

Present: President Taylor; President Pro-Tem Walsh; Members: Burry, Koss, Pfeifer, Rijnovean and Woodrow

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Spallasso
Director of Public Safety, Woodard

Council President Taylor called the regular Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Koss, to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining.

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

Council reconvened in open session at 7:32 p.m.

Also Present: Assistant to the Manager, Pasioka
Village Clerk, Marshall
Village Attorney, Ryan
Building Official, Byrwa
Finance Director, Wiszowaty

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Rijnovean, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed (6 – 1).

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2006 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

President Taylor opened the public hearing at 7:34 p.m. for comments on the Village's application for participation in the 2006 Community Development Block Grant program. The Village's allocation for Program Year 2006 is \$18,986.

Norm Downey of 23042 Nottingham Court asked a number of questions regarding the Village's proposed allocation of CDBG funds including why moderate income seniors are provided with assistance for minor home repairs and yard service and the amount of money spent on this work. He asked how senior citizen households are identified and how contractors are selected. Downey questioned whether Council is allocating these funds to the best advantage of the Village.

Walsh clarified that funding for home help programs is available to low to moderate income seniors and these funds are administered through the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council.

Village Clerk Marshall related that program participants must meet federal standards to qualify as low to moderate income families. The Village goes through a procurement process and awards a contract to an agency that will administer the program for Beverly Hills. The Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) has been administering the CDBG home repair and home chore program for a number of years. Invoices are sent to the Village and are forwarded to the County for reimbursement.

No one else wished to be heard; the public hearing was closed at 7:52 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Keila of 2 Riverbank Drive expressed the view that Council meetings have turned into lengthy dialogs at times on items that do not seem to be germane to the business at hand. He referred to discussion at the October 18 meeting regarding Chapter 12 of the Village Charter and the bid process. Keila presented additional facts that were not revealed in connection with a statement made regarding an Ecorse council member who was removed for violating the city charter. He questioned the motivation for comparing bid package hierarchy to egregious acts that occurred in Ecorse. Keila suggested that it would be a better policy for this Council person to give residents all the facts associated with a statement.

Keila respectfully asked Council members without formal legal training to refrain from legal interpretations on complex matters such as the State of Michigan Constitution and the Uniform Budget and Accounting Act. The expertise of the Village Attorney should be utilized for legal interpretations. Keila commented that he does not doubt the dedication, honesty and sincerity of each person sitting on Council. He suggested that a parliamentarian would help focus this Council's attention and direct the dialog. It was Keila's opinion that this Council is off course, and he appealed to fellow residents to help put this Council back on track.

Oakland County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson representing District 17 extended her congratulations to the three new Council members and the Council President. She asked that Council feel free to call on her with their questions and concerns. Gershenson stated that the County had an \$18 million budget shortfall this year, and it has been a difficult process finding areas and services to cut. More serious budget cuts are expected. She understands the financial pressures that cities, villages and townships are experiencing.

Gershenson reminded the public that Oakland County has two prescription relief plans for the uninsured and underinsured. Brochures on these plans are available at the Village office. She also has information for anyone who would like the opportunity to become an Oakland County vendor. Gershenson brought information from the Green Building Council on how to build energy efficient buildings. She provided Council with a Wireless Oakland Update. Beverly Hills was not selected for the initial pilot program. However, all cities and villages that applied will be given priority in the next two rounds. The whole process will be completed in two years.

Gershenson recognized Village Clerk Ellen Marshall as the 2005 Village Clerk of the Year selected by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. She presented Ms. Marshall with a plaque and thanked her on behalf of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners for being such an outstanding public servant. Gershenson applauded Marshall for her commitment to her profession.

Norm Downey of 23042 Nottingham Drive stated that he and other residents are pleased that the new Council President and freshman Council members are fulfilling their responsibility to address the number one priority of the Village, which is to balance the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review and consider minutes of a regular Council meeting held October 18, 2005.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, October 31, 2005.

Motion passed (7 - 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

HALLOWEEN HOOT UPDATE

Patricia Greening of 19289 Riverside reported that the Halloween Hoot held on Sunday, October 23 was a tremendous success with 3,000 people in attendance. It is a day that Village families and friends come together. Many people helped throughout the day. The Boy Scouts helped top and gut pumpkins in the morning, neighborhood association volunteers built kiosks along the trail, Groves High School seniors helped with the enchanted forest, volunteers poured cider and assisted with the cleanup. Greening thanked the three women who helped her make the Hoot a success this year. An expense report was submitted to Council.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROGRAM YEAR 2006 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Before Council for consideration is the application and proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds administered through Oakland County's Community and Home Improvement Division. Municipalities are allocated funds based on population with this year's allocation to Beverly Hills estimated to be \$18,968.

The following is a breakdown of the proposed allocation:

Public Services (Battered & Abused)	\$2,500.00
Public Services (Yard Services)	6,035.00
Minor Home Repair	6,640.00
Planning Services	3,793.00
TOTAL	\$18,968.00

Burry stated that this year's estimated allocation is approximately 10% less than last year. Along with the reduction are other changes that include limiting our allocation for public service activities to a maximum of 45% of the total 2006 allocation and allocating a minimum of \$2,500 for each project.

Motion by Burry, second by Pfeifer, to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, the Village of Beverly Hills has duly advertised a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the proposed use of 2006 Program Year Community Development Block Grant funds in the approximate amount of \$18,968 and;

Whereas, the public hearing was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2005;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that at a regular meeting of the Village of Beverly Hills Council held on November 1, 2005 at the Village municipal offices, 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, that the 2006 Program Year Community Development Block Grant Application in the approximate amount of \$18,968 be approved and submitted along with the required signature page and Subrecipient Agreement signed by the Beverly Hills Council President as follows:

Account	Project Name	Amount
172160-730137	Public Services (Battered & Abused)	\$2,500.00
172160-732170	Public Services (Yard Services)	6,035.00
172170-731227	Minor Home Repair	6,640.00
172150-731360	Planning Services	3,793.00

Questions from Council on the CDBG allocation for this year were addressed by Marshall and Wiszowaty. Council was assured that Village administration regularly reviews its limited options in terms of allocating CDBG grant money.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER CONSULTANT SERVICES

The Village is in receipt of a professional services proposal from Enterprise Computer Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$2,400.00 to renew the Village’s contract for pre-paid computer services. The proposal does not call for an increase in the hourly rate.

Motion by Burry, second by Pfeifer, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council award the purchase of a pre-paid service contract from Enterprise Computer Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$2,400.00. Funds are available for this purchase in Account #100-900-976.00.

In answer to an inquiry, Spallasso stated that the vendor has exceeded the hours of service allocated in the contract in the past and has not charged the Village extra.

Jeffrey Pynnonen of 31724 Allerton Drive commented that the Village’s web site is well done and easy to use. He thinks that the money allocated for computer consultant services is well spent.

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDING CONTRACT FOR BALLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks and Recreation Board has been working on implementing ball field renovations in an effort to complete the Beverly Park improvements outlined in the Park Master Plan. Burry referred to a memo from Assistant Manager Pasieka dated October 27, 2005, which summarized the activity undertaken by the Board and administration to accomplish the ball field project. The original estimate for ball diamond renovations from Hubbell, Roth & Clark of \$158,000 was later revised to \$146,400. A review by a subcommittee of the Park Board resulted in a reduction in the scope of project and a further reduction in the cost estimate to \$72,500. Burry recapped the chronology of plan development and bid process related to this project.

The Beverly Park North Diamond renovation bid packet was approved by the Parks and Recreation Board at its September 15, 2005 meeting. The bid announcement was distributed to the Eccentric newspaper, Construction News Service, the Village web page, and sent directly to nine recommended and qualified bidders. A tenth bidder requested a bid packet. The work would include rotating the north diamond about 15 degrees; replacing, relocating and painting fencing; infield and right field re-grading; new bleachers; dugout reconstruction; and seeding.

Three bids were received. Bids were opened on October 18, 2005 and included one incomplete bid and two acceptable bids. The bid from unacceptable American Fence and Supply was for fencing only. The quote from Nationwide Fence & Supply Co. was in the amount of \$86,979. The bid from Water Management Specialist, Inc. was in the amount of \$59,344.

The Parks and Recreation Board considered the bids and recommended that Council accept the bid from Water Management Specialist with revisions that would reduce the cost to an amount not to exceed \$57,000. It was the intent of the Board members to reduce the cost by refiguring the foul poles and removing the existing bleacher themselves with the assistance of volunteers.

Motion by Burry, second by Koss, that Council accept the bid submitted by Water Management Specialist, Inc. for improvements to the north baseball diamond in an amount not to exceed \$57,000 contingent on the following modifications: a) Eliminate alternate #3) Remove & reinstall two foul poles at a cost of \$2,751.46; b) Eliminate alternate #4 Removal & disposal of existing bleacher at a cost of \$1,534.22; and c) Add \$1,250 to remove concrete in the dugout. Money for this project is available in the Special Park Millage Fund Account #408-900-985. The motion is conditioned on the contractor accepting these changes in writing and on the Village receiving the required insurance certifications.

Jeffery Pynnonen of 31724 Allerton Drive voiced his opposition to improvements to the north diamond. The bleachers are currently located approximately 265 ft. from the bedroom windows of homes on Allerton. Fans using the bleachers cheer loudly at games on Saturday

and Sunday mornings during the baseball season. The noise will become a nuisance with the bleachers located along the fence line. He maintains that placing bleachers closer to the road would also encourage people to park along Allerton. Pynnonen commented that rotating the diamond 15 degrees clockwise would benefit Allerton residents in terms of there being a smaller probability of baseballs being hit into their yards. He believes that the purpose of moving the diamond is to make room for the bleachers. Pynnonen suggested that the current bleachers have 5-10 years of use left. He asked Council to encourage the Parks and Recreation Board members to work with Allerton residents to come up with reasonable improvements to the ball field.

Ralph Lohrengal of 18346 Beverly Road expressed the opinion that the bleachers do not need to be replaced for 5-10 years. He understands that the Little League provides assistance in terms of labor and materials to improve the south baseball diamond. He proposed that those who use the north ball diamond should be charged to help defray the cost of improvements. Lohrengal suggested accepting the low bid from American Fence and Supply for the fence work and engage a landscape company to perform the remaining work.

Eileen Michalak of 31788 Allerton expressed opposition to having any type of bleachers placed near Allerton Road on the basis that it will adversely affect resale value of the homes on Allerton. She expressed the view that dugouts are not safe for young people.

Jim O'Reilly of 31191 Huntley Court, Parks and Recreation Board member, stated that he has been involved in preparing this proposal for ball field improvements. He stated that there is currently a set of bleachers along the first base side of the north diamond and no bleachers along the third base side. Two sets of bleachers are proposed to accommodate families and friends from both teams. The existing bleachers are in a state of disrepair and need replacement. O'Reilly listed a number of entities that use the ball fields.

O'Reilly emphasized that the north diamond is being rotated for safety reasons alone. The left field line cuts straight into Allerton Road with many foul balls hit into Allerton. The ideal solution to prevent this situation is to rotate the field. Another advantage of rotating the field will be to eliminate the safety hazard of spectators walking across the outfield area while a game is underway. The proposed rotation will put the north diamond in the direct configuration of the Little League diamond.

Rotating the field will involve reconfiguring the existing fencing and dugouts. The dugouts will be placed behind fencing and will no longer be on the field of play. The current backstop will remain and be repainted. Stronger fencing materials will be added to the bottom of the third base side of the backstop. The outfield fence will be extended another 55-65 ft., with some of the existing fencing used for this extension. Rotating the field 15 degrees will also involve reconfiguring the infield. The fencing and infield work has to be done at the same time due to the ball field reconfiguration.

Koss commented that the idea of charging people who use the fields has been discussed. She questioned whether deed restrictions for Beverly Park restrict charging for use of ball diamonds.

