

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Manager, Wilson
Assistant Manager, Marshall
Finance Director, Wiszowaty
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 Pfeifer, second by Oen, to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion passed (7 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doyle Downey of 30865 Lincolnshire West thanked the two members of Council who are retiring after serving the Village long and proudly. As a member of the Beverly Hills Lions Club, Downey mentioned that the organization will be helping with the Halloween Hoot. He related that a crew of Lions Club members meet three times a year to clean up trash along the side of Lahser Road. The Lions Club is scheduling speakers to attend their meetings including Joe Donovan from WWJ and Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren. Village Manager Chris Wilson will join the Lions Club on Thursday, October 23 to talk about the millage cap restoration proposal. If anyone has ideas for other speakers, Downey can be contacted at BeverlyHillsLions@aol.com

Bob Walsh of 20655 Smallwood Court referred to statements made at the last Council meeting by Todd Stearn refuting remarks made by Walsh during public comments. Walsh substantiated comments that he made regarding longevity payments received by Village employees in addition to their salaries. Walsh also took exception to Stearn's statement that this Council inherited a big mess from the previous Council in terms of lapsed public safety union contracts. Walsh made the point that three of the current Council members served on the previous Council. Walsh expressed opposition to the millage restoration ballot proposal on the basis that it represents a 17% tax increase.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court, Township Clerk, stated that absentee ballots are available at the Southfield Township office. AV ballots were mailed on September 30 to Township residents who submitted applications for the August primary and those who submitted applications between August and the end of September. Residents who have not received their AV ballots should contact the Township office and request a new ballot to be mailed to them.

Dave Taylor of 16950 Buckingham stated that he has been involved in state and national family, child and senior issues since he left the Village Council. He has recently formed a political action committee representing Village voters who oppose the millage restoration ballot proposal. He

called attention to the fact that people are struggling during these hard economic times. Taylor said that he would be interested in knowing if the ballot proposal will result in a higher tax rate than residents are paying now. Taylor displayed a sign saying Ax the Beverly Tax.

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire thanked Hugh Woodrow and Dorothy Pfeifer for their service on Council and elaborated on their contributions and accomplishments to the Village. Mooney explained that the Village ballot proposal would restore the millage rate approved by the electorate in 1995. The 11 mill cap has been reduced to 9.3 mills due to the Headlee Amendment. Mooney concurred that there has been a 30% increase over seven years in the cost of doing business in Beverly Hills, noting that the cost of running a household has increased more than that over the same time period. Mooney related that Village services will be in jeopardy if the millage proposal does not pass. He urged residents to restore the millage cap to the level approved in 1995.

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court noted the absence of several neighboring communities in the brochure distributed by the Village to explain the millage restoration ballot proposal. She expressed opposition to increased taxes.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of a Council meeting held October 7, 2008.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Tuesday, October 14, 2008.
- c. Receive and consider final payment to Scodeller Construction for Contract 3R-06-04.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Stearn stated that Beverly Hills has participated in the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for about 25 years. The program is administered through Oakland County's Community & Home Improvement Division. The yearly allocation is based on a formula that applies several objective measures of community needs including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

The Village's estimated allocation for Program Year 2009 is \$16,544. Council is being asked to consider allocating these funds for minor home repair services for use by low to moderate income senior citizens, yard services for senior citizens, planning consultant services related to village-wide planning activities, and for battered and abused spouse shelter and counseling. The Village contracts with the Birmingham Area Senior Coordinating Council (BASCC) to administer funds set aside for the minor home repair and yard services programs.

President Woodrow opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m. for comments on the Village's application for participation in the 2009 Community Development Block Grant program. No one wished to be heard; the public hearing was closed at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Stearn, second by Oen, to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas, the Village of Beverly Hills has duly advertised a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments regarding the proposed use of PY 2009 Community Development Block Grant funds in the approximate amount of \$16,544 and;

Whereas, a public hearing to receive public comments regarding the proposed use of PY 2009 Community Development Block Grant was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that at a regular meeting of the Village of Beverly Hills Council held on October 21, 2008 at the Village municipal offices, 18500 W. 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025, the Council approved the PY 2009 Community Development Block Grant Application in the approximate amount of \$16,544 and authorized the Council President to sign and submit the application as follows:

Account	Project Name	Amount
172170-731227	Minor Home Repair	\$5,790.00
172160-732170	Public Services (Yard Services)	4,945.00
172150-731360	Planning Services	3,309.00
172160-730137-40620	Public Services (Battered & Abused)	2,500.00

The \$2,500 allocated for Public Services (Battered and Abused) will be administered through an Oakland County contract for the specified activity. Beverly Hills authorizes Oakland County Community & Home Improvement to reprogram these funds to the county level program line item after the County releases 2009 CDBG funds in June, 2009.

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDER LIABILITY AND PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Village is provided with property and liability insurance through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). The Village has contracted with MMRMA for services since 2000 and also prior to 1996. Before Council for consideration is a 2008/2009 renewal policy with MMRMA, which offers the same policy coverage as last year. The policy provides a \$10,000,000 limit of liability with a \$75,000 self-insured retention fund. There is also a \$500,000 limit on coverage for sewer backup. The premium cost for property and liability coverage over the next 12 months is \$122,592, which represents a 2% decrease from last year's premium of \$125,138.

Motion by Stearn, second by Koss, that the Village Council renew its property and liability insurance policy with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority to reflect a \$10,000,000 Limit of Liability, with a \$75,000 Self-Insured Retention, which includes \$500,000 for sewer back-up coverage and approve the proposal from MMRMA in the amount of \$122,592. The insurance costs will be paid from budgeted line items in the General Fund and the Enterprise Funds.

Council further resolves that the funds distributed to the Village of Beverly Hills from the MMRMA “Net Asset Distribution” be used in the amount of \$15,000 to increase the self-funding to \$75,000 and refund the difference of \$10,253 to the Village of Beverly Hills.

Questions and comments from Council were addressed by Wilson. Craig Manser from IBEX Insurance Agency representing MMRMA addressed an inquiry regarding the Village’s coverage for sewer backup. The sewer backup liability is \$500,000 per occurrence and aggregate (per policy period). In answer to whether this is the proper amount of coverage, Ryan related that there are very few companies that offer sewer backup liability, and this is about the most the Village can obtain in terms of this type of insurance. He added that the Village has been proactive with infrastructure improvements that would prevent sewer backups.

Stearn suggested that Council seek proposals next year from other companies that provide municipal insurance. Wilson mentioned that the two main providers in this market are MMRMA and the Michigan Municipal League Liability Pool. There is a provision in the Village’s renewal contract that requires a 90 day notice of non-renewal.

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

PRESENTATION OF JUNE 30, 2008 AUDIT BY PLANTE & MORAN

Wisowaty introduced Blake Roe and Tim St. Andrew from Plante & Moran, who will present the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2008. Council members are in receipt of the general purpose financial statements for the Village, report to the Village Council, and a graph package. Roe informed Council that Beverly Hills has an unqualified audit opinion this year, which means that the Village’s accounting records are presented in accordance with the accounting standards mandated by the State.

Roe presented information on new audit standards in effect. The definition of an audit has been changed and audits are subject to new regulations. He referred to the Statements on Auditing Standards (SAS) #109, which required Village staff to produce documentation on internal controls and procedures so they could be tested to reduce the potential for errors. Another new standard was SAS 114, which will be addressed in the review of the Report to the Village Council.

Roe presented an overview of the Village’s financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. The General Fund was budgeted to use almost \$200,000 of the fund balance, but just over \$100,000 of the fund balanced was used. The major street fund did not use as much of the fund balance as planned. The other funds covered their own costs.

St. Andrew referred to a graph showing General Fund Revenue by major category. Property Taxes represent 75% of the Village’s revenue source, and state shared revenue represents 12% of revenue. He indicated that there could be changes in laws related to the tax base that will directly effect property tax revenue; there will be uncertainties in terms of state shared revenue. A chart of General Fund Expenditures by Major Category illustrates that salaries, fringe benefits, retiree health care, and retirement make up a large portion of Village expenditures, which is typical for an entity that is in the business of providing service. St. Andrew pointed out that it is important

to consider hiring, staffing levels, and benefits in order to control costs. A slide depicting General Fund Balance compared to minimum target shows that the Village is currently at 20% of its general fund expenditures level as set by Council. Not many communities are at this level in this economy.

Roe stated that, over the past couple of years, Plante & Moran has not seen communities the size of Beverly Hills be as successful as the Village has been with maintaining costs in lieu of only slight increases in revenue along with decreasing state shared revenue. The bad news is that the economy will get worse before it gets better. It is important to have an adequate level of fund balance to dip into for the next few years.

Roe mentioned that there are proposals at the state level that could drastically affect property tax levels. The Headlee reduction fraction has reduced the Charter operating millage by 16-17 percent. Oakland County is anticipating reductions in the taxable value going into the next fiscal year, which will directly affect the tax level that can be levied. Roe referred to “super cap” legislation that has passed the State house. If it is put before the people on a ballot and approved, it would prevent taxable value from being raised at all. Property tax represents 75% of the Village’s revenue stream. Costs will continue to increase. Difficult decisions will have to be made because almost 70% of Village costs are people related. It will come to a point of prioritizing services and determining where cuts will be made.

Pfeifer referred to page 27 of the audit report and noted that there is a deficit shown in terms of construction code fees. It appears that the Village is not collecting enough fees to offset the cost of providing service.

Roe responded that this footnote reveals the amount raised under building permits and fees and the associated costs. The Village has not charged enough through permit fees to cover costs. It could raise fees to cover the surplus that has been accumulating. He added that the deficit may be intentional in terms of promoting growth in construction. A municipality is not allowed to make money on permits. Stearn mentioned that the deficit could have resulted from experiencing less building than expected because of the state of the economy. It could be that proper fees were set, but less people are building.

Roe referred to the Report to the Village Council portion of the audit report, which has three sections. The Report on Internal Control did not indicate any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. There are five items that have come to the attention of the auditors. They are points that the auditors would like the Village to think about and act on.

The next part of the report relates to SAS 114, which involves the auditing firm communicating with those charged with governance. The document addresses the responsibilities of the auditor and the timing and scope of the audit. It provides information on corrected and uncorrected misstatements, disagreements with management, management’s representations, etc. Roe reported that none of the issues outlined occurred in Beverly Hills.

The third part of the report lists legislative items for the Village to review and consider. Roe noticed that one of the items regarding the FACT Act will be addressed as part of tonight’s Council meeting agenda. This involves safeguarding personal identification related to billing

systems. Roe encouraged Council to examine the informational and legislative items provided in the report and to pay particular attention to anything going on in Lansing that can effect its ability to levy property taxes.

Questions from Council relative to reporting on other postemployment benefits were addressed by Roe. In response to an inquiry, Wilson stated that he and Wiszowaty will draft a report to Council addressing the recommendations from the auditor. Roe thanked Council for allowing Plante & Moran to serve the Village.

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE – ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND USES IN RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICTS

An amendment to the Zoning Ordinance related to accessory buildings has been reviewed by the Planning Board at the direction of Council. Over a number of months the Planning Board compiled and analyzed data relative to regulating accessory buildings and structures with the intent being to deter potential problems with garages and accessory buildings that are outsized and out of character with a neighborhood.

Oen proceeded with a first reading of amendments to the Village Zoning Ordinance affecting Section 22.04 Definitions and Section 22.08.100 Accessory Buildings, Structures and Uses in Residential Zone Districts. He addressed changes to specific paragraphs that were previously identified as areas of concern by members of Council in terms of language or intent.

Berndt referred to section “i” and questioned why the Planning Board is the determining body and not the Zoning Board of Appeals. He also suggested that the word ‘exterior’ be inserted before ‘wall length’. It was the consensus of Council to add this word.

It was clarified that the proposed language in paragraph ‘i’ is intended to provide the Planning Board and applicants with flexibility in terms of design where it can be demonstrated that no harm will come to surrounding properties. It is not intended to reflect the need for a variance, which is a much more stringent case to approve. Ryan affirmed that, as long as a wall does not exceed the zoning ordinance requirements, the Planning Board is given discretion to review the design and approve a plan that will conform with the neighborhood. If the ordinance maximums are exceeded, the applicant must go to the Zoning Board.

Patrick Westerlund, Planning Board member, concurred that the applicant would have to go before the ZBA if the wall length exceeded the zoning ordinance maximum. The Planning Board did not want to restrict people from improving their property. The intent would be to discuss options that would improve the aesthetic appearance of a structure and make it fit within the context of the neighborhood.

Stearn explained further that an applicant who requests a variance in terms of paragraphs ‘a’ through ‘h’ would have to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals. For item ‘i’, design issues related to length of walls can be determined by the Planning Board.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court questioned the definition of useable floor area. She was informed that residential useable floor area consists of the useable floor area of the principal building excluding the garage even if it is attached.

Kathleen Berwick of 31381 Kennoway Court has observed residences in the Village with three accessory buildings on a lot. She questioned who will enforce this ordinance.

Ryan stated that a lot with more than two accessory buildings could be considered to have a nonconforming use, depending on when the buildings were constructed and the ordinance restrictions that existed at that time. Those nonconforming structures could not be replaced.

Council directed Attorney Tom Ryan to prepare the zoning ordinance amendments in proper ordinance form for the second reading.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER FINAL PAYMENT TO PAMAR ENTERPRISES FOR THE ACACIA DRAIN RELIEF SEWER – PHASE 3

Before Council for consideration is the final payment request from Pamar Enterprises in the amount of \$29,973.16 for the Acacia Park Drain Relief Sewer – Phase 3 Project. The total value of work performed for this project was \$1,877,521.97; the City of Birmingham's share was 29.79% and the Village's share was 70.21 percent. The total cost of the project to the Village was \$1,318,208. The bid amount was \$1,998,133.00; therefore, the project is \$120,611.03 under the original bid price.

Motion by Oen, second by Pfeifer, that the Village Council approve the final payment to Pamar Enterprises for the Acacia Drain Relief Sewer – Phase 3 Project in the amount of \$29,973.16. The Village portion of the payment is \$21,044.16. Funds for the project are available in account #402-451-811.82.

Stearn asked if this completes the overall Acacia Drain Relief Sewer Project. He recalled that residents came before Council many times with the concern that the project would be under funded by \$4 million.

Wilson affirmed that there was sufficient dedicated millage money to complete the Acacia Drain Relief Sewer Project. Recent rain events were a good testament to the positive sewer relief work that has been done. There are still ongoing sewer issues that need to be addressed due to the age of the system, and there will be difficult right-of-way issues to undertake. Infrastructure needs will continue to be addressed on a project by project basis. In response to a comment from Pfeifer, Wilson will consult with Renzo Spallasso on local sewer improvements that were discussed as part of the Acacia project.

John Mooney recalled the outcry from a group of residents who suggested that the Village would have a \$4 million deficit at the completion of Phase 3. The project came in under budget. Dave Taylor congratulated Council on completing the Acacia Drain Relief Sewer project under budget.

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

REVIEW AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF IDENTITY THEFT POLICY

Manager Wilson stated that the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA) of 2003 has required entities defined as creditors to implement an anti-theft prevention program. The Village is defined as a creditor because it provides utility services and will be required to implement an identity theft policy by November 1, 2008. Clerk Marshall has reviewed sample policies and has prepared a draft policy for Council consideration. Village Attorney Ryan has reviewed and approved the policy.

Beverly Hills must insure that people who establish accounts are who they claim to be and that the Village protects information such as names and addresses of people who provide that information. If the policy is approved by Council, there will be an employee training session held on Wednesday, October 22. Questions from Council were addressed by Wilson.

Motion by Stearn, second by Koss, to approve the Village of Beverly Hills Identify Theft Prevention Program as presented.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

DISCUSSION ITEM – AGENT OF RECORD FOR MUNICIPAL HEALTH CARE AND RETIREE BENEFITS

Woodrow reviewed that the Cornerstone Group made a presentation to both the Retirement Board and Village Council earlier this year. Their company would provide the standard services with respect to administration of health benefits and would also assist in establishing a long-term strategy for healthcare and retiree benefits. The Village currently contracts with Ibex Insurance Agency for risk management and insurance services. The cost of their service is built into the insurance premium rates.

Council is in receipt of a packet of information and a proposal from Cornerstone Group to provide the Village with a Healthcare & Benefits Consulting Services Agreement. In addition to the standard services, Cornerstone provides the following functions that differentiate their company from a traditional agency:

- Work with the Village’s collective bargaining team to develop a benefit plan strategy and plan design options with an eye on the impact of retiree health care costs.
- Assemble a cross-functional team to “dissect” the GASB 45 liability
- Provide semi-annual Council updates on the Village’s health care plan costs and progress towards stated goals and objectives
- Conduct RFPs as called for under the recently passed P.A. 106 legislation and explore Health Care Pools as they develop across Michigan
- Work with Village attorney to explore the establishment of a Health Care Trust for future funding of GASB 45 liabilities

Woodrow stated that Village Administration has recommended soliciting proposals from other service providers if Council is interested in making a change in its insurance agency. Cornerstone has submitted a proposal to the Village and representatives from the company are present at this meeting. Woodrow asked for Council discussion on this topic.

Peddie commented that it was not until after hearing a presentation from Cornerstone Group that she became aware that the Ibex Insurance Agency has been providing a number of the same services for the Village. Ibex has not been providing Council with updates on Village health care issues. Peddie stated that Village administration is pleased with the performance of Ibex. The company was involved in assisting the Village with restructuring retiree prescription drug coverage, which has saved Beverly Hills \$384,000 over the last three years. Peddie agreed that it may be beneficial to seek proposals from companies who provide traditional insurance agent services as well as additional levels of service that relate to retiree health care issues, collective bargaining, current auditing requirements, and new legislation.

Koss related that she too was not aware of the service provided by the current agent until a comprehensive presentation was made by an Ibex representative at a recent Council meeting. Council now has increased expectations from Ibex. The Village will be negotiating union contracts again and will need guidance on health care issues. This should be a topic of discussion.

Pfeifer thought that the function of the agency providing insurance services and consulting to municipalities should fall under the purview of administrative. She agreed that it is Council's prerogative to seek proposals from other providers. Attorney Ryan remarked that the insurance agency is an outside provider with a contract that requires Council approval.

Stearn stated that due diligence must be done to select a company that will provide the Village with benefit plan consulting as it relates to retiree health care issues. The agent should have been available to inform the public on what measures Council was trying to take on health care costs and other issues. Stearn suggested seeking proposals for this service.

Mark Manquen from Cornerstone Municipal Advisory Group understood that there was a process for choosing a vendor for professional services. He stressed that the health care environment is changing. A broker used to provide a fairly simple job of acting as a liaison with health care plan providers. The insurance consultant is now involved in understanding government accounting standards and working to reduce post retiree health care liability. Michigan legislation will change the dynamics over the next five years. It will require municipalities to go out for bids for health care every three years; it will enable health care pools to be established in Michigan. The Village will need a consultant who not only understands Blue Cross/Blue Shield but will have to understand state legislation, government accounting standards, and nuances of collective bargaining in order to pass on plan designs that will have an impact on reducing post retiree health care liabilities and your health care budget.

Sharon Tischler of 21415 Virmar Court commented that the public has heard about the difficulties involved in making changes to retiree health care coverage due to contracts and negotiated agreements. She questioned how changes can be made. Stearn commented that the Village collective bargaining agreements are up for negotiation next year.

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire was aware of Ibex Insurance Agency and its efforts on behalf of the Village. They have been involved in union negotiations and provision of health care consultation to the Village for a number of years. Ibex assisted in establishing the prescription co-pay for retirees. They were instrumental in convincing the unions to move from the standard

Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan to a PPO plan. Wiszowaty has presented ideas to Council that he has discussed with this consultant. Requesting proposals for service is within the parameters of Council. Mooney suggested that Council take no action on this until the second regular meeting in November.

Bob Walsh of 20655 Smallwood Court said that he is not familiar with the IbeX Insurance Agency and does not know what interaction they provided in terms of labor contract negotiations. He concurs with going out for proposals for this service in light of pending laws regarding health care.

It was the sense of Council to place an item on the next Council meeting agenda to consider directing administration to solicit requests for proposals for a company that specializes in health benefits administration.

Oen questioned whether it was feasible to combine the Beverly Hills health care group with that of the Township to save money. Manquen stated that Public Act 106 allows health care pooling in Michigan. There has not yet been a pool established, but it will occur in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Mooney of 19111 Devonshire stated that it is important to vote yes on the millage restoration proposal in order to maintain Village services.

Bob Walsh of 20655 Smallwood Court stated that the millage restoration ballot proposal will result in a 17% tax increase.

Dave Taylor of 16950 Buckingham commented that it is the opinion of the Village voters involved in his Political Action Committee to ax the Beverly tax. The millage restoration proposal is a tax increase.

Patrick Westerlund of 18540 Devonshire stated that he came before Council recently to discuss the effects of the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A on Village taxes. People are going to pay federal, state, and local taxes. When he pays Village taxes, Westerlund can actually see his dollars coming back to him in terms of the services he receives.

REPORTS - MANAGER

Chris Wilson reminded everyone that the next Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 3. The swearing in ceremony for new council members will be held on Wednesday, November 12.

During the month of November, the Village, in cooperation with SOCRRA, will recognize America Recycles Day by offering discounted recycling bins for \$6.00. Bins can be purchased at the Village hall during regular business hours or at the SOCRRA materials recovery Facility on Coolidge from 8-6 Monday through Friday or 8-2 on Saturday.

Wilson will be making a presentation to the Lions Club on Thursday, October 23 regarding the millage restoration proposal. A Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 27

at 7 p.m. at the Beverly School gymnasium. He and Finance Director Wiszowaty will be making a presentation on the ballot proposal.

Director Woodard informed Council and the public that he was saddened to hear about the recent passing of retired Public Safety Officer Fred Bielman on October 11 at the age of 75. He had been with the Department for 35 years.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Berndt urged residents to look into the candidates and issues related to the November 4 election and make informed decisions.

Oen reported that the Planning Board will meet on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village municipal building. Consultant Bob Gibbs will offer a preliminary presentation on the Southfield Road Corridor study. Planning consultant firm LSL will conclude its recommendations on the neighborhood study west of Southfield Road.

Oen commented on huge increases in the cost of gas and health care since 1999. He asserted that the Village would not ask voters to approve a millage restoration proposal if it did not need the revenue to operate. If people have any questions about the pamphlet they received in the mail or about the ballot proposal, they should call Village administration or members of Council.

Stearn thanked Hugh Woodrow and Dorothy Pfeifer for their service on the Village Council and for taking time out of their personal lives to make tough decisions at the Council table. The community should be thankful for their dedication to the Village. Stearn thanked administration for preparing a pamphlet explaining the millage restoration proposal. Sixteen communities are compared with Beverly Hills in the southeast Oakland County area to illustrate that Beverly Hills has a low millage rate.

Stearn invited residents to attend the Halloween Hoot on Sunday, October 26 in Beverly Park. He outlined the festivities that will occur throughout the day. The Halloween Hoot is the most popular community event of the year; it is primarily funded through private donations and is staffed by volunteers.

Stearn talked about the millage restoration proposal. This is a community decision whereby residents will decide what is important to the future of Beverly Hills. Stearn believes that the biggest asset residents have is their homes, which will not continue to increase in value unless people invest in the community. We have to maintain roads, keep streets safe, insure fire protection, and provide library service. These are services that a respectable community must have. Services will be cut if the proposal does not pass. People can contact the Village office for more information on the proposal. Stearn asked people to vote 'yes' on the millage restoration ballot proposal.

Pfeifer announced that Cub Scout Pack 1029 from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is sponsoring a haunted castle fund raiser on October 24-26. She informed people who are voting for a write-in candidate for council that it is necessary to color in the circle opposite their name in order for their vote to be counted.

Pfeifer stated that she has one more meeting before her Council duties draw to a close after almost nine years. It has been a rewarding experience. It has also been challenging at times but has afforded her the opportunity to meet and work with many enjoyable people. Pfeifer thanked all the individuals who she has worked with for the courtesies they have extended. She leaves this seat knowing that there will be many challenges facing sitting council members. She wished them well.

Pfeifer went on to address what she perceived as a failing in terms of her inability to convince the villages, Council, and residents of the value of becoming a city. The Governor has been encouraging municipalities to consider consolidating services and doing all they can to economize in terms of government operation. Pfeifer cannot think of a single action that would produce such great efficiency as becoming a city. Beverly Hills is supporting a level of government that is not necessary. Pfeifer closed by saying that she loves the Village of Beverly Hills and wishes everyone well. Her comments were greeted with applause.

Koss commented on the millage restoration proposal. She believes that Beverly Hills is a great place in which to live, and she wants it to stay that way. The electorate approved a millage rate in 1995 that would allow the Village to operate with 11 mills; we have seen a decrease in that millage cap over 13 years. Costs have increased while revenue has decreased. Koss did not know how the Village could be expected to provide the same level of services residents currently receive and deserve. It is imperative that people make an informed decision for themselves and for their families. There will be a Town Hall meeting on Monday, October 27 at Beverly Elementary School at 7 pm in the gymnasium. She encouraged people to attend and have their questions answered by the Village Manager and Finance Director.

Woodrow concurred that it is important to be informed about the issues before voting. He stated that he will vote for the millage restoration proposal. The services provided by the Village are a vital part of the community and it is important to maintain those services.

Motion by Pfeifer, second by Oen, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Motion passed (7 – 0).

Hugh Woodrow
Council President

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary