

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1999 - PAGE 1

Present: President Kennedy; President Pro-Tem Buterbaugh; Members: Craig, Lison, Mooney, Walsh and Worrell

Absent: None

Also present: Village Manager, Hanlin
Public Services Director, Spallasso
Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka
Village Clerk, Marshall
Village Attorney, Ryan
Finance Director, Wiszowaty
Director of Public Safety, Woodard

President Kennedy presided and called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the Village municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1998

The following corrections were made. On page 4, paragraph 6, line 5, change “enforceable” to “enforced”. Page 5, paragraph 5, first line, change “privacy” to read “solid”. Page 6, paragraph 5, line 3, change “in” to read “at”.

MOTION by Walsh, supported by Mooney, that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on Monday, December 21, 1998 be approved as amended.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA

Norm Downey of 23042 Nottingham Drive expressed concern that the Council has not corrected what he believes to be false statements about the capacity of the Beverly Hills sewer system. He said that a report from the engineering firm of Hubbell, Roth and Clark indicates that there are sewers in the Acacia and Twelve Towns districts in Beverly Hills that were designed for less than a one year storm event. The current design standard for sewer pipe size is for a ten year storm event. Downey maintains that Council members should not have said that Beverly Hills sewers are up to standard.

Kennedy read from a newspaper editorial dated Thursday, July 31, 1997 stating that Beverly Hills is taking a brave step going to voters and asking for a dedicated millage to pay for repairs to sewers and roads. The article says that Beverly Hills is making a strong effort to guarantee the quality of its village including looking after its infrastructure. Kennedy contends that Beverly Hills is committed to improving its sewer system.

PRESENTATION OF 1997/98 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT BY GUEST, OLDS & WEST CPA

Council received copies of the Audit Report for the year ended June 30, 1998. Larry West stated that Guest, Olds and West has rendered an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Village of Beverly Hills based on its audit. The books and records of the Village are in excellent shape.

West reported that the General Fund had revenues in excess of expenditures of about \$294,000 which brought the fund balance to approximately \$1.3 million. The two pension funds are in good shape and are fully funded at this time. All of the funds in the Village of Beverly Hills have a positive fund balance.

West noted that the audit report is normally presented to Council and filed on a timely basis which would be on or prior to October 31. The report was delayed this year because information critical to the report from MERS was not available. Guest, Olds and West has since received permission from the State to use the prior year's data and were able to prepare the report.

Buterbaugh stated that Larry West and Dan Tomala from Guest, Olds and West reviewed the detailed financial statements and auditor's comments and recommendations for the audit period with the Finance Committee at its December 18, 1998 meeting. The Finance Committee found the audit report to be acceptable.

SECOND READING AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 292 AMENDING THE FENCE ORDINANCE

A public hearing and first reading of a proposed ordinance to amend the Fence Ordinance was held on Monday, December 21, 1998. Walsh proceeded to summarize each section of proposed Ordinance No. 292, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 22 of the Village of Beverly Hills Municipal Code, Section 8, General Provisions of the Village of Beverly Hills Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of providing regulations for fences.

Craig mentioned that discussion at the December 21 public hearing led Planning Board member Belaustegui to realize that the proposed ordinance omitted certain language which was intended to be included in the section on privacy screens. It was the Planning Board's intent that, if a side door commonly used entrance faces a major road, the fence could come forward to enclose that side door. Copies of that section with the added language were distributed to Council members. Craig questioned whether a change to the ordinance can be proposed at the second reading.

The paragraph with the revision would read as follows: "b. Properties whose rear yard abuts Southfield Road, Greenfield Road, or Thirteen Mile Road may erect a privacy screen along the perimeter of the rear yard that abuts these roads and may extend the privacy screen into the side yard only to enclose a commonly and consistently used side door entrance."

Ryan commented that the purpose of the second reading is to finalize the language. This is not a major issue. This change could be made at a second reading if the majority of Council agrees that the wording should be included in the ordinance.

Council discussed the suggested language. It was stated that continuing a six foot fence to enclose a side door on property abutting a major road would be reasonable for aesthetic reasons and would provide the privacy from the major road. It was the consensus of Council that the intent is to allow enclosure of a consistently used side door with a six foot fence in an area where a six foot fence would be permitted. There was a consensus of Council to add the language as proposed.

RESOLVED by Walsh, supported by Mooney, to adopt Ordinance No. 292 amending the Fence Ordinance with language regarding privacy screens being incorporated in the second reading as indicated.

Buterbaugh referred to the paragraph on materials. It states that "chain link, wire mesh and similar materials are only permitted for fences in rear yards, but are not permitted to have wood, plastic or other material inserts". He objects to the wording "other material inserts" which may prohibit someone from growing a vine or hedge against a fence.

Walsh stated that he will vote against adopting this ordinance. He disagrees with having front yard fences that go out to the sidewalk. He objects to allowing fences that go beyond enclosing a side door. He is not in favor of substituting masonry walls for fences in a residential area. The ordinance allows a masonry fence in the front, side, or rear yard as long as it does not exceed the height requirements. Walsh thinks that this is a direct contradiction to the 35% opacity requirement.

Kennedy opened the floor for comments from the public.

Bart Lahtinen of 31387 W. Rutland expressed strong opposition to this ordinance. He stated that preserving the ambiance of the Village is important and open and connected neighborhoods appeal to him. He is concerned that allowing front yard fences may result in a "hodge podge" of fences that reflect everyone's different vision of how their personal property should look.

Lahtinen asked Council not to pass this ordinance because they are tired of dealing with fence regulations or because they do not think there will be a wave of new fence building in front yards. He is concerned that Council members are willing to pass an ordinance they are not happy with as presented. He appeals to Council to table the fence regulations until they investigate it further and spend additional time to write an ordinance they all agree with.

Paul Kleppert of 20855 W. Fourteen Mile Road stated the he and his wife Anne own an 1877 Victorian home that, at the turn of the Century, encompassed 155 acres in Beverly Hills. He read an excerpt from an article in a "Victorian Homes" magazine entitled "Good Fences Make Good Neighbors". It states that fences helped to define the precincts of home for the growing 19th Century suburban population. Fences were recommended as a way of encouraging refined behavior in neighborhoods. Supreme to all the reasons for fences outlined in the article were the decorative opportunities these architectural details offered.

Kleppert and his wife have restored their home and own a beautiful Victorian fence which they have been unable to install. They would like the ordinance to pass so they can erect this fence which they believe the community would enjoy.

David Tillman of 30665 Vernon stated that he is opposed to the proposed fence ordinance. He said that he has yet to hear any effort to reconcile how allowing front yard fences to proliferate in a Village which has forbidden them for almost 40 years is consistent with the Village's goal stated in its Master Plan to preserve and protect the existing residential character of the Village. He feels that allowing front yard fencing would work to destroy the Village's character.

Tillman referred to an October 4, 1998 Detroit News article which stated that picket fences are making a comeback in metropolitan Detroit. The article quoted Westwood Common developer David Jensen as saying that picket fences are used to create a kind of "outdoor room" where residents spend much of their time gardening and talking to neighbors. It is suggested in the article that fences help to unify and bring people together. Tillman thinks that people erect fences to increase their privacy and to distance or isolate themselves from their neighbors and surrounding environs.

Tillman questioned the policing of the maintenance of front yard fences. He talked to a number of his neighbors who do not favor the proposed fence ordinance.

Bruce Wayne of 25 Riverbank Drive commented that he moved into Westwood Common for the open space. He does think that front yard fences will provide privacy. They are being used for decorative and landscaping purposes. Having driven around the area, Wayne thinks the residents of this Village have used good taste in the way they have built their fences. He thinks this is a good ordinance and he supports it.

Anne Kleppert of 20855 W. Fourteen Mile Road stated that she grew up in a neighborhood of small homes in Detroit where there were front yard fences. She does not think that fences alienate people.

David Jensen of 31130 Stafford does not believe this proposed ordinance is in opposition to the Master Plan which calls for maintenance of the residential character. Maintaining the residential character is to allow no more industrial or commercial use but to encourage an abundance of residential housing. He does not think that fences would change the residential character as has been stated by Mr. Tillman. Jensen hopes the Council moves forward and approves this ordinance.

Craig responded to a comment that Council should not settle for an ordinance that does not represent everyone's desired position or resolve every issue. If Council does not do something to revise fence regulations, he fears it will never be done. The Village has an ordinance on the books that is not in sync with what this Village has become. There are many front yard fences in the community.

Craig thinks the proposed ordinance does reconcile with the Master Plan because front yard decorative fences are a part of this Village. The current ordinance does not allow front yard fences and it has not been enforced. He does not think that there will be a proliferation of front yard fences.

The proposed ordinance will revise a 40-year-old ordinance to reflect what this Village is today. Craig thinks the proposed ordinance is a step in the right direction.

Buterbaugh made the point that allowing front yard fences does not mandate them. People will have the right to have a front yard fence if they choose.

Buterbaugh commented that the ordinance allows masonry walls to be used in the place of fences. People can erect a solid masonry four foot fence but cannot construct a solid wood or metal fence. The ordinance assumes that wood strips in a chain link fence are inappropriate. This is imposing someone else's taste on the residents of the community. He feels this is discriminatory and he is opposed to the fence ordinance for that reason.

Lison does not view this as a situation where the Council is just settling for an ordinance. This ordinance has been through three years of tempering, rewriting, and revising. The proposed ordinance has not reached this point without serious thought. It is a workable living document and Lison will support it.

Mooney stated that a resident defined the word "fence" tonight. The structure in the front yard that has been talked about does not really fit into that definition. We are dealing with an architectural or landscape device which is commonly referred to as a front yard fence. It does not enclose anything. It can only extend eight feet back from the front yard. Mooney suggests that the community is being given an option to use front yard fences that enclose nothing as a decorative or landscaping device to enhance the value and aesthetics of their homes.

Mooney commended Planning Board members Belaustegui and Bliven for their work on this ordinance. He will support it.

Worrell commented that his views on the proposed fence ordinance are known.

Kennedy commented on past drafts of a revised fence ordinance and believes that the proposed ordinance is a compromise. Her preference has been for openness between yards. However, she feels that people have the right to erect decorative fencing without intruding on their neighbors. Kennedy feels that this ordinance is reasonable and she will be voting for it tonight.

Roll Call Vote:

Worrell - no
Buterbaugh - no
Craig - yes
Kennedy - yes
Lison - yes
Mooney - yes
Walsh - no

Resolution passes (4-3).

CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION OF ACTUARIAL STUDY FOR RETIREE HEALTH CARE

Buterbaugh stated that the General Fund budget includes \$4,900 for an actuarial study for retiree health care. Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company (GRS) completed the last actuarial valuation for retiree health care in 1993. The Village auditors have recommended that a revised valuation be conducted.

RESOLVED by Buterbaugh, supported by Mooney, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council authorize administration to obtain the services Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company to conduct an actuarial evaluation of retiree health care.

Lison questioned whether there are other firms that do this type of audit and how the fees compare with the quote from GRS. There was a discussion relative to the proposed audit and consultants available to do the work. Hanlin stated that administration can research other actuarial firms if it is the sense of Council to use a different service.

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Lison, to table this item until the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Yes - Craig, Kennedy, Lison, Mooney, Walsh, Worrell

No - Buterbaugh

Motion passes (6 - 1).

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Lison stated that the Department of Public Safety has received three bids for the purchase of four new MSA self-contained breathing apparatus. He referred to a report from Deputy Director Smith dated November 10, 1998 and a cover letter from Director Woodard.

RESOLVED by Lison, supported by Mooney.

Whereas, the Department of Public Safety 1998/99 capital budget calls for an expenditure of funds for the purchase of four Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to upgrade officers' personal protective firefighting equipment; and

Whereas, the Department of Public Safety has received competitive quotes for four Mine Safety Appliances (MSA) SCBA Ultralite II Air Masks with 30-minute composite bottles and belt-mounted regulator harnesses;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council authorizes the Public Safety Department to purchase these MSA units from the low-quoting vendor, Apollo Fire Equipment of Romeo, Michigan, for the price of \$2,400 each (total package price of \$9,600) from Account #101-900-980, Capital Purchases: Public Safety Equipment.

Worrell asked what will be done with the old equipment. Director Woodard responded that, in many cases, the equipment being replaced is at the point where it is not consistently repairable even with

new parts. It is a better expenditure of Village money to put those repair costs into a new purchase rather than to repair older units at significant costs. The Department may put the old units in a reserve status and scavenge some of the good parts from those regulators to keep the other equipment going.

Craig commented that two of the quotes received on November 10 have expired. Council questioned the delay in bringing this item to Council for consideration.

Hanlin stated that this item was removed from the agenda due to other pressing business and was put back on this agenda.

Roll Call Vote:
Resolution passes unanimously.

AWARD CONTRACT R-99-1 (CULVERT HEADWALL REPAIRS 13 MILE WEST OF LAHSER)

Worrell stated that this project involves repairing a concrete box culvert under 13 Mile Road, west of Lahser Road. The culvert was built in the 1920's and now needs repair to the south headwall. The structure needing repair is not considered a bridge (it is less than 20 feet) and is not on the Critical Bridge List which means it does not qualify for any type of funding.

Three bids were received for the project. The low bidder is L. Loyer Construction Co. from Brownstown, Michigan. This company has not done work for the Village before. Hubbell, Roth & Clark has assured Public Services Director Spallasso that the company is qualified to perform this type of work.

RESOLVED by Worrell, supported by Mooney, that the Beverly Hills Village Council authorizes administration to contract with L. Loyer Construction Co. for the construction of the Culvert Headwall Repairs, Contract RR-99-1, in the low bid amount of \$23,400.00.

Questions from Council and the audience on the project were addressed by Spallasso.

Roll Call Vote:
Resolution passes unanimously.

APPROVE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 1999 AS PRINTED IN THE VILLAGE CALENDAR

MOTION by Mooney, supported by Walsh, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council approves the schedule of meetings for the Village of Beverly Hills Council on the first and third Monday of every month in 1999 at 7:45 p.m. with the following exceptions: Monday, January 18 which is Martin Luther King Day will be moved to Tuesday, January 19; Monday, February 15, 1999 which is President's Day will be moved to Tuesday, February 16, 1999; Monday, July 5, 1999 will be moved to Tuesday, July 6, 1999; Monday, September 6, 1999 will be moved to Tuesday, September 7, 1999 due to the Labor Day holiday.

Motion passes unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS RECAPPED AS OF MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1999

An invoice for professional services rendered by Patricia Beach was tabled at the December 21, 1998 meeting pending an opinion from the Village Attorney. Beach, who is Treasurer for the Village of Bingham Farms, provided consulting services to the Village which involved training the new treasurer.

In a letter dated December 31, 1998, Ryan indicates that he does not find any conflict with this particular billing.

MOTION by Buterbaugh, supported by Craig, to approve the invoice from Patricia Beach for professional services from the 12/21/98 accounts payable list in the amount of \$120.

Motion passes unanimously.

It was noted that the dates are incorrect on the cover sheet of the accounts payable report. It should read "Accounts payable run from 12/22/98 through 1/4/99". Hanlin apologized for the error.

MOTION by Buterbaugh, supported by Craig, that the bills recapped as of January 4, 1999 be approved for payment in the following amounts:

\$137,306.08	General Fund
22,057.26	Major Road Fund
5,136.04	Local Road Fund
237.35	Capital Projects Fund
6,864.76	Water/Sewer Operation Fund

Council members expressed concern with regard to the accuracy of the accounts payable report. Hanlin and Wiszowaty assured Council that the account totals and the detailed list of invoices are correct.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court suggested that administration obtain quotes for the printing of the Villager newsletters.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON'S REPORTS

Craig invited everyone to come out and enjoy themselves at the Winter Family Fun Day in Beverly Park on Sunday, January 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be skating, sledding, refreshments and other activities.

Worrell mentioned that the new Village treasurer's name does not appear on the stamp that validates Village checks. Wiszowaty stated that the checks are valid and the signature change is in process.

Worrell stated that the Council has passed a resolution to approve the creation of an advisory task force to oversee various aspects of the Twelve Towns Drain project. Members representing the Village have been appointed to that task force. The Village received a letter dated December 18, 1998 from Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn regarding the first meeting of the advisory committee on December 10. The meeting did not proceed as he had envisioned.

Kuhn states that, "The communities appear to be proposing the creation of an entity that would be responsible for making all decisions for the Project...". The letter further says, "Neither the Drain Commissioner nor the Drainage Board is prepared to proceed with the Project on the basis of our understanding of the proposal of the Communities." Worrell expressed concern that the Drain Commissioner's comments will result in a delay of the project. He asked Spallasso and Ryan to keep the Council informed on this subject.

Worrell reviewed that Council authorized administration to contract with an engineering consultant to inspect the bridge and render a second opinion on the structural capacity of the Evergreen North Bridge. The report has been completed and indicates a similar opinion to that of the report by Hubbell, Roth & Clark. It has been confirmed that the bridge needs repairs.

Worrell referred to a recent Birmingham Eccentric article about the expansion of 14 Mile Road. Birmingham city commissioners have unanimously approved a resolution directing city staff to begin working with the Road Commission for Oakland County and the Village of Beverly Hills to construct a three-lane road on 14 Mile Road from Greenfield to Southfield.

Worrell stated that discussion of the widening 14 Mile Road started in 1992. A task force was created to keep all interested parties informed of developments with respect to the proposed improvements. Worrell remarked that there are a lot of questions that have to be answered about this project before it proceeds. Beverly Hills will participate and be fully informed on this project. Spallasso will keep Council and the public advised.

Spallasso stated that he attended a preliminary meeting with people from the city of Birmingham and the Road Commission for Oakland County. All parties agreed that the road widening would have a

chance at approval by their respective governing bodies only if a three lane improvement was proposed. Spallasso is waiting for correspondence from the Road Commission summarizing what transpired at that meeting before bringing a report and recommendation before Council.

Worrell remarked that one of his concerns is that not doing anything about improving the condition of 14 Mile Road may cause blight in that section of the Village.

Buterbaugh, who was an alternate member of the 14 Mile Road Task Force several years ago, made several observations about the project. He stated that he will support a three lane road.

Lison commented that he will be interested in hearing the report from Worrell and Spallasso on the proposal.

Walsh asked if there is a plan to expand the intersections of Greenfield, Pierce and Southfield Roads.

Spallasso stated that part of the road widening project will be intersection improvements. Southfield Road will probably have an additional lane for a double southbound left turn movement. He anticipates that Pierce will probably have a five lane intersection to accommodate all the movements. The design work has not been started. It will commence after the Birmingham Commission and Village Council agree to move forward with this project.

Ryan responded to Worrell's comment about the Twelve Towns community advisory committee. Ryan has been attending meetings of the various municipal lawyers regarding the Twelve Towns project. This is a new approach being taken by the 12 Towns members for a number of reasons. Under this permit for the 12 Towns Drain, the County is a permittee and not just the controlling agency. The County will be responsible for its pro rata share for the various County roads.

The communities are proposing a partnership with the County to address issues and make sure that this project, which will be one of the largest public works contracts in the County's history, is done appropriately, efficiently, and cost effectively. Ryan stated that the advisory committee will be proposing an intergovernmental agreement between the 12 Towns communities including the County as a means of managing this project. The advisory committee will continue dialog with Mr. Kuhn and the project will go forward.

Walsh stated that there will be a joint meeting of the Council and Planning Board on Wednesday, January 13, 1999 in the Council meeting room at 7:30 p.m.

On behalf of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Mooney thanked Planning Board member Belaustegui for his efforts on the Fence Ordinance. As a member of the Retirement Board, Mooney has information about an upcoming seminar that board members could attend to receive certification with regard to retirement planning. He would like to place this on the agenda of the next Retirement Board meeting and bring it back to Council for the first meeting in March.

MANAGER'S REPORT

On behalf of Village administration and Council, Hanlin extended her sincere sympathy and condolences to Ellen Marshall and her family on the loss of her father on New Year's Day.

Nominating petitions for Council positions are available at the Village office during business hours starting today through January 25. Three members are up for election in March.

Hanlin complimented Chuck Comeau and his staff on the excellent job of snow removal during the recent storm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bart Lahtinen of 31387 W. Rutland questioned the Village's role in the design of the 14 Mile Road widening project. Worrell responded that the road is under the jurisdiction of Oakland County. They have design engineers who will prepare the plans and present the Village with the path of the road. Worrell has asked the County to stake out the proposed roadway.

Bill Pfeifer of 31287 Heath Court thanked Council for passing the fence ordinance. He thanked Chuck Comeau for the great snow removal job that he and his crew did in the Village.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Craig thanked Comeau for the fine job on snow removal. He commented on the large number of people sledding on the hill in Beverly Park last Sunday after the big snowfall. This confirms the fact that the park is used in the winter months. Craig thinks that the parking lot needs to be blacktopped so that it can be plowed properly and accommodate more cars. He thinks there is a need for a second pavilion or some type of shelter in the park in the area of the sled hill.

Lison commented that the public safety equipment authorized to be purchased tonight will replace equipment that the department has had for 20 years.

Mooney congratulated Comeau on an excellent job of snow removal in the Village. He offered his condolences to Ellen Marshall on the passing of her father. Mooney commented on what a fine person Fran Hadley was. She passed away recently and will be missed by many people in the Village. Fran Hadley and her husband Bob were married for 64 years and lived in Beverly Hills for 45 years.

At the last meeting administration provided a document to Council which was a restatement of Council agendas from January until the end of the year. Mooney stated that he has reviewed this summary of what has been done and does not think that Council has had the kind of direction and vision that he thinks is necessary to go forward and maintain the character of this Village.

Mooney commented that it has been established that this community comes together at Beverly Park. When a community has a park and something that will attract people to that park, the community comes together. He mentioned the Halloween Hoot, summer concerts, and art exhibits which make the community stronger and a more desirable place to live. Mooney thinks Council should take steps to encourage those events that promote a sense of community.

Mooney asked that an item be placed on the agenda of the next Council to consider going out for bids for paving the parking lot in Beverly Park. He would also like an agenda item to discuss providing a new pavilion in the park or renovation of the existing structure. The Village has a master plan for the park. He would like to see steps taken to implement that plan which would encourage a sense of community and increase values of homes in Beverly Hills.

Mooney thinks that Council should move in the direction of encouraging activities which create a greater sense of community. Pat Greening is a community volunteer who organizes events in the park. Mooney suggests appointing her to a quasi-official role in which she could act on behalf of the Village. If Mrs. Greening should ever retire from spearheading community events, these events should not retire with her.

Mooney believes that sidewalks on major roads would promote a sense of community. There has been some interest in this recently from neighborhood associations. He asked that there be an item on the next agenda to obtain a sense of Council on whether to construct sidewalks on major roads.

Mooney remarked that there is concern about whether or not the Village has enough money to do these types of projects or whether it will detract from work on the infrastructure. He maintains that the Village could not solve the sewer problems any quicker if the money necessary to construct sidewalks on major roads or make park improvements was put towards sewer repairs. Mooney suggests that there is money in the General Fund for these improvements to make the community a better place in which to live.

Mooney commented that there has been discussion on Council about a bond issue to accelerate infrastructure improvements. This should be an agenda item if it is important to a majority of Council members.

It will be a hardship on some people if a bond issue passes and there is an increase in taxes. There may be hardships in terms of water bills in the future if communities are called on to help pay for the Detroit CSO projects. Mooney recommends that Council think about whether the Village can help its senior citizens by allowing water bills to be paid in three monthly installments. Council could look into the possibility of making arrangements for the property taxes to be paid on a monthly installment basis. Mooney thinks it might be helpful to have Council study sessions to discuss some of these ideas.

Kennedy stated that Council has met twice a month all year to handle one crucial issue after another. Strategic planning sessions were scheduled twice and voted down. A planning session is scheduled for March after the new Council is elected.

Kennedy believes in vision, goals, and volunteerism. This Council has been heavily occupied with the sewer system issue this year. Discussion of bonding was curtailed on the threat of a lawsuit. Kennedy has suggested that Council move forward to address whether it is feasible to have a vote on

a bond issue. There will be a discussion on financing of sewer system improvements at the next meeting.

Kennedy questions spending money on paving the parking lot in Beverly Park when Council has been advised by Spallasso that heavy equipment will be parking there for ten years during the repair and construction of the sewer system. Kennedy commented that Council is expecting a priority list from the park with respect to implementation of the park master plan. She finds it difficult to bring up and act on visions several weeks before the Council election.

MOTION by Buterbaugh, supported by Walsh, that the meeting be adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously.

Elaine Kennedy
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk