

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
March 12, 2013

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Councilmembers present: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.

Councilmembers absent: Reynolds, Schneider.

Mayor Riley presided.

It was moved by Councilmember Bletcher, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Councilmembers Reynolds and Schneider be excused from the meeting.

Roll call: Ayes Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

The minutes of the February 11, 2013 were presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that the minutes be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Bletcher.
Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1151 in the amount of \$360,767.00 was presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Turner had questions regarding the Chagrin Watershed Partnership dues (check number 5964). Councilmember Turner inquired as to the value received by the Village in relation to such cost. Village Engineer Courtney responded with an overview of services provided by the Chagrin Watershed Partnership. Village Engineer Courtney highlighted that Chagrin Watershed Partnership assists with the Public Involvement and Public Education programs; provides information which is included in the Phase II Annual Report; helped with the recent EPA audit; aids in obtaining the grants such as those for the rain garden and water retention area. Village Engineer Courtney stated the cost of the Chagrin Watershed Partnership is determined by the square mileage of drainage area of the Chagrin River. Finance Administrator Lechman clarified the current cost is \$6,555.00 for the year.

Councilmember Turner inquired as to the Wastewater Plant Inspection bill (\$86,546.28). Service Director Biggert indicated the cost was higher due to the heavy rain storms that had occurred and indicated that the County bills only for cost, not a fixed rate, and does not bill for profit. Service Director Biggert added that he believed the cost for the Wastewater Plant

Inspection for the year 2012 would be approximately \$60,000. Councilmember Bletcher asked about the possibility of using an independent source for the inspection instead of the County. Service Director Biggert suggested the Service Committee may want to explore alternative options.

Councilmember Bletcher questioned the computer expense of \$6,354. Finance Administrator Lechman explained the computer purchased was for a complete new computer system that replaced a system that was six years old and that the majority of the cost was attributed to the labor of set up as well as the installation of software programs. It was confirmed that this cost was included in the Budget.

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Pay Ordinance #1151 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

The financial statement for period ending February 28, 2013 was presented by the Clerk. Councilmember Barnes pointed out that revenues were close to the prior year. Councilmember Barnes provided a brief summary highlighting the differences between the current year budget vs. the prior year as follows: the Fire Department budget is at a \$75,000 positive due to the ambulance expense which has not been billed for 2013; the Service Department budget is slightly lower due to the salt and aggregate expenses; there is \$5.4 million cash and investments compared to \$5.1 million; and, unfunded debt is about \$745,000 compared to \$1.3 million.

Mayor Riley presented his report which included the following items: (i) Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Council's dispatch group; (ii) Mayfield Road Detour; and (iii) possible cost sharing with Highland Heights and Mayfield Village regarding fire services.

Mayor Riley reported on his recent meeting with the Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Council regarding a possible joint dispatch group. At that meeting the Village of Gates Mills was informally invited to join the Council. A formal invitation is expected. An analysis of costs was reviewed and available. Mayor Riley reported that the Safety Committee will be meeting with the Chagrin Valley Intergovernmental Council on March 21st. Mayor Riley added that his discussions with the SPAN Group for a joint dispatch group did not reveal a full commitment.

Mayor Riley clarified that the parking ban during the Mayfield Road detour would be on the North side (not South side) of Old Mill Road.

Mayor Riley indicated that preliminary discussions between Highland Heights and Mayfield Village have taken place regarding the potential of cost sharing for fire services. Mayor Riley indicated that the Safety Committee would meet later this year for further consideration.

Councilmember Turner announced that the Schools Liaison Committee has arranged for a reception to welcome the new Superintendent, Dr. Kelly, to be held prior to the next Council meeting on April 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Bletcher acknowledged the volunteer help of Service Department employee, Trevor Murfello, who assisted Dominion with a recent truck that had become stuck.

The Clerk had nothing to report.

Chief Szeredy presented a written report for the Police Department for the preceding period. No thefts were reported. There were 530 calls for service. Two calls were fraud related regarding credit card activity.

Chief Szeredy provided an overview of the increase of drug availability and activity within the SPAN communities: Gates Mills, Mayfield Heights, Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights, Highland Heights and Mayfield Village. In response to the rise of such drug problems, the SPAN Police Departments have formed a small drug unit. Last month, a Village police car incurred minor damage in connection with an arrest made. Restitution is being sought for the damage.

The Fire Chief presented a written report.

Resolution #2013-03 entitled “A Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Nine (9) Conservation Easements from the Gates Mills Land Conservancy and Declaring an Emergency,” was introduced by Councilmember Sogg. Mayor Riley explained that several years ago, the Village and the Land Conservancy acquired almost 19 acres of land from the Board of Education. Both the Village and the Land Conservancy obtained easements on the property. The Land Conservancy wants to transfer its easement obligations to the Village as it seeks to obtain accreditation. The Land Conservancy is required by the accreditation company to have a certain amount of money set aside per acre which it has conservation easements. Transferring its easement obligations to the Village reduces the amount of money it would have to set aside as well as reduce its insurance cost. The Land Conservancy will execute an agreement with the Village to assume primary responsibility of all the transferred easements at no cost to the Village.

Councilmember Bletcher asked if there are any costs of any kind associated with this now or in the future to which Mayor Riley responded that there would be recording costs for the transfer which the Land Conservancy would be responsible for paying. Councilmember Bletcher then asked if that was a one-time cost. Mayor Riley confirmed. Councilmember Bletcher asked if there were any ongoing costs. Mayor Riley explained the only ongoing cost would be if the Conservancy failed to inspect the property annually and someone from the Service Department would have to – whatever additional cost that would be to the Village. Councilmember Bletcher asked what the purpose of the inspection. Mayor Riley answered that the inspection(s) would be to confirm that adjoining land owners have not encroached on the property and violating the easement. Councilmember Bletcher questioned if there was maintenance of the land itself that

the Village would do other than what the Village would normally do. Mayor Riley responded to the negative.

Councilmember Bletcher asked the following questions which were responded to by audience member, John Kramer: (i) Has the Conservancy been accredited yet? (ii) Who is the agency? (iii) What is it going to cost you guys annually for this accreditation? (iv) Any idea what the ongoing costs will be?

Audience member, John Kramer, responded as follows: (i) we are in the process of getting accredited; (ii) the accreditation company is Land Trust Alliance, a national organization of land trusts; (iii) the cost is a relatively small amount with upfront costs being considerable due to the documentation required and fees to pay; and (iv) the annual costs is estimated to be approximately \$1,000 with the value of the accreditation being significant as it will provide the Land Conservancy easier access to grant money as well as putting it in a much stronger position in the future.

In response to Councilmember Welsh's concerns, Mayor Riley confirmed that the grant money previously received would not be taken back as a result of the easement transfer. In response to Councilmember Turner's inquiry, audience member John Kramer acknowledged that the Land Conservancy did not want and would not seek to have the parcels returned after the accreditation process was complete. Mayor Riley mentioned that two additional parcels may be incorporated in the transfer but that has not been confirmed.

It was moved by Councilmember Sogg; seconded by Councilmember Turner, that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance #2013-03 be placed upon its final passage.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

It was then moved by Councilmember Sogg, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that Ordinance #2013-03 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Bletcher reported on the replacement of a police vehicle. The vehicle being replaced will be sold at auction. A new police SUV will be purchased for approximately \$28,000.

It was moved by Councilmember Bletcher, seconded by Councilmember Turner, that an advertisement be placed for bids for the car purchase.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None.
Motion carried.

Councilmember Barnes requested a motion to advertise for bids for limestone.

It was moved by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that an advertisement be placed for bids for limestone.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Business from the audience: none

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Turner, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Roll call: Ayes: Barnes, Bletcher, Sogg, Turner, Welsh.
 Nays: None.
 Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Shawn M. Riley, Mayor