

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

Absent: Briggs and Stearn

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

President Pro-Tem Koss called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

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

Motion passed (5 – 0).

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gregory Bader of 31139 Belmont Court announced that he is hosting and producing a television show on public access channel 18 called “Graceful Aging”. The first feature was entitled “Behind the Wheel”. The shows are helping people to live fuller, more independent lives. Bader was pleased to report that 30 shows have been produced, and the program has been picked up by over 50 stations across the country. He encouraged people to support local access television because it is an important resource for the community.

Oakland County Commissioner Marcia Gershenson informed residents that free tax preparation service is available for eligible individuals through the Accounting Aid Society. She made Council aware that any county organization can apply for a Mini-Grant to fund an eligible activity that supports the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles. Oakland County announced the establishment of a scholarship fund at Oakland Community College in memory of Deputy Oakland Executive Dennis Toffolo. The scholarship is for achievement in any of the emerging sectors that Oakland County has identified. Gershenson announced that the Census Bureau is hiring; the local office for this area is in Pontiac. Interested individuals can go to the State of Michigan website or contact her for information.

Bill Kondak, Parks and Recreation Board chair, reported on this year’s Winter Family Fun Day held in Beverly Park on Sunday, February 7. There was a good turnout and everyone had a great time. Kondak expressed his appreciation to the many contributors and volunteers and thanked Council for its support of the event.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Review/consider approval of minutes of regular Council meeting held Feb. 2, 2010.
- b. Review and file bills recapped as of Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM 2009 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SOUTHFIELD ROAD BUSINESS 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. It is necessary for Council to hold a public hearing to review and confirm the 2009 Special Assessment Roll for the Southfield Road Business Assessment District.

Koss declared the public hearing open at 7:39 p.m. No one wished to be heard; the public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER 2009 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE SOUTHFIELD ROAD BUSINESS ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, that the Southfield Road Business District incurred the following costs for 2009: maintenance \$2,575.00; water costs for the sprinkling system \$2,419.00; and electrical costs for Beverly Hills Grill \$734.15. In addition, each property incurred a 10% administrative fee for a total of \$572.82. Therefore, the Village of Beverly Hills Council confirms the Village Business District Assessment Roll for the 2009 season in the amount of \$6,300.97 as follows:

Beverly Hills Club	\$ 1,100.26
Bed, Bath & Beyond	430.07
Beverly Hills Grill	981.84
C.G. Holdings, LLC	314.89
Emile's	563.66
Taco Bell	372.19
31333 Building	451.79
Beverly Venture	1,106.24
J & D Karmo Real Estate	980.03

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (5 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES TO ASSIST VOLUNTEERS IN EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Mooney proposed that Council appoint three subcommittees to communicate information to the electorate on the financial crisis facing the Village and the upcoming millage proposal. The goal of the first subcommittee would be to obtain input and guidance prior to developing a communication plan that would educate the public on the financial condition of the Village. It would seek participation from current and former Village elected and appointed officials and interested citizens who might have some insight that would assist with conveying our message. The goal of the subcommittee would be to appoint a panel for the appropriate presentation of the financial condition of the Village. The subcommittee would consist of two Council members and a member of administration.

Another subcommittee would be formed to identify the various interest groups to which the financial condition of the Village should be communicated. This subcommittee would determine the method of communication and maintain a data base of information.

A third subcommittee would be created to coordinate informational meetings to be presented by Council and Administration to various Village Boards and to residents within each precinct of the Village. This subcommittee will seek volunteers to disseminate the date, time and location of such meetings. The subcommittee will also coordinate information with the press. The subcommittee will consist of three Council members and a member of administration.

Mooney remarked that there may be a need to appoint other subcommittees future months. Council agreed with the necessity of making the public aware of the Village's financial crisis and what needs to be done to retain current services in the community. Guidance from residents is needed to move forward with this objective and to attain the goal of a viable community. There were no comments from the public on the proposed subcommittees.

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, that Council appoint a subcommittee designated as the Input Subcommittee with the purpose of assembling information and preparing a communication plan regarding the financial condition of the Village. The subcommittee members will seek input from current and former Village elected and appointed officials and interested citizens and appoint a panel for the presentation of the Village's financial condition to the community at large. The subcommittee will consist of Council members Mooney and Koss and Finance Director Wiszowaty.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, to appoint a subcommittee to identify interest groups to whom the financial condition of the Village should be communicated. The duties of that subcommittee will be to determine the method of communication and to create and maintain a data base of information. The subcommittee will be made up of Council members Peddie, Berndt and Manager Wilson.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, to appoint a subcommittee that would be charged with the duty of coordinating informational meetings to be presented by Council and Administration to various Village Boards, residents in each precinct of the Village, and members of interest groups that may require financial information on the condition of the Village. The subcommittee will obtain volunteers to communicate the existence of these meetings to the members of the community and coordinate financial information for the press and the media. Council members Briggs, Oen and Stearn will sit on this subcommittee with the support of Clerk Marshall.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

REVIEW AND CONSIDER DRAFT SEWER LINING AGREEMENT

Wilson reviewed that the 2009 sewer rehabilitation project will get underway in the next few weeks. The project will involve lining of existing sewers to reinforce the sewer and eliminate leaks and infiltration. There will be a process by which area residents will be able to have their sewer lead relined from the property line to their home at the same price the Village is receiving. Wilson consulted with Attorney Ryan on drafting an agreement between the Village and those homeowners who choose to do this work. The proposed Agreement would protect the Village and provide recourse in the event that payment is not made by the homeowner. The Agreement is before Council for review and approval if they are agreeable to the terms for proceeding with this work.

It was questioned whether the Village office was equipped to coordinate this project considering recent staffing cutbacks. Wilson responded that the level of coordination required will depend on the number of people who take advantage of this opportunity. There are about 120 homes in the target area; only 10-12 residents attended the informational meeting held last week. Administration is following up with letters to homeowners in the affected area detailing the option available to them. The relining of sewer leads will be coordinated by Tom Meszler and an administrative assistant. If more residents than anticipated are interested in this work, additional staff resources would focus on this program for a limited time. The impact on infiltration to the sewer system makes this project worthwhile.

Motion by Mooney, second by Berndt, that the Village of Beverly Hills Council adopt the Sewer Rehabilitation Agreement Between Individual Residents of the Village of Beverly Hills and Lanzo Lining Services, Inc. for Lining of Residential Sanitary Sewer Leads.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (5 – 0).

This document is available for public inspection at the Village municipal office.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER FINANCIAL REPORT ON THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Wilson reviewed that there were significant changes made to the building department at the beginning of the current fiscal year. He asked Finance Director Wiszowaty to prepare an updated financial outlook of the building department operation. The report compares revenue and expenses for the first six months of the 2009/10 fiscal year with the same period from the 2008/2009 fiscal year.

Wilson noted that revenues are down compared to the same point in the last fiscal year (December 31) even with increased revenue from bond forfeitures and rental inspections. Expenses have also dropped significantly, decreasing by roughly 42% from the previous fiscal year. This can be equated to not filling the position of the retired building official. Wilson remarked that the administrative transition has been adequate and is improving. The significant cost savings are expected to carry through to the end of the year.

Wilson mentioned that the current arrangement would not work as well if building activity were to increase to the point it was at four to five years ago. At that point, revenue from building activity would probably be sufficient to justify bringing on additional staff.

Motion by Mooney, second by Oen, to accept and file the Building Department Revenue and Expense Comparison.

Motion passed (5 – 0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Rembis at 18686 E. Chelton informed Council that someone in his neighborhood regularly calls the code enforcement officer or the police department to report petty incidents involving his property. He related a recent instance where a vehicle sat in his driveway over a weekend until he could acquire a license plate.

Sheila Brice, Trustee for the Baldwin Public Library, announced that the Baldwin Library Board will have a public hearing on its proposed budget on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Input will be sought from residents and business owners. People can view the proposed budget on the Baldwin Library website.

Brice thanked Ellen Marshall and Candee Repa for summarizing the services provided by Baldwin Public Library on the Village website. Brice informed the public that the library obtained a grant that enables it to provide a program focusing on seniors learning in retirement. This month's program has to do with Supreme Court judges. Retirees can attend this event every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Library also provides home bound services. There are 17 home bound patrons in Beverly Hills who take advantage of this service. A participant is in contact with a librarian about their choice in books; books and DVD are mailed to them.

Brice commended Council on organizing committees to provide citizen understanding of the millage proposal. She offered her service both representing the Baldwin Library Board and also as an employee of Groves High School to help facilitate the communication of information. Brice mentioned that other Library Board members are interested in supporting this effort.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Wilson reported that Public Safety Director Woodard declared a Snow Emergency on the afternoon of February 9. It was the first opportunity for the Village to implement its newly adopted Snow Emergency Ordinance. All local media outlets were notified and a notice was put out on Nixle. Public Service Department staff reported that street clearing was faster and more efficient without cars parked along the street. Cooperation from local residents was experienced.

Village administration and Hubbell, Roth & Clark hosted a public meeting on February 8 to discuss the 2009 Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Turnout at the meeting was lower than anticipated. Administration is working on a letter to impacted residents to notify them of the opportunity to have their sewer leads from the right-of-way to their homes lined at the Village's contract price. The letter will clarify the scope and nature of the project and advise them that they will receive advance notice of when the work will commence in their area. Residents are asked to contact the Village by March 5 if they want to have their portion of the sewer lead relined.

There will be a public hearing on the Detroit Country Day School expansion proposal on Wednesday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Planning Board meeting. LSL Planning and architects representing Detroit Country Day School have met to discuss the site plan for construction of a field house and other renovations on their campus. Country Day has submitted a letter to the Village and LSL outlining revisions to their original site plan that address concerns expressed by the planning consultant.

The Planning Board will receive an update from Robert Gibbs on the Southfield Road Corridor Improvement Plan at its February 24 meeting. The Planning Board has invited interested Council members to attend this presentation.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Oen announced that the Parks and Recreation Board will meet on Thursday, February 18 in the Village municipal building. It has been mentioned that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 24 on the Detroit Country Day School expansion plan. Oen encouraged people to hear Robert Gibb's presentation on a plan for the Southfield Road corridor at the February 24 Planning Board meeting. Oen thanked Comeau Equipment Company for doing a great job of plowing the Village during the recent snow storm.

Mooney stressed the fact that people are going through a very difficult economic time. Council is planning to reach out to the community and ask them to increase the millage for a good reason. It is understood that this is a tough time to ask people to contribute towards maintaining essential community services.

Mooney remarked that, at its last regular meeting, a member of the public accused Council and the Manager of taking inappropriate action. The accusation appeared in a local newspaper article that reported that Council said nothing in response to the accusation. Koss clarified that, during the public comment portion of the February 2 Council meeting, an individual insinuated that Council may have misappropriated Village funds and that a contract was negotiated behind closed doors. Koss said that Council exhibited professionalism and did not speak to this incident at that meeting. She asked Attorney Ryan to look into this matter so that Council can respond to allegations.

Peddie thanked Sheila Brice for presenting an update on the Baldwin Public Library. Berndt stated that it was important that every citizen who has a concern can come before Council and express their views.

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.
Motion passed (5 – 0).

Rosanne Koss
President Pro-Tem

Ellen E. Marshall
Village Clerk

Susan Bernard
Recording Secretary