O'Reilly confirmed that Beverly Hills accepted the donation of Beverly Park with deed restrictions that include the permitted use of the park by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League and Pony League baseball groups, and league football. People are not currently charged for use of the baseball fields, tennis or volleyball courts, concerts in the park, Winter Family Fun Day, or Cub Scout Jamborees. Entities that use the baseball fields are asked to consider a donation to the park. The men's softball league makes a donation to the park every year.

Members of Council asked to receive a definitive answer on whether there is anything in the deed restrictions that prohibit the Village from charging for use of the baseball fields. Spallasso responded that this will be researched.

Questions from Council members were addressed by O'Reilly. Questions included the use of the fields, the need for dugouts, the amount of donations, concerns of Allerton residents, bid specifications, reasons for delay in the bid process, and timetable for completion of the work.

Rijnovean remarked that the Park Master Plan suggests that people who use the park should be enlisted to donate their time, work and money to take care of it. Members of Council would like to see some manner of contribution by the primary users of the north ball diamond.

O'Reilly concurred that the Village can use all the help and contributions it can get to maintain the ball fields. However, work on the fields should be undertaken with supervision. The President of the Little League supervises the upkeep of the south diamond. O'Reilly commented on the part he has played in overseeing field maintenance during his long-term involvement with Little League, Queen of Martyrs teams, and men's softball leagues.

Pfeifer noted that the noise ordinance is not being violated by people using the ball fields for practice or games. The ordinance regulates noise between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. The park closes at 10 p.m., and residents who observe people in the park after that time can call the Public Safety Department.

Phil Keila commented that he has two boys at Detroit County Day School and will check with the Blue and Gold Club to see what contribution, if any, the School makes towards ball diamond upkeep. Keila noted that Boy Scout Troop 1032 has placed a high priority on attending the annual Beverly Park Clean Up.

Woodrow commented that the bid from American Fence Company was not considered because their bid was not complete. They are strictly a fence company and will not do any work on the baseball field. Woodrow clarified that the dugouts are not underground. It is a fenced in area on the field with a bench for people to sit on.

Taylor asked if consideration has been given to relocating the bleachers. O'Reilly restated the reasons why the Parks and Recreation Board feels that the bleachers should be available on both sides of the field. He noted that there are ice skating rinks that are closer than the bleachers will be to Allerton. The bleachers will be no closer than where the current dugout is located.

Walsh related recommendations contained in the Beverly Hills Community Park Master Plan drafted in 1998 regarding the orientation of the north diamond and estimated costs for improvements to fencing and dugouts. The document mentioned continued upgrade and maintenance of the fields as a priority without mentioning reconfiguration, and it referred to a Beverly Hills Little League five year plan.

O'Reilly explained that the Little League developed a five-year plan as part of its requirement for receiving Birmingham Public School grant money for renovation of school district fields used by the Little League. The Little League also raised money at that time to make major improvements to the south diamond and minor improvements to the north diamond in Beverly Park.

Burry questioned whether the Parks and Recreation Board has ever surveyed the citizens along Allerton. O'Reilly responded that he and others have heard from Allerton residents over the years as to what they would and would not like in the park. The improvements have taken their input into account. Allerton residents attend Parks and Recreation Board meetings periodically, and a number of residents were active during the creation of the Park Master Plan. O'Reilly noted that it has been only recently that he has heard objections to the bleachers.

O'Reilly responded to questions on the proposal from Water Management Specialist in response to the bid specifications. He indicated that the bidders were given a deadline to have the work done by December 15. The contractor recommended for the bid award has indicated that he can meet that deadline. The project calls for reseeding in the spring.

Walsh questioned whether the safety issue will be totally addressed with the ball field rotation. She noted that a goal of the Park Master Plan is to minimize disruption to neighbors from park activities. She is opposed to placing bleachers at the Allerton Road fence line. Walsh cited that park improvement priorities set in 2003 indicated that the \$72,000 budget was supposed to be for improvements to both the north and south diamonds.

O'Reilly responded that the south diamond is not a lesser priority. The expense to improve and renovate the south diamond is far less because the Village has been able to use the labor of Little League volunteers and the Boy Scouts. The Village has been able to rely on these groups to save some money so that it can get both fields improved. O'Reilly presented the proposed plan to Little League directors, who did not have objections to the proposal knowing that there was only another \$15,000 allocated toward the Little League diamond.

O'Reilly reiterated that concerns about the safety of Allerton residents is the single biggest reason for rotating the north diamond. The new configuration will minimize the possibility of foul balls going into Allerton. Secondly, it is because of people who cut across the field in order to get to the Little League diamond. He has listened to Allerton residents for years and shares their concerns. The money is not available to move the diamond further away from Allerton. In the opinion of the Parks and Recreation Board, this is the best plan available in terms of ball field configuration with the budgetary constraints that exist.

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court commented that it is unfortunate that the Village cannot charge groups to use the ball fields because of park deed restrictions. As a taxpayer, she questioned why the local government is spending money on parks and recreation and entertainment when it should be reducing the budget. Berwick suggested that landscaping along Allerton would eliminate unsightly views and sounds.

Jeff Pynnonen displayed a diagram of the proposed plan for the ball field improvements and restated his objections to the proposal.

Woodrow thanked O'Reilly for his work on the ball fields and sled hill over the years.

Burry proposed amending the motion to eliminate bleachers along Allerton and retain the bleachers in their current location. Koss did not support the amendment.

Rijnovean supported a compromise with Allerton residents on the location of bleachers.

Vince Borowski of 31115 W. Chelton related that he has two boys who have used the ball fields in Beverly Park in past years. He believes that it is important that the community support all of its citizens and do its part in improving the ball fields. He commented that the people who live on Allerton knew there were ball fields in the park when they moved there.

Leanne Toth of 21605 W. 13 Mile Road pointed out that the discussion of details tonight underscores the importance of bringing proposals to Council for review before bids are sought.

Walsh expressed concerns with the bid proposal from Water Management Specialist in terms of the one-year warranty and the terms of payment. She had questions on the remaining balance for park improvements and the cost of the outstanding projects. Walsh said that she has not been persuaded by tonight's discussion that the project should be approved based on the bids received.

Rijnovean stated that there is \$156,328 remaining in the park millage fund. The proposed ball field contract will bring the balance to \$99,000 for improvements to the tennis, basketball and volleyball courts.

Ms. Michalak voiced opposition to ball diamond improvements on the basis that they would result in more public use of the park.

Roll Call Vote on Motion:

Walsh	- no
Woodrow	- yes
Burry	- no
Koss	- yes
Pfeifer	- yes
Rijnovean	- no
Taylor	- yes

Motion passed (4 – 3).

REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2005/06 BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING EXPENDITURES

Rijnovean proposed that Council direct Village administration to research the current budget and develop solutions to eliminate the depletion of the Village's savings also known as the Fund Balance. This would include a monthly status report commencing on December 6, 2005.

Woodrow noted that Council voted against adding this topic to the agenda of the last Council meeting. The current budget has been approved by the former Council. He expressed the view that it is out of line for this Council to direct administration to scrutinize a budget that has been reviewed and approved. He understands that the Village's fund balance is in good shape at 25% of expenditures. Previous Council's have agreed to spend the fund balance down to 20% of expenditures.

Rijnovean responded that the Village auditors have indicated that the Village could be in trouble and the Finance Director has stated that the Village's fund balance is being depleted.

Pfeifer expressed the view that resurrecting a subject that has been passed by a previous council impugns the integrity of that council. In addition, the current budget was legally adopted, and it is a balanced budget. A municipal budget includes the fund balance as part of its income. Amendments are made to the budget throughout the year. Council and administration understand the fiscal challenges facing municipalities, and the Village operation is proceeding with those budget constraints in mind. Pfeifer maintains that reviewing the current budget would be looking backwards and not forward to the upcoming fiscal year.

Spallasso reported that the estimated amount to be transferred from the fund balance to balance the budget is down to \$155,775 as of today due to an increase in interest on investments, a slight increase in state revenue sharing, decreases in the public services budget, and a plan to reduce retiree health care charges for prescription coverage. This figure has decreased from the original estimate of \$307,000.

Koss mentioned that the current Council will be starting the 2006/07 budget process shortly, which will involve looking for areas where expenditures can be reduced. She thinks it would be an undue burden on administration to review the current budget when they should be preparing to work on the next fiscal year's budget.

Burry agreed that Council and administration should be focusing on next year's budget. He proposed starting early in order to locate cost savings and reduce stress on the fund balance that will be caused by decreases in revenue sharing and contract obligations.

Spallasso stated that administration is providing Council with a monthly statement of revenues and expenses to update them regularly on the Village's financial status. He added that administration is committed to doing everything it can to monitor each line item.

Phil Keila of 2 Riverbank Drive suggested that the upcoming audit report will shed light on where the Village stands in terms of its financial condition. He thinks Council should hear this report before making budget recommendations.

Art Liberty of 20850 W. 13 Mile Road commented that Dave Taylor was elected as Council President because he was the only member of Council who voted against approval of the budget in May. Liberty thought that reductions should have been built into the current budget.

James Calder of 18215 Birwood expressed the view that it is a myth that there is a fiscal crisis in the Village. He has submitted material for Council to read that substantiates this statement. Calder remarked that the \$300,000 transfer from the fund balance to balance the budget was an estimate. The amended budget and the audit report represent a more accurate account of the fund balance. Calder pointed out that the Village's budget includes the cost of trash pick up and disposal as well as library expense. Many communities have a separate millage for these items. He contends that Council has a fiduciary responsibility to its residents and would not be acting in good faith or doing due diligence if it cut \$300,000 out of the current budget.

Taylor agreed that the Village is not in a financial crises at this time; however, he cited the uncertain economic climate of the State. He indicated his support of directing administration to provide Council with a recommendation. Taylor stated that he voted against the budget last May because he felt that the Village was spending into its savings. The Village is healthy financially, and he would like to keep it that way.

Rijnovean recalled that the financial condition of Beverly Hills was the main concern expressed by residents in the recent village-wide survey. She was not aware that the Village had the goal of spending down its fund balance.

Pfeifer suggested that the Council review the annual audit report, which is the real barometer of the financial health of the Village.

Tom Ryan responded to an inquiry from Rijnovean regarding the vote on ball diamond improvements. The Charter states that five votes of Council are needed to appropriate money. The ball diamond contract passed by a 4-3 vote. At Ryan's request, Finance Director Wiszowaty explained why voting on a contract for a special millage fund is not considered an appropriation. The Council does not appropriate money for capital projects funds. That money is set aside by a special millage for a specific purpose.

Rijnovean made a motion that Council direct Village administration to research the current budget and develop solutions to eliminate the depletion of the Village's savings. The motion failed for lack of support.

DISCUSSION – SUGGESTED PROJECTS FOR VILLAGE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rijnovean reviewed that a Finance Committee was established by Council with seven members selected to serve on that body. She proposed three projects that could be directed to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation to Council:

- Research whether the Village could form an electrical co-op with Bingham Farms and Franklin to purchase electricity and save on electrical bills.
- Perform an audit of the Village's phone bill in an attempt to streamline the process and reduce costs.
- Develop a program by which the Village could solicit and accept gifts.

Walsh commented that Council has not yet discussed the goals and objectives of the Finance Committee. She suggested that this be a topic for the next Council meeting agenda.

Woodrow commented that he was appointed as liaison to the Finance Committee when it was formed, and he attempted to schedule a meeting with the members to discuss potential projects. A meeting could not be coordinated before the election. Since then, the liaison positions have changed, and Burry is the new liaison to the Finance Committee. Woodrow suggested that Council members write down items they might want the committee to review and forward them to Burry.

Pfeifer did not think that Council has decided whether the Finance Committee should be an advisory group with an expiration date or a standing committee with specific tasks and goals. She suggested that this be resolved before Council gives tasks to the committee.

In response to an inquiry, Spallasso stated that the previous Finance Committee was created to tackle a specific project. After accomplishing its initial charge, the group was given annual assignments by Council.

There was a consensus of Council to discuss the goals and objectives of the Finance Committee at the next Council meeting.

Art Liberty expressed concern with the selection process and the makeup of the Finance Committee appointed by the previous council.

REPORTS – MANAGER

Spallasso reported that administration is in the process of evaluating its additional insurance coverage for sewer backups obtained by the Village in 2001. The Village may not need coverage to that extent due to improvements made to the combined sewer system. Because of increases being contemplated by the insurance provider, it may be time to evaluate the Village's needs and obtain other proposals. Spallasso will keep Council informed.

Construction of the water main replacement program is about 75% completed including restoration. The remainder of the project will begin in December or January and will be completed by June.

Over four miles of asphalt roads were resurfaced in the last couple of months. The contractor is currently completing minor restoration work along the edges of the roadway. Approximately 2,500 square yards of concrete roadway was replaced this season.

On Saturday, November 5, contractor J.H. Hart with the assistance of the Village DPW will close 13 Mile Road at Greenfield for west bound traffic in order to remove a large dead tree on the north side of the road within the right-of-way. The east bound lane will be open to traffic with possible delays. The work will take the better part of the day.

Arrangements have been made to have the following meetings videotaped and replayed on Municipal Channel 15:

Wednesday, Nov 9, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. – Joint Council/Planning Board meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. – joint Council/Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

A coat drop bin to benefit the “Coats for the Cold” program sponsored by Sheriff Bouchard will be placed in the parking lot from November 2-18. The Village office will be closed on November 11 for Veteran’s Day.

Pfeifer recognized Spallasso’s continued efforts in controlling the costs of operating the Village, which is his job as Village Manager.

COUNCIL

Woodrow clarified that the first draft of the Village Master Plan contains more pages than previously stated by a resident. He mentioned that there were 3,000 people at the Halloween Hoot, and everyone had a great time. Those who organized and helped with the event did an awesome job.

Woodrow asked people on both sides of the Council table to respect the Council seat and what it represents. He asked that people come to Council meetings prepared on issues. Woodrow suggested that members call administration or members of Village boards to ask questions ahead of time in order that business may be conducted in an efficient way.

Walsh reviewed that, at its last meeting, Council talked about adding an organizational meeting to its schedule for 2006 to be held on Tuesday, November 14 for the purpose of swearing in new Council members and electing a president and president pro-tem. Terms of the newly elected Council members will take effect on the Tuesday following the November 7 election. After discussion on the topic, there was a consensus of Council to proceed in this manner. This will be an agenda item for action at the next Council meeting.

Walsh commented on her role at the Council table, noting that her campaign platform focused on open deliberation on Council. Walsh stated that she researches issues and comes to meetings prepared. She asks questions to educate the public, viewers, and other Council members.

Rijnovean commented that she also spends time researching the issues before Council. Council is spending the residents’ money, which she takes very seriously.

Koss announced that the Southfield Township Board of Trustees will meet next Tuesday, November 8 at 8 p.m.

Koss acknowledged the neighboring communities that assisted the Village Public Safety Department with fighting a devastating fire in the Village on Friday, October 21. The departments included the Franklin and Bingham Farms Fire Department, the Berkley DPS, the Oak Park DPS, the Troy Fire Department, and the Southfield Police Department.

Koss recalled that there was an issue before Council on the Tuesday before the fire regarding the purchase of air tanks. The Beverly Hills PSD has 53 tanks. She mentioned that 150 tanks of air were used to fight that fire. Koss commented on the importance of providing the department with the equipment it needs for its operation. Koss also thanked Beverly Hills officers for attending the Halloween Hoot and for donating candy from their union funds.

Pfeifer commended our Public Safety Officers for doing a tremendous job on the recent fire in the Village. Pfeifer thanked Council members for their service. She believes that all members of Council are committed to doing what they feel is the best for this Village.

Taylor read a letter received from a resident commenting on his/her perception of Council members' performances after watching the last Council meeting. Taylor emphasized the importance of allowing all Council members and residents to be heard, but suggested that people make their comments respectfully and within a reasonable amount of time.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Woodrow, to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Dave Taylor
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary