

Village of Gates Mills  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
April 9, 2013

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Village.

Councilmembers present: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.

Councilmembers absent: Barnes, Turner.

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

Roll call:       Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Motion carried.

Mayor Riley presided.

Mayor Riley recognized Dr. Keith Kelly, the new superintendent of the Mayfield School System, and Tammi Bender, Principal of Gates Mills Elementary School. On behalf of the community, he officially welcomed Dr. Kelly and Ms. Bender and thanked them for attending the reception that immediately preceded the Council meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Bletcher, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that Executive Lieutenant Ron Whitmer be appointed to the Safety Committee.

Roll call:       Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Motion carried.

The minutes of the March 12, 2013 were presented by the Clerk. It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Bletcher, that the minutes be approved.

Roll call:       Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Sogg, Welsh.  
                  Nays: None.  
                  Abstained: Schneider  
                  Motion carried.

Pay Ordinance #1152 in the amount of \$455,244.16 was presented by the Clerk.

It was moved by Councilmember Welsh, seconded by Councilmember Sogg, that Pay Ordinance #1152 be approved.

Roll call:       Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.

Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

In the absence of Councilmember Barnes, Finance Administrator Lechman provided brief comments regarding the financial statement wherein she noted that the real estate taxes were down slightly and explained that is due to the timing of when payments are actually made by residents. She suggested that consideration be given when reviewing the financial statement as certain expenses, such as liability insurance and workers' compensation, are paid at the beginning of the year rather than over the course of the year. Lastly, regarding inheritance tax, Finance Administrator Lechman advised that \$270,000 is presently anticipated and noted the budget for the year is \$350,000.

Mayor Riley stated that his report would be brief as the dispatch proposal and beautification projects, including an update for the new garden/park, would be addressed more fully by the reports of the Safety Committee and the Beautification Committee.

Mayor Riley reported that the jail which is currently located in the basement of Village Hall would be closed and that an arrangement with Bedford has been made for the jailing of prisoners. In addition, the current jail space would be used for storage space starting with the relocation of the files currently kept at the "old AT&T building". Mayor Riley highlighted that the new storage space will allow for possible development of the AT&T Building.

Mayor Riley announced that Councilmember Doug Bletcher is resigning from Council due to his moving out of Gates Mills. Mayor Riley thanked Councilmember Bletcher for his service and his many years of commitment to the Village.

The Clerk had nothing to report.

Councilmember Bletcher provided the Safety Committee's report regarding dispatch. He explained the primary goals in considering dispatch sharing services are to improve the dispatching capability and cost reduction.

Councilmember Bletcher indicated that several proposals were received and reviewed from many communities including: Lyndhurst, Mayfield, Mayfield Heights, and Chagrin. Initially, the Lyndhurst proposal was favored but it was decided – given the dispatch consolidation study that was being conducted by the County – to delay any decision. Additionally, the Lyndhurst proposal had only included two communities banding together. Councilmember Bletcher conveyed that it is the opinion of the Safety Committee that for true cost savings more communities would need to participate beyond just two. The Chagrin Valley Dispatch proposal includes eight (8) communities consisting of Bentleyville, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Township, Hunting Valley, Moreland Hills, Orange, South Russell, and Woodmere. Recently Chagrin Valley Dispatch improved its initial proposal after it received an offer from University Hospital to house the dispatch center as well as provide a lot of support dollars needed.

The Safety Committee heard a presentation. It showed that it will fulfill our goal of improving service and saving cost. Councilmember Bletcher further described some of the potential advantages to joining Chagrin Valley Dispatch: (i) the participating communities are

similar to Gates Mills in as far as they are semi-rural, share many of the same values and share lack of problems (Gates Mills' residents will have the same type of personal service they have enjoyed); (ii) offers the ability to have more than one dispatcher available for calls; and (iii) the potential exists to find positions for some of Gates Mills existing dispatchers. We will have someone on duty to answer the telephone, rather than an answering machine.

Chief Szeredy presented an overview of the County's initiative to consolidate dispatch services into a single network. He explained that County Executive FitzGerald formed a committee approximately 15 months ago, of which Chief Szeredy chaired, with the intent to consolidate PSAP's (Public Safety Answering Points). The County contracted with Emergency Call Works (out of Birmingham, AL) to integrate to a single platform/network for the management of 911 services. AT&T will also be involved in aiding in the transition. As funding is being provided by the federal government, there are certain requirements – including consolidating the 48 current PSAP's down to only 4 or 5 over the next five years. This is going to happen. The 911 plan will be started by June, 2013.

Executive Lieutenant Whitmer, with regard to the dispatch sharing service and the Chagrin Valley Dispatch proposal, indicated the primary objectives to consider are: (i) finding the right partner to allow for the same level of service; (ii) opportunity for potential growth in the future; and (iii) cost reduction.

Executive Lieutenant Whitmer outlined the proposal with Chagrin Valley Dispatch as follows:

- University Hospital has offered space (6,000 square feet building) to house Chagrin Valley Dispatch at the cost of \$1 per year for a period of 10 years
- University Hospital has offered to pay utilities
- University Hospital has offered to provide assistance in obtaining grant money for Chagrin Valley Dispatch
- This gives the Village the opportunity to pick its partners rather than be assigned partners
- The ability exists to include additional communities in the future which would allow potential for additional cost savings
- Timeline for implementation is aggressive with plans to be in the new facility by December
- Gates Mills implication plan for transition would start immediately after the Council meeting in May with the goal of official transition taking place in August
- Plan includes retaining a couple dispatchers as Village employees with job duties to offer personal service to residents of the Village

Executive Lieutenant Whitmer distributed a cost comparison and timeline which are attached to these minutes.

Mayor Riley provided a brief summary of the dispatch proposal, including highlighting the timeline and potential opportunities for current dispatchers. If we decide to implement the plan by August, Council must do something by May 15, 2013. After the move someone will be in the building every day to handle resident issues. Week-end hours will be re-evaluated after a year or two. Mayor Riley added that the Safety Committee should have another meeting and there should be public meetings to discuss the same.

A discussion among Councilmembers addressed possible notification to residents of the proposal as well as scheduling possibilities for community meetings. Councilmember Schneider discussed the option of announcing the public meetings in the Pink Sheet. Councilmember Reynolds suggested a letter be sent to the residents that summarizes the proposal and announces the meeting(s). Councilmember Sogg suggested a question and answer layout for the proposed letter. Councilmember Welsh questioned whether a change in dispatch should be put on the ballot for vote. Given the timeline of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch proposal implementation, Councilmember Reynolds indicated the latter suggestion would not be a realistic possibility. We need to act quickly on the offer. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to residents that summarized the proposal and announce the public meetings.

Councilmember Welsh expressed his concerns regarding whether the consideration of joining Chagrin Valley Dispatch was too rushed and encouraged additional time be given prior to any change or commitments. Mayor Riley responded that he felt the proposal was a very good opportunity for the Village especially in light of the offers made by University Hospital. Councilmember Reynolds added that the current community participants in Chagrin Valley Dispatch are happy. Councilmember Schneider highlighted the fact that Councilmembers are elected to make decisions on behalf of the Village including decisions relating to health and safety such as the past decisions made by Council with regard to ambulance service and the new police chief. Councilmember Welsh responded, again, with his timing concerns and noted, ~~in the past, a location, known to flood, was being considered to house the dispatch center~~ basement locations are known to flood. (Correction made at May 14, 2013 Council Meeting.) Councilmember Schneider stated that the decision to join Chagrin Valley Dispatch would not be made until after allowing the residents of the Village to voice their concerns, questions and participate in the public meetings.

Mayor Riley instructed Council to set dates for the public meetings and requested the Safety Committee assist in organizing the same. Tuesday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. were chosen.

Councilmember Sogg questioned whether Hillcrest Hospital had been approached for any offer regarding dispatch and, if not, suggested they should be. In addition, Councilmember Sogg expressed her concerns about possible medical affiliations and preferential treatment with University Hospital's involvement with Chagrin Valley Dispatch. Executive Lieutenant Whitmer confirmed there are no current offers by Hillcrest Hospital. Mayor Riley and Councilmember Bletcher both confirmed that University Hospitals would receive no benefit from Chagrin Valley Dispatch and will have no input or medical control over the same.

Councilmember Sogg provided the report of the Beautification Committee noting a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11. The Beautification Committee is working on two major projects: (i) designing a park on currently vacant land across from the Town Hall, and (ii) improving certain entryways to the Village. With respect to the park project, Councilmember Sogg announced that Chagrin Valley Nursery will supply the plants at wholesale costs. The project is awaiting approval from the Beautification Committee. Approval is also being sought to improve three new entry locations to the Village with the goals of providing better definition

of the Village as well as improving the look/feel of the Village going along with the “Positively Gates Mills Committee” efforts and the school’s efforts.

Councilmember Reynolds explained with regard to the entrance beautification project that photos were taken and visits to all of the significant entry ways into the Village helped to identify the locations that would be improved. The Committee will start with 3 entryways. Councilmember Reynolds reported that former resident and nationally recognized landscape designer, Missy Marshall, has, as a gift to Gates Mills, designed the new garden at the site for the new park across from the Town Hall. The design includes direct access to the garden from the children’s reading area of the library as well as the creation of a butterfly garden. Councilmember Reynolds opined that not only would the new park allow enjoyment to the residents but adds educational opportunities as well, suggesting teachers could use the butterfly garden for field trips to allow students the opportunity to understand migration of birds and butterflies.

Councilmember Sogg added that no funds for this project would come from the Village and that all of the plants would be native to Ohio and the U.S.

Councilmember Welsh provided the report of the Cemetery Committee wherein he announced that the Committee voted to expand the cemetery and was now focusing on exploring funding options.

Chief Szeredy provided a written report and highlighted to Council that there were 538 calls in the past month including two thefts. The thefts occurred at Sara’s Restaurant and Gilmour Academy. Chief Szeredy said these crimes were “crimes of opportunity”. He explained individuals should be more diligent in hiding valuables to avoid potential incidents.

Service Director Biggert provided a written report and mentioned that there have been minimal complaints with regard to the Mayfield Road project.

Fire Chief Robinson provided his report. He has not met with the Safety Committee regarding photoelectric smoke detectors due to the lack of a forum. He would like to meet with members of Council who are also members of the Safety Committee to recommend an ordinance pertaining to photoelectric smoke detectors.

Resolution #2013-04 entitled “A Resolution Accepting the Bid of Statewide Ford Lincoln for the Purchase of a 2013 Ford Expedition Police Vehicle,” was introduced by Councilmember Bletcher. Councilmember Bletcher explained that on average the Village replaces 1-3 police vehicles yearly and is looking to replace one police vehicle this year. Councilmember Bletcher questioned if a local dealer that provided a quote that was less than \$100 more than the lowest received quote should be used in an effort to support a local business. Mayor Riley explained that the lowest and best bid had to be accepted which in this instance was the bid of Statewide Ford Lincoln. Finance Administrator Lechman clarified that delivery of the vehicle to Gates Mills was included in the bid and that the Village had purchased vehicles from Statewide Ford in the past. Law Director Cannon said that the lowest bid must be accepted unless it can be demonstrated why it is not the best. Since local dealers must provide service and since delivery is free, she doesn’t see why Statewide Ford Lincoln wouldn’t be the best. Executive Lieutenant Whitmer said all bidders met the bid specifications.

It was moved by Councilmember Bletcher; seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance #2013-04 be placed upon its final passage.

Roll call: Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

It was then moved by Councilmember Bletcher, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that Ordinance #2013-04 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Resolution #2013-05 entitled "A Resolution Accepting the Bid of Ontario Stone Corporation for Sale to the Village of Limestone Chips and #8 Slag" was introduced by Councilmember Schneider. Councilmember Schneider pointed out last year's bid as well as this year's bid and informed Council that the bid by Ontario Stone was only bid received for the asphalt and aggregates.

It was moved by Councilmember Schneider; seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance #2013-05 be placed upon its final passage.

Roll call: Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

It was then moved by Councilmember Schneider, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, that Ordinance #2013-05 be approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Business from the audience: none.

At 7:20 p.m. it was moved by Councilmember Reynolds, seconded by Councilmember Welsh to enter into Executive Session to discuss a pending or imminent litigation matter.

Roll call: Ayes: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

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

Roll call: Bletcher, Reynolds, Schneider, Sogg, Welsh.  
Nays: None.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:

Shawn M. Riley, Mayor