

Present: President Woodrow; President Pro-Tem Koss; Members: Berndt, Oen, Peddie, Pfeifer and Stearn

Absent: None

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

President Woodrow called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, that the agenda be approved as published.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marcia Gershenson, Oakland County Commissioner, reported that the County is in the process of amending the budget it passed last October due to falling tax revenue. A \$5 million shortfall is projected this year. All County Departments have been asked to cut costs, with the Sheriff's Department being asked to cut \$1 million. Commissioners are consulting with municipal police chiefs and public safety directors to determine which services they consider priorities for cities, villages and townships. After meeting with the four chiefs in her district, Gershenson will advocate strongly against cutting those services that the municipalities depend on.

Gershenson announced that the Michigan Campaign for Smokefree Air is challenging its advocates to produce videos, to be placed on YouTube, that tell Michigan's senators why they think Michigan should become the next smoke free state.

There are two remaining County citizen appointments on Friend of the Court and the Oakland County Department of Human Services Agency. BASCC (Birmingham Area Senior Coordinating Council) is offering help with 2007 tax preparation. Those interested in assistance can contact BASCC for an appointment. Gershenson related that the Foreclosure Seminar that has been presented in several communities is now available on the Oakland County website.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court had questions on the list of bills, which were answered by Council and Administration.

Rita Battocletti of 30645 Leemoor was present to speak to Council about the celebration being planned for the 50th Anniversary of the Village. She has volunteered to draw on her event planning experience and service to the community to assist with the upcoming event. A small committee of six people along with representatives from Village administration have been exploring ideas and working on planning a celebration.

Battocletti related how a pancake breakfast at Beverly Park came about as the main event for the 50th anniversary celebration. She mentioned that Council did not want the Village's anniversary event to coattail off the Memorial Day parade and carnival. There is only \$5,000 allocated for the

celebration. The committee talked about the difficulty of planning an all-day affair in June on the first weekend after school is out when the event would compete with graduation parties, swim meets and Father's Day weekend. The committee arrived at the idea of serving a breakfast from 9 am until noon that would be simple and inexpensive. A program could be arranged to acknowledge those who have worked to make the Village a better and safer place.

Cost, timing, and cooperation of the villagers and businesses plays a big part in preparing for this type of celebration. Battocletti said that people willing to volunteer can call the Village office to get in touch with the organization committee. We are looking to showcase the growth of the Village and are in need of materials from the citizens. We are also looking for entertainers, fees for musicians, and children and family activities. The organizers have been meeting since September on the third Tuesday of the month in the Village office from 9-10:30 a.m. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 18.

Battocletti related that a teacher from Pierce Elementary School will spearhead a contest beginning in mid-April for students to produce some type of art work expressing their life in the Village or what they see for the future. The committee is looking for ways to involve high school students through conducting interviews with long-time and new residents for historical memories and to find out why people moved to Beverly Hills.

Invitation letters are being drafted to former committee and council members, local and state dignitaries asking for their appearance at the event on Saturday, June 14th. Battocletti would like this letter approved by the Council President and mailed from Council. She asked for clear direction from Council to move forward on the pancake breakfast.

Woodrow expressed his appreciation for the work that the committee has been doing. He indicated that he was not aware of the proposed plan and suggested that the 50th Anniversary Celebration be an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

Peddie remarked that the 50th Anniversary committee met this morning, and she asked Rita Battocletti to attend tonight's meeting to inform Council of ongoing work on the event. The committee realized that there was a not a lot that could be done with \$5,000 to create a large event. Peddie thought that the pancake breakfast was a great idea that would bring families out to the park.

Woodrow proposed that the 50th Anniversary celebration be a discussion item for the next Council meeting. Information on the 50th Anniversary celebration is available on the Village web site. There will be an article on the event in the next Villager Newsletter.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Koss, second by Peddie, to approve the consent agenda as published.

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of a special Council meeting held January 22, 2008.
- b. Review/consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held February 5, 2008.
- c. Review and file bills recapped as of February 19, 2008.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM 2007 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SOUTHFIELD ROAD BUSINESS ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

The Village maintains the public right-of-way along the Southfield Road business district and assesses the cost of landscape maintenance, water for the sprinkling system, and electrical costs to the property owners on the west side of Southfield Road.

Stearn declared the public hearing open at 7:58 p.m. No one wished to be heard; therefore, the public hearing was closed at 7:59 p.m.

REVIEW AND CONFIRM 2007 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SOUTHFIELD ROAD BUSINESS ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Motion by Stearn, second by Oen, that the Southfield Road Business District incurred the following costs for 2007: maintenance \$3,795.00; water costs for the sprinkling system \$2,974.54; and electrical costs for Beverly Hills Grill \$572.29. In addition, each property incurred a 10% administrative fee for a total of \$834.18. Therefore, the Village of Beverly Hills Council confirms the Village Business District Assessment Roll for the 2007 season in the amount of \$8,076.01 as follows:

Beverly Hills Club	\$ 1,466.47
Bed, Bath & Beyond	573.21
Beverly Hills Grill	859.46
C.G. Holdings, LLC	419.70
Emile's	724.84
Taco Bell	496.07
31333 Building	617.46
Beverly Venture	1,474.44
J & D Karmo Real Estate	1,444.36

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDER EXPENDITURE TO ENGAGE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE IN VILLAGE MANAGER SEARCH

Council is in receipt of a Proposal from the Michigan Municipal League to assist the Village with an Executive Search for a Village Manager to replace Renzo Spallasso. There followed a review of the work plan including the recruitment strategy, interview and selection process, data on MML search facilitators, and project costs. The proposal is available for public review at the Village municipal offices.

Motion by Woodrow, second by Pfeifer, that the Village Council approve the proposal submitted by the Michigan Municipal League to assist Beverly Hills with locating and recruiting a Village Manager for a total fee including costs not to exceed \$10,000.

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDER VIDEO TAPING APRIL 8, 2008 JOINT COUNCIL & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING FOR REBROADCAST ON CHANNEL 15

The Cable Board contract with Bloomfield Community Television (BCTV) for cable access management services permits Beverly Hills to request additional meetings to be taped and aired besides Council meetings. Pfeifer proposed that Council request BCTV to broadcast (on Channel 15) a joint meeting of the Council and Finance Committee scheduled for April 8. The 2008/09 budget will be presented and discussed at this meeting, which would be an opportunity to inform residents of financial conditions that the Village will face during budget preparations.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, that the Beverly Hills Council request Bloomfield Community Television to tape and air a joint meeting of the Council and Finance Committee scheduled for April 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

It was noted that the joint meeting might be broadcast live depending on the BCTV program schedule.

Stearn was opposed to taping a study session on the basis that these informal work sessions are not conducive to being broadcast. He did not think there was a reason to subject volunteer Board members to be filmed while meeting with Council to help them understand issues. Stearn added that boards and committees asked him to keep them off the air last year when he was Council President. People are welcomed to attend all public meetings; Council sessions on the budget will be broadcast on Channel 15.

Berndt agreed that the initial budget session was not a meeting that should be televised. He questioned whether the Finance Committee would be comfortable with this. It was indicated that the Finance Committee was not consulted on the matter.

Pfeifer clarified that the April 8 meeting will be a budget session that does not focus on the Finance Committee. It will be the initial presentation of the budget by administration to Council and the Finance Committee.

Koss expressed the view that residents should have the opportunity to be in on budget deliberations from the beginning. Oen agreed that it was a good way to educate the public about the financial operation of the Village.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court stated that government should be open and honest. She favored broadcasting the budget presentation meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Peddie	- yes
Pfeifer	- yes
Stearn	- no
Woodrow	- yes
Berndt	- no
Koss	- yes
Oen	- yes

Motion passed (5 – 2).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER HIRING 25th OFFICER FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Peddie stated that there has been previous debate on the staffing level of sworn officers in the Beverly Hills Public Safety Department. A memo from Director Woodard to Council dated February 14, 2008 provides background information relative to Department studies, policy and budget discussions, and recent staffing levels.

Peddie related that the Public Safety Department is ready to begin the selection of a candidate for filling the budgeted 25th officer position. A public advertisement for candidates has been made with more than 100 applications received. Once a 25th officer position is approved by Council and filled, the new candidate would be trained to the level where s/he is a counted-for-strength Public Safety Officer. An assignment of a non-probationary PSO would then be made to an Oakland County regional drug task force. Depending on the qualifications that the newly hired candidate brings to the position and the schedule for training, this task force assignment could take place as early as July 2008 or as late as October 2008. The hiring process will proceed further only if approved by a super majority vote of Village Council.

Motion by Peddie, second by Pfeifer, that the Council for the Village of Beverly Hills approve the hiring of a Public Safety Officer to fill the funded 25th officer position in the Public Safety Department.

Peddie said that she was uncomfortable with voting on hiring a 25th officer prior to budget sessions. Just as Oakland County is anticipating revenue shortfalls, the Village has similar concerns for the future. She proposed that Council review the 2008/09 budget prior to making this decision.

Koss did not think that the Village was in a position financially to hire a 25th officer. There would be costs that exceed the budgeted amount in terms of pension contributions and health care. Council needs to be fiscally responsible and decide how to pay for things before putting them into play. She understood that the Mercer Group study suggested this action, but the consultants did not include data on how the Village would pay for this expense long term.

Berndt related that the Mercer Group indicated that the Village has cut too far. He suggested that the Village should look at where its money needs to be invested wisely, and not make mistakes. Berndt expressed the view that Council should act to protect the community. There is a need for investigatory resources to solve crime in the region.

Oen reviewed that the 25th officer was approved in last year's budget and funded for this year. He understands that there will be future costs involved. It was his opinion that it is important for the community to become involved in a regional task force.

Pfeifer clarified that the Village would not be funding a 25th officer to be on the road full time. It would be an exclusive position outside the department with a regional agency.

Director Woodard stated that his memo indicated that, once the new officer has been trained, a non-probationary officer will be assigned to a regional task force at the County level. That person will be working outside but liaising with the department as far as intelligence and drug

enforcement leads. The officer will work from an office at the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.

Stearn recalled that, when Council approved and budgeted for a 25th officer, it was for a second detective in the department. He asked the Director to explain how this officer assigned to a regional task force will help the Village.

Woodard responded that the assignment of an officer to a joint task force will allow some local contribution to that task force mission, which is basically to gain intelligence about drug sales, drug transactions and drug use at the local level and transmit that information into arrests of people selling drugs in the given community. There is criminal activity in this community that bears attention; this is one of the ways that Beverly Hills can provide that awareness.

Stearn expressed the concern that there was not adequate money in the budget to fund this proposal due to additional expenditures. He suggested postponing this discussion to another meeting.

Motion by Stearn, second by Koss, to postpone discussion on the hiring of a 25th officer for the Public Safety Department.

Roll Call Vote:

Pfeifer - no
Stearn - yes
Woodrow - no
Berndt - no
Koss - yes
Oen - no
Peddie - yes
Motion fails (3 – 4).

There followed discussion on the funding available in the budget for the 25th officer position.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court expressed the view that, if there are drug related crimes in the Village, the 25th officer should remain in the community to handle those problems.

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court was opposed to hiring an additional public safety officer to serve on a regional task force due to budgetary issues in southeast Michigan.

Roll Call Vote:

Stearn - yes
Woodrow - yes
Berndt - yes
Koss - no
Oen - yes
Peddie - no
Pfeifer - yes

Motion passed (5 – 2).

DISCUSSION ITEM – CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

At its January 15, 2008 meeting, Stearn suggested that Council provide direction to the Finance Committee and asked that the role of the Finance Committee be set as a discussion item at a future Council meeting.

Council held a study session on January 22, 2008 to update its priorities. At that meeting, Council passed a motion to delegate two projects to the Finance Committee: 1) Develop a Five Year Financial Forecast based on the assumption that existing conditions remain the same and provide recommendations on cutting costs or increasing revenues; and 2) Analyze water and sewer rates and conduct fund risk assessments starting with the Water & Sewer Fund. Stearn was satisfied with that direction to the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee has started work on these items. There was no further discussion on the role of the Finance Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court, referring to a comment made earlier in the meeting, clarified that Southfield Township is not part of the Birmingham area cable consortium and therefore is not entitled to having Board meetings broadcast on the municipal channel.

REPORTS - MANAGER

Spallasso stated that the Public Safety Officer and Command Union contracts have been ratified. Administrative staff met with the Village insurance agent to initiate health care changes, which will result in substantial savings. Spallasso anticipates holding the last meeting with the Dispatch Union next week. A mediator will be involved.

COUNCIL

Peddle reported on a recent Baldwin Library Board meeting. She reminded residents that the library has a wealth of good resources that people can access in these difficult economic times.

Berndt discussed his thoughts on the future financial challenges facing the Village in light of decreasing tax revenue. He talked about the challenge of being in an urban region where there may be a need to increase services. Berndt stressed the point that residents will leave if there are too many cuts. If the Village is going to provide residents with the services they need, it may have to look outside its boundaries and explore alternate ways of doing business that offers financial and functional efficiencies. He talked about unifying to form regional police commissions.

Oen reported that Council had a constructive meeting with the Planning Board on February 13. The Planning Board will be working on a neighborhood study west of Southfield Road and will undertake a Southfield Road corridor study. The Planning Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 27. Oen quoted drug and narcotic violations from the public safety activity statistic sheet provided by Director Woodard.

Stearn stated that the Parks and Recreation Board will meet on Thursday, February 21. The Board has prepared a five year master park plan, which is available for review on the Village website (www.villagebeverlyhills.com). Presumably, the Parks and Recreation Board will put

together numbers for what it hopes to accomplish in terms of capital improvements to the park in the next five years with ways of funding these items.

Stearn referenced a Free Press article stating that Grosse Pointe Shores will vote May 6 on whether to change from a village to a city. He thought that a member of administration or the City Study Committee might benefit from contacting someone from Grosse Point Shores regarding their experience with this process. The article addressed possible ways that a city could save or earn more money to assist the government.

Stearn thanked the volunteers of the Village for all they do. Council heard from a resident volunteer today who is working on the 50th anniversary celebration. Volunteers in Beverly Hills take up a lot of slack by doing things that the Village cannot afford to do. Stearn urged anyone in the community who has an area of expertise that they think might help the Village to offer their services.

Pfeifer announced that the Birmingham Area Cable Board will meet tomorrow morning, February 20, in the council chamber at 7:45 a.m. The main topic of discussion will be to consider the purchase of a new production van. The City Study Committee hopes to have its final meeting on Monday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. The Committee's report to Council is in its final stages and will tentatively be presented at the first Council meeting in March.

Koss stated that she is switching to AT&T for television, Internet and phone services and will provide Council with reports on the quality of service.

Woodrow announced that the Retirement Board will meet on February 26 at 7:30 p.m. Woodrow attended the South Oakland County Mayors Association meeting last week. He commented on unsettling remarks made by the speaker regarding the financial future of the State of Michigan. Woodrow referred to a recent article in Forbes magazine indicating that Oakland County did not make it onto the top 20 list of wealthiest counties in the United States.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber is hosting a legislative reception on Thursday, March 6. There will be a presentation on the regional economic community development forecast. Woodrow will speak on behalf of the Village and has requested input from Council and Board members on how to answer questions that will be presented to him including where he sees the Village's economic position and where he sees the Village in five years.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Hugh Woodrow
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary