

Present: Council President Domzal; President Pro-Tem Woodrow; Members: Downey, Koss, McCleary, Pfeifer and Taylor

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Murphy

President Domzal called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. The purpose of the study session is to discuss the action plan developed by Council.

Domzal distributed a refined “Village Council Action Plan” listing items that Council would like to address in the months ahead. The sheet incorporates the approach and time frame for the issues discussed at the May 18 study session. Council will focus today on how this work plan will be approached and what information is needed to proceed. Domzal suggested a brief review of the non-budget items in order to reserve time for budgetary matters.

Elections

Murphy related that an email was received today from State Senator Gilda Jacobs saying that she intends to support the clean up language to the new election law. Murphy will contact the office of State Representative Shelly Taub to learn her assessment of this legislation.

Pfeifer offered to work with Village Clerk Marshall to review the options and present them to Council in a memo for discussion and a decision by October 1.

City v Village

Domzal and Murphy met with Bingham Farms representatives since the last study session for a friendly discussion that included sharing services. Both communities agreed that there are issues that need exploring with respect to city vs. village. There is mutual concern about the cost of library service. Franklin representatives did not attend. Council members thought that it would be good if representatives from the three villages could join in a frank discussion on the future of our communities.

Council concurred that there is a need to compile information on the process of becoming a city, timetable, and cost savings. The information should contain pertinent information from previous studies on this topic. It was noted that the decision will ultimately be made by the electorate. Taylor will chair a committee comprised of Murphy, Pfeifer and Woodrow to gather information and report back to Council in 90 days.

Charter Revision

There was mention made of the failed ballot question relating to limitations on Village expenditures without prior Council approval. Other Charter revisions have been discussed and will be considered at future elections. Pfeifer and Attorney Ryan will provide Council with a recommendation on Charter amendments by September 1, 2004.

Trees – The original charge to the Tree Committee was to develop a tree planting program for the Village. Domzal's preference would be to expand that mission to include related issues. McCleary stated that the committee will provide a recommendation for amending the existing ordinance that requires removal of dead or diseased Elm trees to be more inclusive.

There was discussion on the mechanics of the tree planting program. Trees will be delivered and planted in the Fall. McCleary mentioned that the choice of trees will be more limited than originally expected due to the unavailability of trees this season. The Tree Committee was asked to report on the status of the tree planting program on July 1.

RV Storage - Village Code Enforcement Officer Dan Gosselin submitted a report dated May 28, 2004 on problems associated with the storage of recreational vehicles in Beverly Hills. The current code allows parking and outside storage of recreational vehicles in the rear open space of each residence. Over the past 10 months, the Village has issued 44 notices to homeowners to move or remove recreational vehicles from their property. The vehicles consisted of 16 trailer/campers, 19 boats, and 9 motor homes. These issues have been handled using the current code without issuance of court violations and without overwhelming problems. The only recommendation from Gosselin in terms of tightening the ordinance would be to require any recreational vehicle exceeding 20 feet in length to be stored offsite.

It appears that problems are being handled through code enforcement. The memo from Dan Gosselin will be shared with the Zoning Board of Appeals. The consensus of Council was not to pursue tightening of the ordinance regulating recreational vehicles at this time.

Southfield Road Corridor Study

Domzal informed Planning Board chairperson David Jensen that it is the consensus of Council to place the Southfield Road Corridor Study on hold until such time as recommendations are forthcoming from the Strategic Planning Development Committee.

Fourteen Mile Road Corridor Study

Murphy related that Midwest Bank at 14 Mile and Southfield Roads was bought by Independent Bank. As a federally chartered community bank, Independent Bank is required to demonstrate that it is investing in the community under the Community Reinvestment Act. Murphy raised the possibility of Independent Bank providing reduced interest and no fee home improvement loans to homeowners on 14 Mile Road and other low to moderate income property in the Village.

Domzal stated that he would like to hear from the people living on 14 Mile Road who are most directly affected. He suggested holding a community meeting to explain the program and obtain input from 14 Mile Road residents.

McCleary commented that residents living along 14 Mile Road have been in a state of flux for a number of years, which may be why they are not investing in their homes.

There was the threat of 14 Mile Road being widened to five lanes. The adoption of an Overlay District may result in property owners waiting for a developer to purchase their property in lieu of improving their home.

Council discussed the Overlay Zoning District proposed for the study area on 14 Mile Road and the feasibility of assembling enough property to build townhouses. There was agreement to proceed with the following:

- Administration will promote community development low-interest loans to encourage redevelopment on 14 Mile Road and other low and moderate income areas of the Village.
- Dan Gosselin was directed to prepare a report on his view of the situation on Kirkshire and Fourteen Mile Road in terms of code enforcement .
- An informational meeting will be held with notification mailed to residents on Fourteen Mile Road advising them of a forum to present and discuss the Overlay District proposal for the study area. The meeting will not be scheduled on a regular Council meeting date. It is proposed to televise the meeting on Cable Channel 15.

Strategic Plan

Koss updated Council on the progress of the Strategic Planning Development Committee. At its June 8 meeting, the Committee will work on determining the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Village.

Comments from residents Bunker Kelly and Norm Downey had to do with the results and importance of the community-wide survey.

Murphy clarified the point that Council and Village staff have been working outside of the strategic planning process to address budget concerns and other issues that will be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee.

The Personnel Committee will not consider a recommendation as to the next step with respect to implementing a strategic plan until the process proceeds further. Council was in agreement to let the strategic planning process run its course.

Budget Discussion

Domzal reviewed that the budget/finance subcommittee of Council met and made several recommendations at its November 18, 2003 meeting. It was agreed that the reduction in revenue sharing from the State will be about \$100,000 per year above current reductions. Domzal proposed targeting an additional \$100,000 of immediate cuts from the budget.

The subcommittee talked about a plan to permanently reduce Village expenses while avoiding one-time reductions. There is a need to look at whether to restructure the Village administrative staff and the implications. Murphy will prepare a report on Village

staffing that focuses on long-term savings that will benefit the community from the standpoint of an organizational structure that will be in harmony with where the Village is going in the next 10-15-20 years. Council was asked to offer guidelines for the budget subcommittee's consideration at its next meeting.

Murphy has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with representatives of the Baldwin Library Board. He will ask for an immediate rollback in Beverly Hills library rates. Other library options available to Beverly Hills will be explored.

With regard to the Village's solid waste contract, Murphy has contacted Allied Waste and asked them to submit a proposal to extend the Village's contract for three years with an immediate rollback in rates.

Domzal stated that the Village has a rubbish collection contract with Allied Waste and is under contract with SOCRRA for rubbish disposal. He remarked that people in our community are used to a high level of service, noting that SOCRRA is a costly service.

Council agreed to research the following actions for further discussion:

- A \$100,000 reduction in expenditures including the possibility of targeting the library fee and trash collection. Further cutbacks will be brought before Council for consideration including discontinuing the Villager newsletter and other items.
- Develop a proposal to place the library service issue on the ballot for a vote of the residents as soon as possible.
- Results of a Public Safety Department staffing study will be available for consideration within 30 days. In addition, Manager Murphy will prepare a comprehensive study and recommendations on a long term strategy in terms of restructuring Village administrative staff.

The budget/finance subcommittee will consider these issues and come back to Council with recommendations in terms of further reductions. It was agreed that there is a need to look at all the issues across the board as part of a comprehensive plan before the Village can go to voters with a proposal. Domzal asked that input from residents are considered by the subcommittee.

Pfeifer anticipates that Council will have to put a vote to the residents at some point in time for either a Headlee override or a raise in the millage cap. The Village's operating budget cannot withstand hits such as the \$300,000 attributable to cuts in revenue sharing and the unanticipated cost of tree removal related to the emerald ash borer problem. Only \$230,000 is being transferred from the fund balance to balance the budget. This demonstrates that Council has already made significant reductions in its current budget. There is very little discretionary spending in the budget. Each department has cut back on spending where it could. Over \$100,000 has already been cut from the budget, not

including the funding that administrative staff has been able to generate in terms of grant money.

Domzal agreed that Council has not told its story with regard to the extent to which cuts have already been made. Questions and comments on Village expenses were addressed by Murphy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Norm Downey of 23041 Nottingham Drive suggested that there may be a communication disconnect between residents and Council. He was not aware that there is a budget/finance subcommittee and recommended budget cuts. This is what the residents want to see.

Bunker Kelly of 21526 Corsaut agreed that getting the word out to the populace is important. People have to be aware that we are all trying to cut costs. The Public Safety staffing study recommendations may take time to implement. Kelly asked if savings could be realized by making an offer for early retirement to officers who are eligible for retirement. Kelly thanked Brian Murphy for doing a Village administration staffing study in lieu of bringing in an outside consultant. Kelly addressed the library and trash collection contracts. He emphasized that voters will not say yes to increasing revenues unless they see that the stone has been squeezed.

Domzal suggested that Council meet again in about 30 days to consider the reports and recommendations authorized by Council. Council will review the Public Safety Department and Village administrative staffing reports and recommendations from the budget/finance subcommittee. A Council study session was scheduled for Tuesday, June 29 at 6 p.m.

Motion by McCleary, second by Koss, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Motion passed.

Dave Domzal
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary