

Present: President Craig; President Pro-Tem Lison; Members: Buterbaugh, Downey, Kennedy, Stearn and Walsh

Absent: None

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

President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:45 in the gymnasium of Greenfield Elementary School at 31200 Fairfax.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION by Lison, supported by Buterbaugh, that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on Monday, January 18, 2000 be approved as submitted.

Motion passes unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA

Dorothy Pfeifer of 160 Charrington Court referred to a remark made at the last Council meeting with regard to the renovation of the Linden Nelson building on Southfield Road. Craig commented that he regrets that Council did not require a screening wall to be erected along the property line. Council approved a site plan for Bed Bath & Beyond with a fence and greenbelt in lieu of a masonry wall. Pfeifer questioned whether there is any way to revisit this situation. She shares Craig's concern about the proximity of the rear parking lot to the adjacent apartment buildings.

Craig responded that the Village cannot modify the approved site plan as long as the work is done in the allowed time. Ryan mentioned that Village representatives can talk to the parties about constructing a wall, but the applicant is under no legal obligation to provide something that is not included in the approved site plan. Craig noted that Council would have to agree to reopen the discussion on the Bed Bath & Beyond site plan in order to suggest this change to the applicant.

DISCUSSION OF MARCH 13, 2000 MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Craig stated that Council is asking the voters to approve a general operating millage cap increase on Monday, March 13, 2000. The ballot question will ask voters to amend the Village Charter to increase the millage cap from 11 mills to 13 mills.

The Charter millage cap was last raised in 1995 to 11 mills. At that time, the Council projected that the 11 mills would be adequate for seven to eight years. This was a close approximation because the Village may be able to operate as it has under the current millage cap for another one or two years

with transfers from the General Fund fund balance. However, a millage cap increase is clearly on the horizon.

Craig explained the effect of the Headlee Amendment on property tax revenue. State Law limits the Village's ability to realize the benefits of Beverly Hills' increasing property values. The Village is only able to increase property taxes by the rate of inflation (Consumer Price Index) or 5%, whichever is less. For the last decade, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has not kept up with most people's wage increases. Since the Headlee Amendment was approved, the Village's ability to raise revenue has been controlled at a rate lower than its biggest expense, which is wages. Every local government in the State will experience this until wage rates and the CPI are closer in line.

In 1998, Council initiated a five year capital improvement plan. The Village Finance Committee was asked to work with administration to develop a five year financial forecast and comprehensive five year plan to determine what is needed to maintain the Village. Craig referred to it as a plan to reinvest in the community. The long list of ideas that came out of this study were narrowed down to the projects identified on the charts displayed this evening. They are projects needed to maintain the services the Village provides today.

The Five Year Capital Plan prepared by the Finance Committee, administration, and Council was unanimously adopted by the Village Council. Faced with an estimated \$2.6 million shortfall in funding capital projects over the next five years, Council agreed to put a question on the ballot that will ask voters for a 2 mill increase in the general operating millage. Craig stated that some of the projects will be addressed and completed in five years while others will be ongoing. He believes that anyone who takes the time to understand this ballot proposal will endorse it.

Craig explained the difference between an increase in general operating millage and a dedicated millage. A dedicated millage is designated for a specific project with a set millage rate for a specific time. Revenue generated by the dedicated millage approved by the voters in 1997 is used only for specific pre-established projects related to the sewer system and the roads. These funds are separate from the general operating budget.

Council is requesting an increase in the general operating millage. It will be the Council's task during annual budget deliberations to make sure these funds are used for the projects that have been identified in the five year capital plan.

Craig referred to a chart on display that projects property tax and other sources of revenue over a five year period along with the Village's operating expenses without the proposed capital projects. He pointed out that the shortfall continues to increase until there is a \$1.3 million shortfall over five years. Craig commented that the Village may be able to operate without reducing services for the next year or two by transferring money from the General Fund fund balance.

The second chart presents the capital improvement projects that were identified and shows a \$2.2 million shortfall to undertake projects needed to maintain the Village in the next five years. The capital project plan includes replacement of water mains, maintenance of ditches, reserve for the

next fire truck purchase, and new computers. Craig elaborated on the projects included in the capital improvement plan.

The bridge on Evergreen Road must be replaced this year. The Village is seeking state and federal funding for this bridge replacement.

Craig used the charts displayed to demonstrate the critical need to start replacing aging water mains in the Village. The number and frequency of water main breaks is increasing with the cost of repairing a main break at \$2,500-\$5,000. The cost to replace one mile of pipe is about \$500,000. When there are many main breaks in close proximity, it is more cost effective to replace the pipe on the whole street than repair individual main breaks. The capital plan proposes spending \$500,000 a year to replace a mile of water main.

The capital plan designates \$84,000 a year to be set aside for fire truck replacement. Over the last several years, Council has budgeted a \$15,000 annual contribution to a fire truck fund. The Village will take delivery on a new fire truck this summer to replace a 1968 vehicle. The cost of the new fire truck is \$249,600. The money in the fire truck replacement fund does not fully cover this. The Village will have to use general fund money to pay the balance due upon delivery of the fire truck this summer.

Beverly Hills has three fire trucks with a program of replacing one truck every 10 years. The next fire truck is due for replacement in 2012 at a projected cost of \$600,000. It is proposed to increase the amount set aside annually for fire truck replacement to cover this anticipated cost.

The Village expects to allocate \$10,000 a year to the park capital improvement fund. A park master plan has been prepared which identifies capital improvements to Beverly Park in the amount of \$800,000 including paving the parking lot, constructing a safe pedestrian entrance, and updating the playground equipment to bring it up to current safety standards. Craig would like to see more money go towards the park, but the figure was kept at \$10,000 annually through the process of developing a consensus on the capital plan projects.

Craig explained that \$20,000 a year is budgeted for technological upgrades for the Village offices. The Village is being compelled by the state, county and residents to become more technically sophisticated.

Craig related that a dedicated millage was passed two years ago to address sewer system problems. Projects such as the catch basin restriction program were undertaken to reduce the amount of storm water that goes into the sewer system. These measures reduced basement flooding but created more rain water on the surface. Ditches are filling up with water which freezes in the winter and accelerates deterioration of the roads.

The Village has never had a regular program to maintain ditches although ditches were an integral part of flood management when they were constructed. They have been filled with dirt by some people and overgrown with vegetation. Ditches have not been cleaned out. Pipes under driveways have collapsed. There is a need to rely on the ditch system, which is not working well. The Village

has earmarked \$20,000 a year to ensure that the Village's ditch system is in proper working order well into the future.

Craig outlined road work that will be occurring on major roads such as 13 Mile, 14 Mile and Southfield Roads. Because these are county roads, Oakland County funds 80% of the cost and the local communities pay the balance for road construction. Fourteen Mile Road will be widened from two lanes to three lanes from Southfield to Greenfield Road. Thirteen Mile Road will be reconstructed from Southfield to Greenfield Roads. The County will cap Southfield Road this year or next year to extend the life of the road five years. It is intended to rebuild Southfield Road in five years with a cost to the Village of \$400,000. The Village and surrounding communities are advocating a boulevard approach to rebuilding Southfield Road.

Craig summarized that, other than technological investments for the Village and a small yearly contribution to the parks, everything else identified in this plan are projects to maintain existing services. The Village would have to levy 1.5 mills for the next five years to pay for these projects. A 2 mill increase will provide some cushion and, hopefully, enable the 13 mill cap to last longer than five years.

Buterbaugh explained that a millage cap is the maximum number of mills that the Village can levy to cover the general operating budget. The actual number of mills levied can be less than the cap and is determined each year during the budgeting process. Buterbaugh elaborated on how the Headlee Amendment affects the millage that can be levied and ultimately affects ongoing programs and allocations to things such as the park.

Buterbaugh talked about the five year financial plan, which identifies the operating needs of the Village and the cost of those needs. A cumulative revenue shortfall of \$5.5 million dollars occurs over the life span of the plan. Approval of the millage cap increase will cover this shortfall. The Council has identified and quantified the needs and will be conveying the information to residents. Village residents will ultimately decide whether the plan will be funded by voting on the millage cap increase.

Buterbaugh discussed the capital projects identified in the capital plan. He made the point that the dedicated millage passed two years ago was for sewer system improvements and local roads. The Village's contribution to improvements on major roads such as Southfield Road, 13 Mile and 14 Mile Roads will be covered by this millage. Buterbaugh stressed that the Village's general operating millage will not be enough to maintain existing services in 2004-2005, and will have to be supplemented. An additional 2 mills is needed in order to keep the current level of services residents have come to expect.

The Village has chosen a "pay as you go" financial strategy. This means projects are not scheduled until funding is available. Floating a bond issue increases and can double the cost of a project. Each year during the budgeting process the Village Council and administration must balance the Village's anticipated revenue and expenses. If the millage cap increase does not pass, some projects may be significantly delayed.

Buterbaugh stated that the Village could function at current levels for a year or two using fund balances before projects would have to be scaled back, postponed or canceled. Another option would be to impose dedicated millages for garbage collection, library services or public safety services. This can be done under current Michigan law without voter approval.

Buterbaugh referred to a chart in the Village calendar that compares the general operating millage rates of area communities. Beverly Hills operating millage at 13.59 mills is less than Birmingham, Berkley, Southfield and Lathrup Village and more than Royal Oak, Troy, Franklin and Bingham Farms. He noted that Franklin and Bingham Farms share a public safety department and that Troy has a volunteer fire department. If the Village's millage rate increased by 2 mills, it would probably still be less than Birmingham, Berkley, Southfield and Lathrup Village.

Buterbaugh commented on the lack of businesses in Beverly Hills to boost the tax revenue. If something is needed in the community, the taxpayers have to pay for it. Buterbaugh concluded that there is no extravagance in this capital project plan. These are things that we need to do to make Beverly Hills the community we all want to live in.

Kennedy stated that the ballot question is a result of more than two years of planning and goal setting. It is incumbent on the Village to identify and plan for its future needs. She stressed the importance of maintaining the infrastructure and continuing existing services at the same level in order to retain property values and compete with neighboring communities for new residents.

Soter Liberty of 20850 W. 13 Mile Road questioned the meaning of the word "need". He concurs that the needs pointed out in tonight's presentation are real. Liberty referred to a letter received by homeowner association president Sherry Suggs from Council president Andy Craig. Liberty read two sentences: "... this millage increase will go toward all of those maintenance needs not addressed by the dedicated millage passed in August of 1997." The last sentence reads, "We firmly believe that this millage increase will help us insure our viability as a quality community for years to come."

Liberty understands that the Village Planning Board is holding a public discussion this week to determine the need for sidewalks or bikeways in the Village and to look at target areas for these sidewalks despite the fact that the community decided in past years that they did not want them. He asked if the financial projections include the cost of maintaining sidewalks and bike paths. He does not consider sidewalks as needs. He moved to Beverly Hills because he liked the rural character without sidewalks. He suggested sending out letters to all Village residents asking them to list what they need.

Craig asserted that the five year capital improvement plan does not include sidewalk construction. The Planning Board is an advisory body with no authority to construct sidewalks. There are a lot of residents who expressed a desire for sidewalks. The Planning Board has undertaken a study to determine if there is a need for sidewalks for safety reasons, where those needs are, how to pay for sidewalks, and how to maintain them. They are in the preliminary stage of a study, which they will

present to Council. Sidewalks may be a question that will come before the voters in the future. Craig noted that sidewalks have been a topic of discussion since the Village was incorporated.

Kennedy emphasized that sidewalk construction is not addressed in the Village master plan. It was the Council's thinking that the decision to plan for sidewalks or bike paths should be a separate public discussion. The concern was that including sidewalks in the master plan would make it a fact. The Planning Board's sidewalk and pedestrian safety study does not put an onus on anyone to approve or finance sidewalk construction.

Norman Rubin of 31020 Rivers Edge Court commended Craig on a straightforward and understandable presentation of the millage cap increase. He agrees that all of the capital items listed are needs. Rubin thinks that a healthy balance is needed in the general operating fund in the event of unexpected situations. The only problem with a \$1.4 million fund balance is that money is available for other uses.

Rubin quoted from the minutes of a joint meeting of the Planning Board and Council held on January 13, 1999 when Council member Mooney stated that he was an advocate of sidewalks and that they could be constructed with money in the general fund, which was over funded. Rubin understands that the Planning Board is a planning body that makes recommendations to Council. However, it sends the wrong message to the voters when the Planning Board is studying sidewalks in the community at the same time the Council is asking for a millage increase to fund capital projects. Rubin also understands that the Council helps the Planning Board set priorities for its annual work program. He would have no problem with the millage cap increase if the Planning Board was not considering plans for sidewalk construction and funding.

Craig stated that it is the charge of representatives of the community to explore an idea when enough people come forward and express a desire for a Village service. There has been a lot of talk about sidewalks and pedestrian safety. Council gave the Planning Board approval to study the need for bikeways, walkways and pedestrian safety and arrive at locations and cost figures. The Planning Board is asking for public input and exploring ideas. Craig hopes that this is not sending the wrong message. He stated that it would take the vote of four people on this Council to approve any money to be spent on sidewalks, and those votes are not there.

Stearn concurred that sidewalks as a practical issue is many public forums away and many votes on Council away. He urged people to focus on the issue at hand, which is to keep the Village running the way people want it to operate.

Alice Pompea of 18380 Warwick, thirty-year resident of Beverly Hills, stated that she was attracted to the lovely area, Birmingham schools, and the low taxes in the Village. She inquired as to how Beverly Hills' millage rate compares with communities in the area. Pompea was informed by Council that the comparison of property tax rates in mills that appears in the 2000 Village calendar reflects only the municipalities' operating tax and not the township, county and school tax. There is a chart that shows the total 1999 property tax rate in Beverly Hills including schools, county, Southfield township and SMART millage as 42.7289 mills.

Craig explained that comparisons are difficult because some communities assess user fees for services such as trash collection or have a volunteer fire department. Communities such as Birmingham have a downtown area whereas Beverly Hills is a bedroom community with few businesses. We derive the majority of our income from residents. Beverly Hills pays for water mains and sewers from taxes whereas some communities include that expense in its water bills. This Village tries to pay for as much as possible from property taxes because it is a tax deductible expense to the resident.

Pompea questioned the effect of increasing valuations on the homes in this area. It was explained that a house is appraised and a new value assessed when it is sold. The new owner will be paying higher taxes based on that higher assessed value. Sales of houses for more than the currently appraised value and house additions have been factored into the five year financial forecast.

Tammy Wilms of 18250 Kirkshire expressed disappointment with the small allocation to Beverly Park. She feels that the park is extremely important to young families and important to property values. She asked what steps could be taken to provide more funding for park improvements.

Craig stated that he would like to see more money go to the park. The majority of the Council members do not agree to allocate more money to the park. The park is not a "need" in the minds of many people. He noted that the Village is exploring a grant application, which will be brought up later in the meeting by Stearn.

Buterbaugh commented that residents interested in supporting the park could join the private group that is raising funds for park improvements.

Kennedy believes that some Council members who support the park think it should be a separate issue to be decided by the voters. She does not think it can be included with the capital needs outlined in the ballot proposal.

Questions about fire truck replacement were addressed by Lison.

Robert Starkman of 20069 Ronsdale commended the Council on the letter that was circulated by Mr. Craig to homeowner association presidents and was distributed to all the homeowners in his area. It clearly explained the millage proposal. The comments expressed this evening indicate that more communication is necessary. People have to be certain that sidewalks and other issues are not part of this millage proposal. Starkman stated that he is firmly in favor of the millage proposition.

Stearn expressed the opinion that the park is a need and not a want, and he favors allotting more money to the park. Other than that, Stearn thinks that Council, the Finance Committee and administration have identified the needs of the community to maintain the level of services and he asks for the voter's support.

Kennedy hopes that the residents realize that the long range projects include the Needs of the Village and not the “wants” and that they support the millage.

Buterbaugh stated that the millage cap increase will allow for these capital needs and make Beverly Hills a more viable community. He suggested that residents attend meetings if they want to relate their input on how this Village should be run. There will be another public forum on the ballot proposal held at Berkshire Middle School on Monday, March 6, 2000.

Walsh stated that he will vote for the millage cap increase because it is something that is needed for the next five years in the Village. The five year capital improvement plan is a result of collaborative efforts of the Council, Finance Committee and administration, and there has been unanimous agreement that the capital items are needed and well documented. Walsh asserted that there is no money allocated to sidewalks in this five year capital plan. He feels that sidewalks are a want and not a need. Council wants to maintain the current level of services and improve the infrastructure. The capital plan includes provisions for improving the technology in the Village in the areas of administration and public safety.

Downey commented that a number of opinions have been heard with respect to what is good for the Village. That is the democratic process. There has been a lot of hard work by the Finance Committee and Council to plan for the future. If other residents want to have a voice in the future of Beverly hills, they should come forward and participate as a volunteer on a board or committee. Applications are available at the municipal office.

Craig stated that he will be voting for this millage increase. The five year capital plan has been scaled down to include items that are truly needs. He would love to see more funding for the park or a sidewalk here or there, but those are not needs and could be discussed at some point in the future.

Craig related that the three Council members who are running for office to retain their position on Council feel that this millage cap increase is more important than their political careers. This millage cap increase is needed for the Village of Beverly Hills, and he hopes everybody supports it.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR FEBRUARY 22 TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM THE 1999 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SOUTHFIELD ROAD ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

RESOLVED by Stearn, supported by Kennedy, to set a public hearing date of February 22, 2000 to review and confirm the 1999 Special Assessment Roll for the Southfield Road Assessment District.

Roll Call Vote:
Resolution passes unanimously.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT WITH METRICOM

Walsh stated that Metricom, Inc. is requesting a Right-of-Way Use Agreement with the Village of Beverly Hills that would allow them to install a radio transmitter on approximately 40 street lights or

utility poles in the community. This technology will provide wireless Internet and e-mail service and local area network access.

Council is in receipt of a map that shows 40-45 tentative locations for the radio transmitters. Spallasso explained that the final locations will be determined once Metricom starts testing the area.

These units are only about nine inches long with a 22-inch antenna extending from the bottom of the transmitter. They will be installed on existing street lights and utility poles. If a pole targeted for a transmitter is located on private property, Metricom will have to arrange a lease agreement with that property owner.

Craig recalled the controversy last year relative to a request to erect a 100 foot tall cell tower on municipal property. This proposal involves delivering a wireless signal with an unobtrusive box that attaches to an existing light pole.

Robert Starkman, attorney representing Metricom and also a Beverly Hills resident, stated that Metricom is based in Los Gatos, California with a small office in Detroit. He displayed the radio transmitter that will be attached to the mast arm of an existing Detroit Edison light pole. It weighs about eight pounds and has all the radio equipment inside. There is no trenching or laying of cable involved. The unit plugs into the light pole. Metricom is metered and billed separately by Detroit Edison.

Starkman stated that Metricom is offering only high speed Internet access and its applications. It is a faster way to reach the Internet without using a phone line. The cost of a 128 KB connection to the Internet will be between \$40-\$50 per month. Metricom just completed installing their units in Chicago and 170 jurisdictions in metropolitan Chicago. They are presently negotiating with 85 jurisdictions in metropolitan Detroit and Ann Arbor. Metricom is hoping to have the system up and running by the end of the summer.

In return for approving the right-of-way agreement, Metricom will pay Beverly Hills 1% of the gross revenue derived from anyone in the Village who subscribes to the service and will furnish the Village with 10 free connections. An annual fee of \$60 per pole will be paid to the owner of the pole. He clarified that every jurisdiction is receiving 1% of adjusted gross revenue with the exception of the City of Detroit which will receive 2%, due to economies of scale.

Starkman stated that a provision was included at the Village Attorney's request granting what is called a "Most Favored Municipality" status to the Village. If Metricom enters into a financial arrangement with another community and the agreement contains terms that the Village believes is in their interest to receive, Metricom will afford Beverly Hills the same terms.

Buterbaugh, Council liaison to the Birmingham Area Cablecasting Board, asked questions, which were addressed by Starkman. Starkman is aware of the Birmingham Area Cable Consortium. He assured Buterbaugh that the individual's use of the Internet through Metricom is as secure as the Internet is now. If Metricom receives any complaints from the Village engineer or individual

residents, the unit will be removed from that location within 24 hours. Starkman stated that there will be a local contact if a subscriber is having problems. There is currently a Southfield office.

Kennedy asked if Metricom has competition. Starkman answered that there is always competition but not at this speed and with this method of delivering service. Right now Metricom is the only company that uses existing Detroit Edison infrastructure to support its wireless box. The contract does not exclude competition.

Starkman explained that the signal goes from the box to a wireless access point. Metricom will use existing resources for an access point every 100 feet where the signals will be bouncing from radio to radio. This aspect will be handled separately and negotiated with each jurisdiction depending on where those points are found to be necessary. Metricom does not build towers. The antenna will go on top of a municipal location or an existing tower.

Stearn observed that there is nothing in the contract that says that the Village can ask Metricom to leave without reasonable cause. Starkman stated that language will be added to the termination clause of the contract saying that the agreement could be terminated upon 180 days notice.

Spallasso remarked that two other companies have approached the Village in the last six months with proposals for use of the right-of-way to bury fiber optics. An agreement has been approved with a contractor representing Oakland County to lay fiber optic line on Southfield Road and 13 Mile Road for a government network. The proposal from Metricom will not be disruptive, and the units will be installed on Detroit Edison property for the most part.

Ryan added that there is a strong presumption by federal law to allow technology to thrive and provide options to consumers. There will be all kinds of proposals and offers of technology proposed in the future that will involve use of Village rights-of-way.

Starkman answered questions posed by residents Norman Rubin, Dorothy Pfeifer, and Tammy Wilms. He related that about 85% of the poles indicated on the grid are existing Detroit Edison poles. Metricom has been around since 1986 and has not been involved in any lawsuits with municipalities.

Ryan outlined several recommended changes to the contract submitted by Metricom, including supplementing the termination paragraph to allow the Village a 180 day termination clause for no reason. He recommends a resolution to approve the contract as amended.

It was suggested that a revised contract be prepared for Council's review before the agreement is approved.

MOTION by Buterbaugh, supported by Kennedy, to table the Right-of-Way Use Agreement with Metricom.

Roll Call Vote:

Stearn - no
Walsh - yes
Buterbaugh - yes
Craig - no
Downey - no
Kennedy - yes
Lison - yes

Motion passes (4 - 3).

REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE A PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

RESOLVED by Lison, supported by Kennedy.

Whereas a public safety officer vacancy is expected by March 1, 2000; and

Whereas the Director of Public Safety has requested approval to hire a new public safety officer outlined in his February 1, 2000 memo to Council;

Therefore be it resolved that the Village of Beverly Hills Council approve the hiring of a new public safety officer as of the date February 7, 2000.

Director Woodard stated that the public safety department requests authorization to hire an officer in anticipation of a projected vacancy. He explained that this will allow a candidate to be brought on board in time to attend the fire academy beginning on February 14. The ability to have this new hire fully trained by August would maintain the required staffing level and save the department four months of overtime costs.

Roll Call Vote:

Resolution passes unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION by Stearn, supported by Downey, that the bills from a period of 1/19/00 through 2/7/00 be approved for payment in the following amounts:

\$435,671.10	General Fund
28,441.84	Major Road Fund
11,441.84	Local Road Fund
51,194.00	Capital Projects Fund
173,648.59	Water/Sewer Operation Fund
<u>35.36</u>	Trust & Agency Fund
<u>\$700,963.80</u>	Total

Questions from Council members were addressed by administration.

Motion passes unanimously.

LIAISON'S REPORTS

As liaison to the Birmingham School District, Downey reported that children will be expected to attend school 47 more hours in the next school year.

Stearn congratulated Parks and Recreation board member Jim O'Reilly for organizing this year's Winter Family Fun Day in Beverly Park. It was a great event and a tremendous success. Stearn congratulated the entire Parks and Recreation Board for their part in the festivities.

Stearn commended Stan Pasieka for the time spent compiling the necessary material for submission and acceptance by the State DNR in preparation for applying for grant money for Beverly Park. The Clean Michigan Initiative program involves matching funds whereby the State will match every local dollar allocated for park projects with up to three dollars. It is proposed to commit privately raised money along with already budgeted capital improvement funds in order to apply for matching funds from the State.

Stearn announced that Parks and Recreation Board member Patricia Greening is organizing another fund raiser for the park. A St. Patrick's day event will be held at the Beverly Hills Club on March 17 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. The cost for an entire family to participate in a variety of activities will be \$25 or \$10 per individual. Beverly Hills Club donated the entire facility to be used for this event. All of the proceeds will go towards park improvements. The only expense to those who attend will be for food sold on the premises.

Kennedy stated that the Birmingham Coalition sponsored a Java and Jam session for teens at Amer=s Deli from 8:00-11:30 p.m. on January 21. It was a big success.

A Downtown Development Authority Basics class is being sponsored by the Elected Officials Academy on Tuesday, March 28 in Lansing if any Council members are interested.

The Village Woman's Club is holding a Ladies Night Out on February 10 at the Beverly Hills Club.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Downey commented that recent information from the public safety department indicates that crimes and fire events were down for 1999. Safety calls were up. He commended the Public Safety Department.

Downey stated that he likes to think of sidewalks as safety paths. He believes that this is an important issue that involves the safety of people who walk, run, or bicycle on main roads.

Downey commented that the Winter Family Fun Day was great but expressed concern about the safety of the children who use the steep part of the sled hill. He thinks that there are some safety improvements that can be made in the park.

Walsh referred to a February 1, 2000 memo from the Director of Public Safety regarding a janitorial service contract entered into for the maintenance of the public safety building. He questions whether this contract should have come before Council for approval.

Hanlin explained why a change in janitorial service providers was made after proposals were received from four companies. The company selected, Sunset Maintenance, has been employed by the Village municipal building for a number of years. If it is the pleasure of Council, this contract will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Craig encouraged people to bring their families to the event being held at the Beverly Hills Club on St. Patrick's Day. Activities will include games, prizes, swimming, volleyball, basketball, and a disk jockey and dancing. Groves and Seaholm High School students looking for community service work can contact Pat Greening or the Village office to volunteer their time.

Craig stated that there are six people running for Village Council. Three candidates are sitting at the table currently. The six candidates are Hildreth Buterbaugh, Andrew Craig, Randy Munguia, Dorothy Pfeifer, Robert Walsh and Sherwin Zamler. Council candidates will have the opportunity to speak for five minutes at the next Council meeting.

MOTION by Kennedy, supported by Buterbaugh, to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously.

Andrew Craig
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk