

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Spallasso  
Assistant to the Manager, Pasieka  
Village Clerk, Marshall  
Director of Public Safety, Woodard  
Village Attorney, Ryan

President Domzal called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road and wished everyone a happy new year. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

#### **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA**

Pfeifer asked that the agenda be amended to add item D, Proclamation honoring Chuck Comeau.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by McCleary, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Pfeifer, second by McCleary, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Review and consider minutes of a regular Council meeting held on December 21, 2004.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, December 27, 2004.

Motion passed (7 - 0).

#### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

##### **PRESENTATION BY DTE ENERGY REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING TREE GRANT**

Beverly Hills was notified in April 2004 that it would receive two grants for replacement of Village trees. One of the grants was for a matching award of \$3,000 from DTE Energy to plant trees on public property. Through this program, trees were planted along the north portion of Beverly Park in the Beverly Road right-of-way.

Two representatives from DTE Energy were present to talk about the grant program and to formally present a check to the Village for the DTE Energy Tree Planting Program Grant. McCleary introduced Mike Palchesko, regional manager of corporate and government affairs for DTE in Oakland County. Roberta Urbani, DTE environmental planner, spoke about DTE Energy's strong commitment to planting trees.

Urbani shared information on the emerald ash borer threat, concern for diversity of tree stock, and proper planting of trees. In 1998, DTE began an Urban Forestry Grants Program administered by the DNR. One of the recipients is the Village of Beverly Hills. Urbani remarked that DTE is pleased and heartened by Beverly Hills' commitment to its park and is proud to be a part of a project that will benefit people and animals for generations to come.

Palchesko presented Manager Spallasso with a symbolic check to the Village in the amount of \$3,000. He and Urbani were thanked for their presentation, and DTE was thanked for its generous contribution to the Village.

### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR TABULATING LIBRARY SURVEYS**

Library surveys were mailed in the December issue of the Villager newsletter to every household in Beverly Hills. Koss related that approximately 1,000 surveys have been returned of the 4,200 mailed. Requests for proposals to tabulate survey results were sent to six firms, and three quotes were received.

Motion by Koss, second by Pfeifer, that the Village of Beverly Hills accept the lowest bid from Crossbow Research for data entry, coding and tabulation of library surveys mailed to each residence in December 2004 for a cost not to exceed \$1,655. An additional \$300 shall be allocated for a written report following all tabulations. Funds for this expense are available in account number 101-747-890.04.

Questions on the survey tabulation quotes were addressed by Koss.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (7 – 0).

### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER FUNDING FOR WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY**

On behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board, Dan Nelson requested Council's support and sponsorship of the Annual Winter Family Fun Day to be held in Beverly Park on Sunday, January 16 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Nelson, who is organizing the event again this year, distributed a flyer that lists the activities that will take place in Beverly Park (weather permitting) including sledding, skating, winter golf, and snowshoeing. There will be a snow cave igloo, an artist creating an ice sculpture, and hot chocolate.

Motion by McCleary, second by Downey, that the Village Council approve the expenditure of up to \$1,350 for the Winter Family Fun Day event in Beverly Park on Sunday, January 16, 2005. Funds have been reserved in account 101-747-894, Community Action: Special Events.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

**PROCLAMATION HONORING CHUCK COMEAU**

Downey stated that many people in the Beverly Hills community are deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Chuck Comeau on December 23. Chuck Comeau is the owner of Comeau Equipment, a company that has provided public works services to the Village since 1962. Downey offered the following proclamation honoring Chuck Comeau and acknowledging the heartfelt loss to the Beverly Hills staff and citizens.

**PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas,** Beverly Hills has lost a friend of 42 years with the passing of Charles F. Comeau; and

**Whereas,** Chuck and Mickie Comeau formed Comeau Equipment Company in 1962 with Beverly Hills as its sole customer. The company had six employees and served as an example to others of privatization and an efficient provider of public works services;

**Whereas,** Many people in our community have been fortunate to have known Chuck Comeau. He was a man who was devoted to his faith, family and friends;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,** that the Village of Beverly Hills Council acknowledges the passing of a valued friend in Chuck Comeau and recognizes the distinguished service that Mr. Comeau provided to Beverly Hills. On behalf of the Village of Beverly Hills, Council expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and entire staff of the Village on the loss of a remarkable individual.

Everyone present joined in a moment of silence in remembrance of Chuck Comeau.

Resident Kathleen Berwick commented on the fine job that Chuck Comeau did for the Village.

Dorothy Pfeifer related that she has experienced a personal loss with the passing of Chuck Comeau. He was probably the most dedicated and loyal contractor that the Village has ever had the pleasure of knowing. He was a devoted father, grandfather, and husband, and he was a good friend.

Proclamation adopted (7 – 0).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

**REPORTS - MANAGER**

Spallasso reported that the water main replacement project is proceeding on schedule considering the weather conditions. The cooperation and patience of residents has been greatly appreciated during this construction.

The Village will collect and chip Christmas trees this week and next on regularly scheduled trash collection days.

The Village office will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2005 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Spallasso remarked that he lost a friend of 29 years with the passing of Chuck Comeau.

Questions from Council were addressed by Spallasso. He believes that the Road Commission will meet its schedule for reinstalling the Dunblaine traffic signal by mid-January. Road Commission vehicles and staff were at the site today.

Spallasso commented on the progress of sewer main construction on 14 Mile Road. The contractor is in the process of wrapping things up and should be done in two to three weeks weather permitting.

Downey questioned the status of discussions with the City of Birmingham relative to opportunities for sharing services. Spallasso responded that he will be having a preliminary meeting with Birmingham Manager Tom Markus to discuss areas where there may be potential for shared services. Council will be involved in the discussions.

Domzal brought up the topic of continuity of the high standards established by Comeau Equipment for DPW services following the passing of Chuck Comeau.

Spallasso responded that he has a meeting scheduled with Mrs. Comeau. He does not expect any changes at this point in time. Everything is in place for the company to continue to provide the same level of services.

## **COUNCIL**

Koss asked that Director Woodard give an update on a missing persons case that occurred over the weekend.

Director Woodard related that the Public Safety Department employed a new resource to obtain leads on the whereabouts of a young person that went missing from her home on New Year's Eve. The program is called "A Child is Missing". The agency generates a taped message after the Department provides information about the missing person. The message goes out to listed telephone numbers in a certain geographical radius of the person's home in an effort to generate leads. They have the capability of generating 1,000 phone calls per minute. The service refers all tips or comments to the Public Safety desk. It is a service that can be used for missing children, runaways, and challenged adult persons who may have walked away from a situation.

Woodard remarked that the Department used this new program before the public was briefed about the resource, and it caught some people by surprise. A lead was generated from the phone calls. The girl was located, and she returned. Information will be included

in the next *Villager* newsletter to advise residents of the general parameters of the resource. Woodard thanked people for providing the information that they did.

Pfeifer noted that a comment was made earlier in the meeting that park dedicated millage money would be used for a portion of the matching funds required for the DNR tree planting grant. She is not sure that those matching funds should be coming from the park dedicated millage. Pfeifer would like to make this a discussion item for the next Council study session.

Woodrow thanked DTE for its contribution. He appreciates any help the Village can get for tree planting. Woodrow expressed his personal condolences to Chuck Comeau's family.

Taylor stated that there will be a Southfield Township Trustee meeting on Tuesday, January 11. Taylor offered his condolences to Chuck Comeau's family.

McCleary reminded everyone about Winter Family Fun Day on Sunday, January 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Beverly Park.

Downey extended his condolences to the Comeau family. He made a few general comments and observations.

Domzal commented that he received a number of letters from students at Groves High School addressing local issues that they felt were important. He thanked the students for taking the time to write and noted that Council members have responded to students. There are two major high schools within the Village limits and others outside the Village limits. Domzal thinks that students can provide government with a fresh perspective on issues. A number of communities create youth advisory boards that provide a forum for students to put forward their thoughts and input. He thinks that there is a general openness to that sort of forum where a community can hear youth opinions on various issues.

Domzal stated that there is a Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) meeting scheduled for January 13, 2005 at which time DWSD will announce how it is establishing its rates for next year.

Domzal commented that individuals are encouraged to make monetary contributions to the Village whether they are earmarked or not. There are also a number of volunteer opportunities available within the Village. Most are coordinated by service clubs or organizations, but there are additional opportunities. As municipalities move forward to try to do more with fewer tax dollars, there will be opportunities and requests for individuals and groups to step forward and volunteer. Beverly Hills will look for occasions to post volunteer opportunities on the Village web site.

A Council study session is scheduled for Thursday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by McCleary, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Motion passed.

**Dave Domzal**  
**Council President**

**Ellen E. Marshall**  
**Village Clerk**

**Susan Bernard**  
**Recording Secretary**