discussion held regarding the length of the lease. Lee stated former contracts with the fire department were for 5 years and he drafted this lease with the same terms. There's also an option to renew at the end of 5 years.

Klein introduced Res. 07-08, read by title only, and moved to place it on first reading. Jemison seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

Resolution 07-09: Authorizing Funding for Construction of a Turn Lane on South State Avenue Giving Consent to the Ohio Director of Transportation to Complete the Project and Authorizing Cooperation with the Ohio Director of Transportation Regarding the Project, and Declaring an Emergency.

Lee stated this resolution was sent to us by O.D.O.T. and it duplicates previous legislation passed by Council that authorizes the turn lane project at Kraftmaid. Lee and Weir discussed this new legislation, which states the Village will pay 100% of the cost of the project, minus the State funding. The Village and the County Commissioners have each passed legislation committing to a cost share of the project, up to a certain amount, and the Village agreed to pay 100% of cost overruns, if necessary. Lee stated O.D.O.T. has been included with all of these discussions regarding the cost share with the Commissioners. However, this legislation, which O.D.O.T. is insisting we adopt, states the Village is responsible for 100% of the cost minus the federal dollars, which then could potentially allow the Commissioners to repeal their legislation. Therefore, language is included in this legislation that states as far as O.D.O.T.'s concerned, the Village is primarily responsible for the entire cost of this project, but the Village is relying on the County Commissioners' previous promise to contribute up to \$42,621.82 of the cost. O.D.O.T. isn't used to having two entities jointly pay for the same project, which is why they're insisting we pass their legislation. Weir and Lee agreed if O.D.O.T. doesn't accept this legislation, they would try to work with other individuals at O.D.O.T. or the State Congressmen who know about this project, who understand the language of this legislation, and will assure O.D.O.T. this legislation includes everything they need to move forward with the turn lane project.

Blue introduced Res. 07-09, read by title only, moved to waive the required readings and declare an emergency. Klein seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

Klein moved to **pass** Res. 07-09, seconded by Wallace. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

SECOND READING

Ordinance 07-104: Authorizing Various Activities Related to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Waiving Various Prohibitions of the Codified Ordinances Regarding Same.

Jemison introduced Ord. 07-104, read by title only, and moved to place it on second reading. Hofstetter seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

Ordinance 07-107: Repealing Chapter 553 of the Codified Ordinances.

Blue introduced Ord. 07-107, read by title only, and moved to place it on second reading. Hofstetter seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

THIRD READING – none before council.

ENGINEER'S REPORT - included in the council packet. Provost stated the contracts for the Eagle Park Infrastructure project will be signed soon. The bid opening for the three other contracts for the playground equipment, the picnic shelter and the splash ground equipment is 03/23/07.

The gas company will be reminded about returning to complete the seeding.

OLD BUSINESS – none before council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Community Care Ambulance:** Julie Rose presented materials reviewing the last four years of service to our community. Rose stated one proposal the implemented

four years ago to improve the EMS system was to move to a program based on response times and not the number of vehicles located in a particular place. This has proved to be an advantage to our community by improving the response times from an average of approximately 9 in 2002, to below 4 at the present time. Another advantage seen is the lessening in dependence on Mutual Aid.

Coming into this agreement four years ago Mutual Aid was called into the community about 8 times a month and now it's once per month. Another item advocated for was to move to a financial funding system that accessed insurance dollars that were available to community members. By doing this, the joint communities have saved over \$500,000.00 over the course of this ambulance contract. Rose stated Community Care Ambulance is a not for profit organization developed 13 years ago that provides services to Northeast Ohio, with locations in Lake, Geauga, and eastern Cuyahoga counties.

Don Hobbs stated during good weather Community Care schedules weekly blood pressure checks at the auction barn in Middlefield Township, and has plans to implement the program to other areas in the two communities. Also, anyone can have their blood pressure checked at the station at any time. An important program that will begin is called the Vile of Life Program, which is the medical history of the patient. Individuals receiving the form will enter all of their medical history, along with medicines they're currently taking. This paper will be kept in a prescription-type bottle in their refrigerator and, if EMS is called to their home, the EMT's will be able to go to that vile and find all the vital information on the patient rather than asking the patient while they're being helped.

Discussion held regarding life flight located at the Geauga County Airport. The EMT's in attendance stated with the helicopter location so close patients can be transported to the airport if the helicopter can't come to the scene. Hobbs stated there's protocol to decide if a patient needs to be transported by helicopter or ambulance. Rose stated because the cost of life flight is high and there are many residents who don't have insurance to cover that cost, she had a meeting with the Amish Bishops and the hospital staff regarding when a patient needs life flight. Rose stated this meeting went very well and all questions and concerns were addressed.

Regarding the procedure to bill the insurance companies Lee stated that was a major issue with the previous contract with another ambulance company. Some of the former council members were adamant that no Middlefield resident would be billed for any service, which included insurance companies. However, when the cost proposals were submitted with this procedure, the cost difference was so great that council ultimately decided it was to everyone's benefit to utilize this system. Because of this savings, the Village was able to reduce the amount of levy collections from 1.45 mil to .35 mil.

Weir stated he discussed the ambulance contract bid process with the Middlefield Township Trustees and informed them the Village will draft the bid documents and forward them to the trustees for their review prior to advertising.

2. **Jack Gibson Pay Request #12 for WWTP Construction:** *Blue moved to authorize pay request #12 to Jack Gibson Construction, in the amount of \$232,338.56, for the WWTP Construction project, seconded by Jemison. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).*

Weir stated we will begin bringing the WWTP online in April. Also, Weir stated the building permits for the water treatment plant improvements were reviewed and approved by the Geauga County Building Department.

3. **Tare Creek Pkwy and N. State Ave. Traffic Signal Change Order #1** – Weir stated this change order adjusts the contract to the actual quantities used on the

project. *Hofstetter moved to authorize change order #1, in the amount of \$608.00, seconded by Wallace. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).*

4. **Tare Creek Parkway and N. State Ave. Traffic Signal Final Pay Request** – *Klein moved to authorize the final pay request to Signal Service for the Tare Creek Pkwy and N. State Ave. Traffic Signal, in the amount of \$3,051.28, seconded by Wallace. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).*
5. **Health District's Annual Meeting** – *Weir stated due to Davis' back surgery, she can't attend this meeting and an elected official must attend. Klein moved appoint Mayor Poole as Davis' replacement at the upcoming Health District meeting, seconded by Wallace. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).*

Committee Reports – included in the council packet.

At 8:15 p.m. Klein moved to adjourn into executive session for purposes of pending litigation. Wallace seconded. Roll Call: All Yeas (5).

The meeting reconvened at 8:50 p.m. and, being no further business at this time, Klein moved to adjourn.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor