

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

Absent: Woodrow

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

President Pro-Tem Koss called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Berndt, second by Oen, to remove business agenda item ‘c’, Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month”, in order to modify the language prior to consideration.

Ayes – Berndt, Koss, Oen, Peddie, Pfeifer

Nays – Stearn

Motion fails (5 – 1).

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

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court pointed out instances of code violations in the community.

Village Attorney Ryan responded that Ms. Berwick may file a complaint with the code enforcement officer relative to whoever she believes is violating the laws of the Village. Spallasso said that he received a communication today from Berwick; the code enforcement officer will assess the items identified by Berwick and take appropriate action.

Paul Kleppert of 20855 W. Fourteen Mile Road thanked Council for the job they are doing and said that he was pleased that they were elected. He noted that Jim O’Reilly made a presentation at the last meeting and received thanks from Council for work done by the Parks and Recreation Board. The community is fortunate to have citizen volunteers, and it is gratifying to see Council respect those contributions. Kleppert commented on a group of negative individuals in the Village and their lack of constructive involvement in the community. Kleppert referred to a building on Southfield Road that has been vacant for over eight years. He appealed to all residents to assist in seeking out an occupant for that space.

Spallasso stated that he put the owners of the 31333 building in touch with a potential tenant that was interested in locating their business in this area.

Pam Murdock of 30414 Georgetown stated that Council took action on November 20, 2007 to grant special use and site plan approval for Detroit Country Day School to construct a

gymnasium subject to Zoning Board of Appeals interpretation and/or waiver of the ordinance requirement for construction of a perimeter sidewalk. She related that a representative from the School asked Council if Country Day could proceed with the construction project prior the decision of the Zoning Board on the sidewalk requirement. Murdock understood Council's intent to be that Country Day would have to go before the Zoning Board for a decision before proceeding with its construction project. That is not the way it happened. Village Attorney Ryan indicated at the meeting that he would talk to the petitioner relative to proceeding with construction after the meeting. Detroit Country Day is under construction at present.

Murdock stated that it is frustrating to residents when they think that the rules are being followed and they are not. Detroit Country Day is a good neighbor and the administrators are reasonable people. She believed that the School would be open to other options available to them in lieu of constructing sidewalks along the entire perimeter of the property. The proper steps were not followed, and Murdock asked if there is anything that can be done about it now. Murdock maintains that Detroit Country Day School has started its construction project and is not being held accountable for sidewalk installation.

Murdock referred to the site plan review ordinance (Section 22.08.290) to make the point that site plan review applies to developments other than single family residential construction. She noted that a recent site plan review of a church expansion incorporated sidewalk along Thirteen Mile Road.

Dennis Page of 30470 Lincolnshire East provided an update on the work that has taken place at Detroit Country Day School in preparation for construction of the gymnasium. He requested a copy of the court reporter's transcript of the March 10, 2008 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting if Council is in receipt of that document.

Page questioned the construction permits issued to Detroit Country Day School. He was informed that the State of Michigan and not the Village issues building permits and conducts inspection on school property. While DCDS must adhere to local ordinances, permits and inspections are handled by the State.

In response to an inquiry, Page was informed that Detroit Country Day School had to produce plans approved by the local municipality before receiving a building permit from the State. Page had questions about Ordinance Section 22.08.290 Site Plan Review. Koss requested that Page compile his questions and submit them to the Village Manager. Pfeifer added that this is not a discussion item on the published agenda.

Stearn understood that there are residents who would like to see sidewalks along major roads. He made the point that the gymnasium at Country Day will be built whether or not sidewalks are required to be constructed along the perimeter. A determination as to the interpretation of the ordinance and/or granting a variance has not been made by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Stearn disagreed with a previous comment that it was Council's intention to stop construction until there was a decision on sidewalk construction. He maintained that this was not addressed or voted on by Council. Council received a legal opinion from the Village Attorney on this matter.

Koss countered that not everyone on Council interprets the intent of Council on this matter in the same way.

Tom Ryan stated that he sent a memo to Council explaining the decision he made on November 20, 2007 relative to whether Detroit Country Day School could begin construction. The gymnasium addition was not integral to whether or not sidewalks would be installed. The Council has done its job in terms of approving the site plan subject to the Zoning Board's interpretation of the ordinance and/or granting a waiver to the ordinance. Ryan did not want to risk future damage issues by holding up construction for a peripheral issue that would be addressed by the Zoning Board of Appeals. He believed this to be a legal issue and not a Village Council matter.

Ryan recapped that Detroit Country Day School representatives presented their case at the March 10, 2008 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. The case was tabled at the request of the petitioner until a larger proportion of Board members were present. There were five members seated to hear Case 1201; the petitioner would need an affirmative vote of five members for either the ordinance interpretation question or the variance request. Ryan stated that an applicant is allowed to table a request until such time as a more complete Board is seated. The Country Day Case will be heard by the Zoning Board on May 12, 2008, and a decision will be made.

Dennis Page commented that this issue is about compliance with the ordinance and not about sidewalks. He had questions and comments regarding compliance with the ordinance and the Village Attorney's contract.

Ryan stated that it was his opinion that the ordinance is being followed. There are no outstanding problems with the actual building proposal, which meets all ordinance requirements. The question remains whether or not there will be a perimeter sidewalk required. That will be decided by the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the decision will be binding.

Koss explained that the Detroit Country Day School site plan approval is not an item on the business agenda; therefore, Council cannot discuss or vote on the matter this evening. She agreed to ask the Council president to place this on the agenda as a discussion item at a future meeting if there are two members of Council in agreement.

Kathleen Berwick commented that she does not see equal enforcement of ordinances if Detroit Country Day School is not required to construct sidewalks around the perimeter of its property. Koss responded that the Zoning Board of Appeals has not made its decision on whether or not Country Day is required to install sidewalks.

Norman Rubin of 31020 Rivers Edge Court remarked that, at the last Council meeting, he asked whether there was diversification among the investments in the Village pension and post benefit retirement funds. His request was based on the fact that, in this period of turmoil in the financial markets and precipitously declining interest rates, diversity of investment is one way of mitigating risk. Manager Spallasso and Finance Director Wiszowaty responded to his inquiry.

Rubin stated that the Village expects its investments to fund commitments made to past and present Village employees for pensions and post-retirement benefits. If any of those investments go bad, it is the citizens of Beverly Hills who will have to make up the losses. Rubin reviewed

the asset allocation and determined that, from a high level view, there is diversification among the investments. The \$17 million Public Safety Pension Fund is managed by an outside firm that employs six different money managers to implement their asset management strategy. Rubin thought that there was a key element missing in the oversight of these funds. Two members of Council sit on the Retirement Board. He suggested that Council should have an audit or oversight committee to monitor the management of the Public Safety Retirement System and Retiree Health Care Fund.

Bob Walsh of 20655 Smallwood Court referred to a recent article in the Detroit News entitled, “Hedge Funds Halt Withdrawals”. He questioned whether the Pension Board has invested in hedge funds.

Stearn did not think that the Public Safety Retirement System portfolio included hedge funds. He added that there are strict state and federal limitations on municipal pension fund investments. The current consultant has done a good job of fund diversification. Investment performance reports are available for public review.

Bob Walsh commented on two labor contracts recently approved by the Village. The Public Safety Officers contract effective January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2009 took two years to negotiate. He outlined three changes in the areas of wages, health care, and educational benefits. Walsh questioned why it took two years to negotiate a 20-page contract that encompassed three changes. The Lieutenants and Sergeants contract with an effective date of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2009 took three years to negotiate. Four changes in this contract include wages, health care, Deferred Retirement Option Plan, and educational benefits.

Stearn commented that both the officer and the command unions made concessions on the major points mentioned by Walsh. Both parties were reasonable and were able to come to a conclusion on these long-overdue negotiations.

Koss suggested that Walsh continue with his comments but submit questions to the Village Manager for a response rather than engaging in a discussion at the meeting. She added that all Village contracts and health care policies are available for public inspection.

Norman Rubin pointed out that, while Public Safety pension funds are restricted by Federal regulations, the Secretary of the Treasury believes that Federal financial regulations are in need of massive overhaul.

Jean Martell of 32231 Verona thanked Council for the sympathy card and expressed her appreciation.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of special Council meeting held March 15, 2008.
- b. Review/consider approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held March 18, 2008.
- c. Review and file bills recapped as of March 31, 2008.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDING THREE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR PAVEMENT MARKING

Bids were solicited for the Village's annual pavement markings including centerlines, edge lines and miscellaneous hand painting. Two contractors provided bids with R.S. Contracting being the low bidder at \$32,400 for the next three years through 2010. R.S. Contracting has done work in the Village previously, and administration has been satisfied with their performance.

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, that the Beverly Hills Village Council accept the bid of R.S. Contracting in the amount of \$32,400 for the next three years (2008, 2009, 2010) to provide services outlined in their bid for painting centerlines, edge markings, and hand painting on Village roads.

Dennis Page asked administration to make sure that the specifications include painting a stop point for vehicles in front of Country Day School on Thirteen Mile Road just west of Lahser Road.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6 – 0).

RECEIVE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MAY 6, 2008

Council members are in receipt of the 2008/2009 Village budget prepared by Administration. A study session to review the budget will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m. Council set Tuesday, May 6, 2008 as a public hearing date on the 2008/2009 budget.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Motion by Peddie, second by Stearn, to adopt the following proclamation:

**Village of Beverly Hills
National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month Proclamation**

Whereas, approximately 9,000 cases of suspected child abuse are reported annually in Oakland County;

Whereas, current reports reveal that one in every four girls and one in every six boys in this country will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday:

Whereas, this reported maltreatment is only a portion of the overall problem threatening our children, for so many cases go unreported:

Whereas, abuse and neglect is suffered by children regardless of age, race or gender in our community:

Whereas, the devastating consequences of physical and emotional abuse of our children effects the community as a whole and finding solutions needs to be attended to by the community as a whole:

Whereas, the state of Michigan has mandatory reporting by professionals working with children of any suspected abuse and neglect incidences - a major step - but more is needed in the community:

Whereas, technology has brought with it a new and dangerous form of child endangerment, the online predator, and parents must be conscientious and monitor their child's computer use:

Whereas, effective abuse and neglect prevention programs succeed because of the involvement and partnerships created among schools, social service agencies, religious and civic organizations, the business community and law enforcement agencies:

Whereas, the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County is a prominent advocate for the safety and protection of all children as a leading resource in the prevention of abuse through intervention, treatment and research, and education in collaboration with other community agencies and organizations.

Children deserve to grow and thrive in an environment that nurtures and keeps them safe. Therefore, the Village of Beverly Hills Council does hereby proclaim April as National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month in Beverly Hills, Michigan. We call upon all citizens, community agencies, organizations and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent the abuse of our children, thereby strengthening and protecting the community in which we live.

Council member Berndt stated that he cannot support this motion. Child abuse is a serious problem, and Berndt personally called upon all citizens, community agencies, organizations and businesses to increase their participation in efforts to prevent the abuse of children. He objected to the language used in several paragraphs of the proclamation and thought that pertinent information had been left out of the proclamation. He preferred that the document be redrafted before coming to Council for consideration.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed (5 – 1).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDING THREE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR STREET SWEEPING SERVICES

The Village opened three bids on March 25, 2008 for its annual major and local street sweeping needs. Bidders quoted on a three-year program for 2008, 2009, and 2010. The lowest bid was submitted by Brock Sweeping, Inc. of Wyandotte for a total contract cost of \$12,340.00. Brock has been providing the Village's street sweeping services for the past four seasons and has performed satisfactorily.

A street sweeping program is required in order to be in compliance with the State issued permit for the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI). Funds are available in the proposed 2008/09 budget in account numbers 202-463-776.70 and 203-463-932.01.

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, that the Beverly Hills Village Council award the 2008, 2009, 2010 street sweeping contract to Brock Sweeping, Inc. of Wyandotte at a cost of \$3,960 for 2008 and 2009 and \$4,420 for 2010 for a total contract cost of \$12,340.00.

Questions on the bids documents were addressed by Oen.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2008 AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Motion by Berndt, second by Oen, to adopt the following Proclamation:

VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS
PROCLAMATION

Whereas, April has been declared as Fair Housing Month in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Federal Fair Housing Act; and

Whereas, this landmark law along with other federal and state legislation strictly prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of sex, color, race, age, religion, national origin, disability, family or marital status; and

Whereas, Fair Housing Month is designated to heighten people's awareness of their rights under the law when pursuing the purchase or rental of housing; and

Whereas, all citizens are entitled to freedom of choice in the selection of housing and are guaranteed certain protections under the law if they are victims of discrimination,

Now, therefore, let it be known that the Village of Beverly Hills does hereby support and proclaim April 2008 as Fair Housing Month.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION APPROVING BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR AUGUST 2008 PRIMARY CREATING FOUR YEAR STAGGERED COUNCIL TERMS

Pfeifer stated that this item was tabled at the last Council meeting in order to allow the Village Attorney an opportunity to consult with the Assistant Attorney General on the ballot language. Pfeifer read the Resolution before Council for consideration and approval.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to adopt the following Resolution:

VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS
RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Village Council, Oakland County, Michigan, held at the Village office at 18500 West Thirteen Mile Road, Village of Beverly Hills, on April 1, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Berndt, Koss, Oen, Peddie, Pfeifer and Stearn

Absent: Woodrow

The following resolution was offered by Pfeifer and supported by Oen:

WHEREAS, on the 5th day of February, 2008, a Resolution proposing a Charter Amendment was introduced and tabled at the meeting of the Village Council; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the statute in such case made and provided, such resolution was published in the Observer-Eccentric, a newspaper circulated within the Village on the 17th day of March 2008; and

WHEREAS, said resolution has been duly laid on the table for at least thirty (30) days;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the following Charter Amendment be voted upon by the qualified electors of the Village of Beverly Hills at a special election in the Village of Beverly Hills to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 to wit:

1. Shall Section 3.5 of the Charter of the Village of Beverly Hills be amended to delete the current provision for the election of all seven (7) council members for a two-year term in November of each even-numbered year and to add provisions for a four-year staggered term for Council Members, commencing with the November 2008 election with a transition two-year term for the four (4) members elected in November 2008?

New Section 3.5 shall be amended to read as follows:

ELECTIVE OFFICERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE:

Elective Officers and Terms of Office, Section 3.5. The elective officers of the Village shall be a village council of seven (7) members. One of said council members shall be in turn elected by the Council as village president. At each regular Village election, in November of each even-numbered year, three or four council persons shall be elected on a single ballot. Each elector shall be entitled to vote for not more than three or four candidates. All terms shall commence with the Tuesday-next following the election. Depending on the number of available council terms, the three or four candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term for the office of councilperson. This provision shall commence in November 2008. To implement this provision, the three candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the November 2008 Village Election shall be elected to terms ending with the 2012 regular Village election. The four council candidates with the next highest number of votes shall be elected to two-year terms ending with the 2010 Village Election.

YES _____

NO _____

2. That Village Clerk shall submit the proposed Charter Amendment to Governor of this State for her review as required by law. Before its submission to the electors of the Village, the Clerk shall give notice thereof as required by law.

AYES: Peddie, Pfeifer, Berndt, Koss and Oen

NAYES: Stearn

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Stearn had a substantive and a procedural problem with the Resolution. He thought that it would be difficult for anyone to run for office for four years. Stearn questioned whether residents had adequate notice and opportunity to be present for tonight's discussion of the Resolution. The notice in the March 16, 2008 Eccentric newspaper indicated that the Resolution would be discussed on March 18.

Pfeifer clarified that Council tabled discussion of this Resolution at the March 18 meeting for further review and consideration at tonight's meeting. Ryan added that the Council agenda for the April 1 meeting was published. This was not a procedural defect in his opinion. Ryan stated that the Resolution will be published before the election if it is passed by Council and receives the approval of the Governor.

Berndt remarked that there was very little public interest expressed relative to this Resolution at the last Council meeting. He expressed the view that it is up to the public to decide whether individuals will want to commit to a four year term. Peddie, Pfeifer and Oen expressed their support of the proposed ballot language creating four-year staggered Council terms.

Paul Kleppert commented on the question of changing to four-year Council terms. His only concern was that there could be all new Council members elected in November of 2008. Kleppert supported placing a ballot resolution before the electorate.

Norman Rubin pointed out that the entire U.S. House of Representatives is reelected biennially.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed (5 – 1).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THE COUNTY-WIDE ASSET MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE WITH OAKLAND COUNTY

The Village of Beverly Hills has received an offer to become a partner with Oakland County in a county-wide Asset Management System. This system will provide the Village with the capabilities of a GIS-based asset management system for water mains, sanitary sewers, combined sewers, road inventory and conditions, sign inventory and sidewalk inventory. Public Services Director Tom Meszler has attended meetings concerning this initiative and proposed that it would be a valuable tool for the Village now and in the future in terms of managing infrastructure with minimal funds.

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is funding the purchase and set-up costs of the software for this program. The cost to the Village will be a \$2,110.00 annual maintenance fee. The fee is based on the percentage of city, village or township (CVT) population versus county total population for all participating communities. The County has affirmed that the cost to each CVT is not dependent on how many cities, villages or townships participate. Meszler

recommended that the Village send a commitment letter to Oakland County agreeing to participate in the county-wide Asset Management System.

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, that the Beverly Hills Village Council authorize the Village Manager to send a letter of commitment to Oakland County agreeing to participate in the county-wide asset management initiative at an annual cost of \$2,110.00. Funds for this expenditure are available in account #592-543-930.08 with a current balance of \$9,660.00 as of March 14, 2008.

Pfeifer questioned whether Southfield Township might opt to pay for this asset management system for all three villages.

Township Clerk Sharon Tischler informed Council that a letter from Beverly Hills requesting Township funding of this initiative could be placed on the agenda for the Tuesday, April 8 Township Board meeting. She will contact the Villages of Bingham Farms and Franklin to determine their interest in the program.

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, to amend the motion to direct a letter to the Township of Southfield requesting that the Township fund the Asset Management System for all three villages.

Roll Call vote on amended motion:
Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSED PUBLIC SAFETY FEE SCHEDULE

Director of Public Safety Woodard presented an update to the current Public Safety Fee Schedule as outlined in his March 19, 2008 memo. The correspondence conveyed information on opportunities to generate revenue for providing services and/or tangible products to the public in the course of its daily operation. Woodard discussed each item in some detail and requested Council approval of the updated fee schedule.

Motion by Peddie, second by Oen, that the Beverly Hills Village Council approve the fees as listed in the Public Safety Department Fee Schedule as reasonable and customary.

Stearn thanked Director Woodard for revising the Department fee schedule. He noted that the Director's letter states that there are other areas of potential cost recovery available to the Department, notably drunk driving case investigations and hazardous materials incident responses. Stearn understands that, if a person is convicted of drunk driving, the court can order the reimbursement of costs to the municipalities.

Woodard stated that the Department does have OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) investigation reimbursement through the District Court. The Village could consider cost recovery for Hazmat responses. He can provide model ordinances to Ryan for consideration.

Stearn questioned whether the Department looked at fee schedules of surrounding communities to determine what they were charging for similar services. Woodard responded that a comparison was made, and the Village's department is in the ballpark.

Pfeifer confirmed that fees charged by the Village cannot exceed the cost of services performed. She inquired about the amount of the proposed increases compared with the previous schedule, which was answered by Woodard.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL COMPUTER CONSULTANT SERVICES WITH ENTERPRISE COMPUTER

The Village of Beverly Hills is in receipt of a professional services proposal from Enterprise Computer Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$2,400 to renew the Village's contract for pre-paid computer support services. The proposal does not call for an increase in the hourly rate.

Enterprise Computer Solutions has performed to the Village's expectations. The firm has created the new Village web page and has not charged for online support or telephone support. Enterprise also assists the Public Safety Department and has worked with the installation of the BSA software for the Building Department.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, that the Beverly Hills Village 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.

Questions from Council were addressed by Spallasso.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REPORTS - MANAGER

Spallasso reminded Council of a joint meeting with the 50th Anniversary Committee on Saturday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m. Lions Club White Cane Week will commence on April 25 through May 4, 2008. Donations will be collected primarily at the Corners shopping center and at Market Fresh.

The water meter replacement program is progressing on schedule with 2500 meters replaced. The Thirteen Mile Road reconstruction project will start on approximately April 15. The road will be open to local traffic. The major work is anticipated to be completed by mid-summer with restoration to follow.

COUNCIL

Berndt announced that the April Zoning Board of Appeals meeting has been canceled. The Detroit Country Day Case will be heard in May.

In response to an inquiry, Director Woodard indicated that there were two incidents today where power lines were down. Berndt commented that a 50th Anniversary crest now appears on Public Safety Department vehicles. He commented on the quick response of Public Safety police and

fire vehicles to a fire call in his neighborhood. Berndt commented on the Detroit Country Day case before the Zoning Board of Appeals, noting that their decision is binding. Berndt stated that he takes issues that come before Council seriously and will vote his conscience and do what he believes is right.

Peddie mentioned that Council will meet to discuss the 50th Anniversary celebration this Saturday.

Stearn questioned whether cable television cameras have been installed in the Southfield Township meeting room. He offered his condolences to Art Liberty on his recent injury. The 50th Anniversary committee will meet with Council at 9 a.m. this Saturday. The joint meeting of Council and the Finance Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

There was discussion on the Detroit Country Day School sidewalk issue tonight. Stearn believed that Council had an obligation to refer this matter to the Zoning Board of Appeals for interpretation of the ordinance and to make a decision relative to granting a variance to the ordinance.

Oen has observed the 50th Anniversary crest on the police vehicles. There were letters placed on the marquee sign in front of the municipal building stating “Celebrating 50 years”. The Village continues to look for sponsors to help with its celebration. The Planning Board met on March 26 to discuss the west side zoning study and the Southfield Road corridor study.

Pfeifer remarked that Council is in receipt of the Public Safety Annual Report. At the last Cable Board meeting, she requested that Bloomfield Community Television run a 50th Anniversary banner on the Beverly Hills identification page. Pfeifer stated that she intends to contact both AT&T and Comcast community service representatives to request their support of the Village’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Koss commented that President Woodrow is experiencing health issues and will be back to preside over the second Council meeting in April.

Koss stated that she had questions regarding the benefits of Beverly Hills becoming a city and would like specific issues addressed by the ad hoc city study committee. She commented on several topics. Her research indicated that increases in State Revenue Sharing funds are not anticipated; a home rule village can set its own millage rate by a vote of the electorate; revenue currently received from the Corners shopping center for Village services may cease if Beverly Hills becomes a city; Board of Review costs were not taken into account in the city study committee report; annexation requires a vote of citizens in both communities with the final determination made by the State Boundary Commission.

Koss questioned whether it is cost effective for the Village to research becoming a city at this time. She is not certain that becoming a city is the answer to the Village’s problems. Costs are going up and revenue is decreasing. Villagers need to come together to make up the difference. Beverly Hills may need to look at sharing services with surrounding communities and engage the assistance of those who can help with the next round of contract negotiations. She asked Pfeifer to forward her questions and comments to the ad hoc city study committee.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Motion passed (6 – 0).

Rosanne Koss
President Pro-Tem

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary