

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
INDIAN HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL  
December 17, 2018**

A meeting of the Indian Hill Village Council was held on December 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Village Administration building.

Officials present:

Mr.	Mark D. Kuenning, Mayor
Mrs.	Melissa S. Cowan, Vice-Mayor
Mr.	John B. Armstrong, Council member
Mr.	Stephen H. Krehbiel, Council member
Mr.	Donald C. McGraw, Council member
Mrs.	Monique A. Sewell, Council member
Mr.	Abbot A. Thayer, Council member
Mr.	Scott Gully, Finance Director ~Tax Commissioner
Ms.	Dina C. Minneci, City Manager
Mr.	Paul C. Riordan, Clerk/Comptroller

Visitors present:

Mr.	Don Crain, Frost, Brown Todd
Dr.	Ken Davis, University of Cincinnati Medical Center
Mr.	Shayne Manning, 5825 Given Road

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2018 had previously been distributed to each Council member. Council member Thayer made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Council member Cowan and was approved, 7-0.

**SPECIAL MINUTES:** The minutes of the special Council meeting of November 28, 2018 had previously been distributed to each Council member. Council member Cowan made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Council member Thayer and was approved, 7-0.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Kuenning read the following Resolution to Mr. Donald L. Crain upon his retirement as City Solicitor for the Village of Indian Hill and requested that this be entered in its entirety in the minutes of the Council meeting.

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO DONALD L. CRAIN, ESQ.  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN  
HILL, OHIO**

**RESOLUTION NO. - 17-18**

***A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO DONALD L. CRAIN  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF  
INDIAN HILL, OHIO***

***WHEREAS***, Donald L. Crain has served as the third City Solicitor for the City of the Village of Indian Hill from September 1, 1998 to October 31, 2018 while being a respected attorney in the law firm of Frost Brown Todd, LLC (formerly Frost & Jacobs) where he began working in 1981 and was promoted to Partner in 1984; and

**WHEREAS**, Donald L. Crain was the first Frost Brown Todd attorney to envision a public sector practice and the first chairperson of Frost Brown Todd's Government Services Practice Group, which was formed in 2006 with less than 10 members. Today that practice group is comprised of more than 50 attorneys in a half dozen Frost Brown Todd offices; and

**WHEREAS**, Donald L. Crain provided strong legal guidance and leadership to many members of Village Council and staff in various capacities of local government, including areas such as public sector labor contracts, judicial and parliamentary proceedings, employment and personnel policy, planning and zoning, best administrative practices, and public safety law; and

**WHEREAS**, Donald L. Crain, along with his formation of a team of dedicated and talented colleagues, represented the Village's best interest in many significant issues, including one of the most influential – the acquisition of 379 acres in Camp Dennison which is now home to the pristine, peaceful and picturesque Grand Valley Nature Preserve; and

**WHEREAS**, Donald L. Crain has worked diligently and methodically throughout the years on the Village's Merit System Ordinance, labor contract negotiations, records retention program, Mayor's Court proceedings, preservation of the community's exceptional quality of life, and acquisition of over 620 acres of green area; and

**WHEREAS**, Donald L. Crain has worked with 25 Council members, presided over 240 Mayor's Courts, oversaw passage of 400 Ordinances and 540 Resolutions, and endured 2 City Managers, it is appropriate to recognize his valued and trusted service to the Village over the years.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF  
INDIAN HILL, OHIO:***

**Section 1.** That there be spread upon the records of the City of the Village of Indian Hill this Resolution of special thanks and sincere appreciation to Donald L. Crain for 20 years of outstanding and valuable legal service from September 1, 1998 to October 31, 2018, and to wish him the very best on his continued professional and personal endeavors.

**Section 2.** That a copy of this Resolution be presented to Donald L. Crain in recognition of the extraordinary contribution of time, effort and expertise he has given in the interest of the City of the Village of Indian Hill and its residents and to wish Donald and his family many more happy and healthy years.

Mayor Kuenning explained that this Resolution, signed by all Council members, had been presented to Mr. Crain at his reception the previous week.

Upon motion by Mayor Kuenning, seconded by Council member Cowan, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Resolution **17-18** adopted.

Mr. Crain thanked Council for the Resolution and said that it has been his privilege to serve the Village of Indian Hill. He said that it has been wonderful to see the Village grow and prosper and retain its beauty, which has been a challenge at certain times. Mr. Crain also thanked Ms. Minneci and Council for the wonderful reception.

Mayor Kuenning presented to Mr. Donald Crain a Resolution from Senator Steve Wilson of the State of Ohio. The Resolution gives Mr. Crain recognition for his 20 years of service.

Dr. Ken Davis introduced himself to Council. He said that he is a professor of surgery at the University of Cincinnati and a trauma surgeon at the UC Medical Center. He explained that the College of Medicine is beginning a study starting in January with the use of “rescue foam”. The foam would be injected into the abdominal cavity for severely injured patients that are in shock and are on the verge of hemorrhaging to death. The intention is for the foam to fill the abdominal cavity and stop the bleeding in order to have sufficient time to take the patient to the operating room. Dr. Davis explained that the hospital will not be able to get informed consent because in most cases the patients will be unconscious. For this reason, the FDA requires that the UC Medical Center go throughout the County and inform people that this study will be conducted. An individual can opt-out of this program by wearing a special blue wristband that the UC Medical Center would provide. This foam has been in existence for about six years, but this is the first time UC Medical Center is participating in the study.

Council member Cowan asked Dr. Davis to explain the risk involved with this study. Dr. Davis explained that they haven’t seen any side-effects but they would like to test 40 patients and then they will evaluate potential risks. Dr. Davis said that the surgeons would be injecting a large needle into the abdominal cavity which has a risk of puncturing a bowel and that there are also several risks involved in the chemicals used in the foam. Another risk associated with the procedure is the pressure against the internal organs by the foam. The foam would be injected by trauma surgeons in the hospital. Dr. Davis distributed to each Council member a printed document by UC Health titled, *Research Study: Assessing new device for life-threatening bleeding*.

Mayor Kuenning said that it was a very interesting study and concept and he wished Dr. Davis and his colleagues well in their study.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Sewell directed Council’s attention to a memo titled, “*Finance Committee*”. She explained that the Finance committee met on December 7, 2018 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Sewell also directed Council’s attention to the financial statements, which were included in the Council packet.

Council member Sewell presented the following finance report for November:

- a) **Income Tax Receipts:** Year-to-date cash receipts are 99% of budget. It is forecasted that year-end receipts will significantly exceed budgeted income tax receipts, however, this year there have been significant income tax refunds due to the large prepayments that were received in December 2018 as a result of the federal income tax changes.
- b) **Operating Disbursements:** Operating disbursements for the month were the same as last year except for timing differences which were explained in the financial statements.
- c) **CIRF:** Disbursements totaled \$324,070. This relates to street resurfacing and bond payments.
- d) **Water Works Receipts:** Water usage receipts were \$289,189 which is approximately \$19,000 less than November 2017 receipts.

- e) **Water Works Disbursements:** Total operating disbursements of \$350,733 were approximately \$1,000,000 less than November 2017. This is due to a change in Metropolitan Sewer District's (MSD) billing process from quarterly to monthly.
- f) **Water Works CIRF:** Total expenditures were \$235,046. This relates to generator repairs and bond payments.
- g) **Long Term Debt:** The second principal and interest payments for the year were made on November 15, 2018 for the Village's two outstanding bonds. This was the final payment for 2009 Administration/Ranger building ten year bond.
- h) **Cash and Investments:** Total month-end cash and investments were \$28,177,754.
- i) **Rowe Funds:** The market value as of November 30<sup>th</sup> was \$3,843,251. The unrecognized gain was \$1,096,977 and there was a net gain on sale of \$93,111. The large investment gain was a result of selling stocks in order to transfer funds to another money manager for a more balanced investment strategy.
- j) **Green Areas Funds:** The market value as of November 30<sup>th</sup> was \$2,836,499. The unrecognized gain was \$1,507,297. Total monthly earnings were \$275 with monthly expenses totaling \$3,696.

The financial statements for November 2018 had previously been distributed to each Council member. There being no exceptions noted, the financial statements were accepted as issued.

Council member Sewell reported that Mr. Aaron provided the Finance committee with an update on the Indian Hill App. Downloads are approximately 200-300 since the October launch. Mr. Aaron is working on adding the Indian Hill weather station and a suggestion box for residents to provide feedback on what features they would like included. She said that the Finance committee discussed uncertainty as to what features would be added to the App in the upcoming year as we wish to accumulate suggestions from outside of Administration. The Finance committee recommended reviewing the additional features and cost required on a quarterly basis in 2019 and making financial appropriations at those times.

Council member Sewell reported that Mr. Gully presented to the Finance committee the 2019 Appropriation Ordinance which highlights total expenditures for each fund. The following significant changes have been made since November's Public Hearing:

- a) Worker's Compensation expenses increased by approximately \$90,000 due to the Bureau changing the due date for 2019 premiums from January 2019 to December 2018.
- b) Subsequent to the Finance committee, Parks & Recreation was increased by \$27,000 to accommodate Stephan Field repairs that are being supported by a very generous \$20,000 donation from a resident.

Council member Sewell said that the Finance committee also reviewed the purchase orders from 2018 that will carry over into 2019. She said that after discussion, the Finance committee agreed to recommend emergency passage of the 2019 Appropriation Ordinance.

Council member Sewell reported that staff recommended passage of an additional appropriation Ordinance to ensure compliance with State and County Auditor budget requirements. The Ordinance recommends the following increases:

- a) General Fund – increase of \$575,000. This is to account for the unusually high income tax refunds occurring during the year due to federal tax law changes in December 2017.
- b) Capital Improvement Reserve Fund – increase of \$250,000. This is due to an unexpected culvert and landslide repair on Shawnee Run Road caused by extreme weather conditions. The project is being supported by Ohio and federal grants.
- c) Mayor’s Court Computer Fund – increase of \$1,000. This is due to the purchase of new software for Mayor’s Court processing.
- d) Water Works Fund – increase of \$500,000. This is due to Metropolitan Sewer District changing its invoicing from quarterly to monthly in 2018. The Village paid fourteen months rather than the usual 12 months.
- e) Water Works Retirement Fund – increase of \$5,000. This is due to an unexpected retirement in 2018.
- f) Rowe Arboretum Fund – increase of \$50,000. This is due to accumulated losses from transferring 30% of the fund to a more conservative investment portfolio. A significant portion will be offset by gains from sales.

Council member Sewell said that after discussion, the Finance committee agrees to recommend emergency passage of the additional appropriation Ordinance.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the rules were suspended for the following two Ordinances by unanimous roll call vote.

**AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **08-18** enacted.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 11-17 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **09-18** enacted.

Council member Sewell reported that Mrs. Chaney presented to the Finance committee three Ordinances related to salary and hourly wages for 2019 for the Police Department, the Public Works/Water Works Department and all non-contract employees. These Ordinances define the minimum and maximum pay ranges for all positions within the Village in addition to vacation, longevity, sick time and other benefits. Any contractual obligations also are included in the Ordinances. Mrs. Chaney highlighted clarification, grammatical and consistency changes that are

being requested. The Finance committee agreed to recommend emergency passage of all three Ordinances.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the rules were suspended by unanimous roll call vote for the following three pay Ordinances.

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS/WATER WORKS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 13-17, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **10-18** enacted.

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 14-17, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **11-18** enacted.

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF PERMANENT EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, NOT COVERED BY ORDINANCES, 10-18 AND 11-18 REPEALING ORDINANCE 15-17, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **12-18** enacted.

Council member Sewell reported that the Finance committee continued its discussions from the last two months regarding the determination of the income tax rate for the upcoming year. Over the last few months, the Finance committee reviewed several financial statements, historical spreadsheets, the Village Reserves and Income Tax Rate Analysis and future projections. Some of the factors considered included the strong market conditions this year, higher than anticipated income tax receipts in 2017 and 2018, and higher than anticipated year-end balances. She said that notwithstanding the reduction in the income tax rate, budget projections continue to forecast sufficient reserves over the next few years. In addition, the projections account for future known and estimated liabilities, a viable and active ten-year capital improvement program centered on significant infrastructure needs and cash flow stability. As always, this rate will continue to be analyzed on a yearly basis to account for unanticipated changes and unknown, at this time, infrastructure needs. She said that after discussions, the Finance committee had a majority of its members agree to recommend

to Council an emergency Ordinance to decrease the income tax rate for 2018 and 2019 from 0.55% to 0.525%.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 93 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADOPTING THE CURRENT DEFINITION OF ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME IN SECTION 5747.01 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND BY SETTING THE RATE OF 0.525% PROVIDED IN SECTION 93A-03 FOR THE TAX YEARS 2018 AND 2019, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the rules were suspended by unanimous roll call vote.

Council member Thayer questioned what would be the reduction in income tax as a result of the tax rate change and Ms. Minneci replied that it would be approximately \$600,000 annually. Mayor Kuenning said that it is a relatively small amount for a tax reduction compared to the total of \$12,000,000 anticipated for the collections for the year. There were a couple months of analysis and updating numbers which made it evident that the Village had reserves larger than anticipated. The majority of the Finance committee felt that this would be a nominal decrease but yet show the public that we are trying to be good stewards. If available, we will return monies.

Council member McGraw said that he was the minority on the Finance committee. He explained that the Village conducted studies on infrastructure such as landslides and culverts so he does not feel that the political landscape is stable and therefore the rate should not be reduced. He would like to have a little more certainty. He would like to have the rate stay the same this year and take another look at it next year when the studies are completed so that we have a better idea of the costs of the infrastructure repairs. He said he wanted the other Council members to know why he decided on not recommending the tax reduction.

Council member Armstrong said that the decision before Council is would it be prudent to reduce the income tax receipts and that prudence is anticipating the future and that one of the reasons in the notes to explain the reduction is that the markets are strong and he believes that the markets are no longer strong. The economy on a macro sense is weakening, housing and technology are also down. The stock market, which is a leading indicator for the economy, is down almost 10%. Dow Jones industrial average is down 12% therefore, today we are not facing strong market conditions. Federal Reserve is increasing interest rates and if they continue it will only make the economy worse. Local business leaders are saying that their businesses are being negatively impacted by the trade war with the Chinese at this point. No one has an answer to the question if this is a correction or a recession. He said that all of Council took the tour and saw the culverts and bridges which need to be repaired and we do not have an estimate of the cost to repair them.

Council member Armstrong said that he believes that the Water Works will also be coming to Council for funding to increase its infrastructure at some point in the future. He said that he concurs with Council member McGraw and the vote to lower the income tax at this time is premature. Possibly Council should wait 180 days to see how the Federal Reserve and trade situation affects business. He said that he believes that at this time it is not prudent to vote for a decrease of the income tax rate.

Mayor Kuenning said that the culvert study is reflected in the budget and it is baked into a long term plan for funding. The landslide study, which is also called a pier wall study, is not complete and the results are unknown. The Finance committee increased the required reserves to provide for the increase in these expenditures. So the “rainy day fund” was bumped-up for the unknowns. He said that we will never know for certain what the economy and the market are going to do so there is a certain amount of uncertainty we have to deal with.

Mayor Kuenning explained that the Finance committee said that even with all of the uncertainty, the tax base is basically secure for 2019 because it is based on an economy in 2018 and there is no reason to believe that in the next twelve months our tax base will suffer anything dramatic. Beyond that it is anyone’s guess as to what is going to happen to markets or the economy. He said that ever since 2010, when we had a 50% increase in the tax rate followed by the reductions in 2014 and 2016, the Village was always worried about having deficits and each time the economy proved us wrong and increased. It resulted in increased reserves when we intended to decrease them.

Council member Sewell said that she has put a lot of thought into this issue for one reason this is her first time through this process and because she feels she is responsible for it and that the Finance committee has looked at this in many different ways. She agreed with Council member McGraw that there are many unknowns. There has been a culvert study and it is planned out for at least the next three years. She said that we also have landslides and we receive federal state government money to help pay for them. She said that for the first year of this tax reduction we know that we have had a positive economy in 2018 and she could see taking a look at this tax issue in 6 months and possibly changing the tax rate through Ordinance for the next year if there is a significant change in the direction of the economy. The Finance committee looked at the reserves and the components and determined how much is needed for each component of the reserves. We are not putting ourselves in a position where we do not have enough money to fund out budget. We are reducing the reserves for future issues. We have \$5,000,000 in reserve for landslides, there is 35% of the current year budget reserved for potential issues that could arise and we have additional funds reserved for the pension issues which are more likely never to arise. She said that she believes we are not adjusting the tax rate to see if the budget will be met; we are adjusting the rate to determine the amount that should be held in reserves. She said that she believes that there is an adequate amount in the reserves. Reducing the rate will put the reserves more in-line to what they should be.

Council member Krehbiel said that he agrees with Council member McGraw and Council member Armstrong that no one foresaw this current market condition but we are looking at a .003 reduction in tax rate which is in reality myopic – a very small amount. We are telling our residents that we have plenty of money in our reserves and we do not want to hold it just to hold it. We are telling our residents we have looked at our reserves and we have more than we expected; therefore, we can give it back and we can reverse course later in the year if needed. Council member Krehbiel said that therefore he supports the reduction. He prefers a more prudent course; steady as it goes. If the economy goes sour there will be a dramatic drop in the income tax receipts and all the reserves will be needed.

Mayor Kuenning said that you cannot point to anyone that is right or wrong on this issue, it is just a different matter of opinion. If there is extra, we give a little back. Everyone has a different tolerance for risk and ideas of what is going to happen in the future, after 2019 things are up in the air. If we have to make an adjustment in a year, the worst case scenario, we can do that but it is not our intention.

Council member Armstrong said that he does not think a reduction is right at this time, however, he respects the vote of Council.

City Manager Minneci confirmed that the culvert study was only for culverts of a certain size and therefore did not include all the culverts.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the motion was passed by roll call vote, 4-3. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **13-18** enacted.

Council member Sewell said that the Finance committee discussed and agreed to recommend a Resolution requesting advance tax payments from the County Auditor. This Resolution allows the Village to receive estimated real estate in advance of the semi-annual payments. This Resolution is done on an annual basis to ensure the County Auditor forwards any tax distributions due the Village in a timely manner.

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF TAXES** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Resolution number **18-18** adopted.

Council member Sewell reported that the Finance committee reviewed a Resolution to accept the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District appropriations for 2019. This Resolution is required by the Joint Fire District contract. It is passed by both Madeira and Indian Hill to verify the Fire District's current year budget and permit monthly disbursements to the joint fire district based on a 50/50 contribution from both cities. For 2019, both Indian Hill and Madeira will pay up to \$1,845,200, which may be reduced by contributions from the Fire Company, interest income and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) billing credits received during 2019. Council member Sewell said that the Finance committee recommends passage of the Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2019 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MADEIRA AND INDIAN HILL JOINT FIRE DISTRICT** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Resolution number **19-18** adopted.

Council member Sewell reported that the Finance committee reviewed two Resolutions to renew updated contracts with Bahl & Gaynor and Bartlett Wealth Management for fiduciary services related to the Rowe Arboretum Fund and General Fund (Bartlett only). She said that the Finance committee recommends passage of both Resolutions.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIAL FORMAT WITH BAHL & GAYNOR, INC. FOR**

**FIDUCIARY SERVICES RELATED TO THE ROWE ARBORETUM FUND** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Resolution number **20-18** adopted.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT IN SUBSTANTIAL FORMAT WITH BARTLETT WEALTH MANAGEMENT FOR FIDUCIARY SERVICES RELATED TO THE ROWE ARBORETUM FUND AND THE GENERAL FUND** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Sewell, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Resolution number **21-18** adopted.

**LAW COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Armstrong directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Law Committee*". He reported that the Law committee met on December 6, 2018 to review several issues in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Armstrong reported that Ms. Minneci and Mr. Phillips presented to the Law committee the November legal activity report, a copy of the report is included in the Council packet. The report included updates on Green Area donations, review of contracts, review of a Bureau of Workers' Compensation case, review of a current foreclosure proceeding and Mayor's Court.

Council member Armstrong reported that the Law committee discussed the zoning Ordinance as it relates to lot coverage. The Law committee would like staff to review this section during the 2019 codified Ordinance review process to determine if recommendations should be made with how lot coverage is applied for community-oriented facilities.

Council member Armstrong reported that staff presented a resident's request to purchase green area parcels. He said that after a thorough discussion, the Law committee indicated the request neither meets the Village's philosophy of preserving green area nor does it center on purchase agreements entered into by previous Councils.

Council member Armstrong reported that the Law committee reviewed a Resolution assessing the costs to a resident's property tax bill on Brill Road. This assessment is related to costs incurred by the Village related to labor and materials. The Law committee recommends passage of the Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION ASSESSING THE COSTS TO THE PROPERTY TAX DUPLICATE FOR THE SECURANCE OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7925 BRILL ROAD, PARCEL 529-0125-0061** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Armstrong, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Resolution number **22-18** adopted.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Cowan directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Buildings and Grounds Committee*". She reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee met on December 11, 2018 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Cowan reported that Mr. Adkins presented the departmental activity report, a copy of the report is included in the Council packet. She reported that staff installed a new sign post and stop sign near the Rangers garage and winterized the Administration building's irrigation system. The Christmas tree was assembled at the Little Red Schoolhouse. She also reported that staff installed a batting cage net at Camp Dennison.

Council member Cowan reported that Mrs. Wade-Dorman and Mr. West distributed the project management report, a copy of the report is included in the Council packet. Mr. West highlighted a Grand Valley bird walk, organized by Campbell Jolly and Cynthia King which approximately 35 people attended. They also discussed the Indian Hill Garden Club's generous offer to plant a two acre patch of milkweed and wildflowers at Grand Valley. The planting is anticipated in the fall/winter 2019.

Council member Cowan reported that Mr. West indicated that soil samples have been completed at the Bonnell House and Little Red Schoolhouse to understand the impact on the design and location of upgraded septic systems at each location. She said that staff continues to work with Hamilton County on design alternatives for the Little Red Schoolhouse septic system due to its limited area and existing utilities.

Council member Cowan reported that Mrs. Wade-Dorman indicated that the Reforest the Hill tree purchases by Turner Farm in honor of Mrs. Helen Black were planted along Mrs. Black's nature trail on Drake Road. The 2019 Reforest the Hill program will focus its planting efforts on the Green Areas in front of Indian Hill High School and Meadow Grove Lane.

Council member Cowan reported that staff presented a request from the City of Madeira's recreational organization to utilize Stephan Field baseball fields. Staff indicated it will acquire additional information from Madeira on its frequency needs and research previous conversations regarding the renting of Indian Hill fields to outside organizations.

Council member Cowan reported that staff announced that an Indian Hill resident has communicated his desire to donate \$20,000 to assist in repairs to Stephan Field baseball fields. She said that currently, staff is working on draft signage that is being requested by the donor and will look to add the repair costs to the 2019 budget. It is anticipated that the donation will be received in 2018 with the repairs occurring in 2019.

Council member Cowan reported that staff presented a resident's request to purchase green area parcels. After a thorough discussion, the Buildings and Grounds committee indicated the request neither meets the Village's philosophy of preserving green area nor does it center on purchase agreements entered into by previous Councils.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Krehbiel directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Public Works Committee*". He reported that the Public Works committee met on December 11, 2018 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Krehbiel reported that Mr. Adkins presented the departmental activity report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. Council member Krehbiel explained that staff cleared trees from the right-of-way on several streets. Several storm water catch basins and pipe separation repairs were performed throughout the Village. Council member Krehbiel said that the holiday scene also was assembled for the season. He said that thus far, there have been 5 snow events, 1.75 inches of snow accumulations, 232 tons of salt used and 825 gallons of brine used.

Council member Krehbiel reported that Mrs. Wade-Dorman presented the project management report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He reported that Grand Valley resurfacing has been completed. Staff continues to work on a construction schedule for the Weil Road stream restoration project that is expected to begin in January.

Council member Krehbiel reported that Mrs. Wade-Dorman explained the Spooky Hollow and Blome Road culvert repair project will begin after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Initial work includes the contractor removing trees to prepare the installation of the temporary poles and relocation of the overhead lines.

Council member Krehbiel reported that through the efforts of Mrs. Wade-Dorman, the Village has received an Ohio Public Works Commission grant in the amount of \$164,000 for the Remington Road culvert repair that will take place in 2019. The Village will match the funding with a \$164,000 contribution from the State Highway Fund.

Council member Krehbiel reported that Mrs. Wade-Dorman explained that the Shawnee Run Road project continues to work through the ODOT review process. ODOT has indicated the project has been moved back to a summer 2019 start date. Terracon has provided a draft of the final landslide and retaining wall assessment. He said that staff is reviewing the draft with a final report being prepared by the end of the year.

Council member Krehbiel reported that staff provided an update on the Blome Road Bridge. Hamilton County is expected to perform engineering on the bridge in 2019 with reconstruction to begin in 2020. Council and staff will begin evaluating the pros and cons of maintaining a one lane bridge or increasing it to two lanes. The bridge's historic trestle will be taken under significant consideration in this process.

**WATER WORKS REPORT:** Mayor Kuenning directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Water Works and Deregulation Committee*". He reported that the Water Works committee met on December 11, 2018 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Mayor Kuenning reported that Mr. Adkins presented the departmental activity report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He reported that staff repaired three main breaks totaling 55 for this year and performed fire hydrant repairs. Plant operators responded to 286 customer service calls. He said that staff installed a new control panel for the water fill station.

Mayor Kuenning reported that Mrs. Wade-Dorman distributed the project management report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He reported that the water treatment plant power

distribution improvements will be closed out after final testing and training. Construction drawings and contract documents for the Algonquin water main replacement project were filed with actual construction taking place in 2020. Mayor Kuenning reported that Shillito water main replacement is needing one more acquisition agreement. The construction drawings for this project are going through final review.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member McGraw directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Safety Committee*". He reported that the Safety committee met on December 6, 2018 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member McGraw reported that Chief Ashbrock presented the Fire/EMS report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He reported that there was a car/garage fire on Tupelo Lane and Coffee Please had a roaster which caught fire. EMS runs are 63 more this year compared to last year.

Council member McGraw reported that Chief Ashbrock provided an update on the hiring process to replace three part-time firefighters with three full-time firefighters. He said that after interviews and testing, the final eligibility list includes ten individuals. It is a combination of lateral hires from other organizations, current MIHJFD part-time staff and part-time staff from other jurisdictions. Council member McGraw reported that Chief Ashbrock indicated three conditional offers of employment will be sent out soon with acceptances by the end of the year.

Council member McGraw reported that Colonel Schlie presented the Rangers report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He said that over the past month, cases have involved identification theft, general information and dog cases. He said that Colonel Schlie highlighted that the deer count is on pace with last year and that 21 coyotes have been taken. Council member McGraw said that Mayor Kuenning suggested that Detective Shawn Perdue have a public presentation on coyotes. He said that Detective Perdue has presented at several organization meetings throughout the Village over the years and has written many articles for the Bulletin.

Council member McGraw reported that staff addressed a resident's concerns about RedPlum advertising. RedPlum is one organization which distributes advertising flyers for local grocery stores. The flyers are placed in the residents' driveways. Concerns center on the accumulation of these flyers on people's driveways when they are not home and the clutter. The resident was requesting the Village to stop the distribution throughout the Village. Council member McGraw reported that staff indicated that residents may opt-out of the delivery service by calling RedPlum directly or going to its website. However, a word of caution – drivers may change and the information may not get passed on to the new driver. Also, there are some residents who may utilize the flyers. Council member McGraw reported that after discussion, the Safety committee recommends that an article be placed in the Bulletin making residents aware of the ability to opt-out with RedPlum advertising.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Council member Thayer directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Planning Commission*". He reported that the Planning Commission met on November 20, 2018 to review several issues.

Council member Thayer reported that the Planning Commission conditionally approved a special exception and variance request for the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District at 6865 Drake Road for the improvements related to the athletic facilities.

Council member Thayer reported that the Planning Commission conditionally approved a special exception for the Greenacres Foundation at 8375 Spooky Hollow Road which is under the continuing jurisdiction of the Planning Commission. The improvement will allow the Foundation to make the following improvements:

1. Remodel the interior of the existing home to be used by the estate crew who maintains the 600 acre property;
2. Tear down six accessory structures;
3. Construct three new accessory structures for equipment storage, tool storage, mechanics shop and wood shop; and
4. Site improvements also include adding gravel driveways and parking areas, salt and gravel storage bins and fuel storage.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Minneci reported that the Administrative offices will be closed for Christmas on December 24 and 25, 2018 and closed for New Year's Day on January 1, 2019.

Ms. Minneci asked Council to select a date for the Goal Setting meeting. Council selected January 7, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.

Ms. Minneci said that the Community Forum date also needs to be set for 2019. Council agreed to "pencil in" April 29, 2019 as the date for the Community Forum at 7:30 p.m. Council can develop ideas on the format for the Forum which could include the possibility of having the Forum at the Little Red Schoolhouse. The time could be 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. - to be determined.

Ms. Minneci said that she would send out the goals for 2018 and the draft for 2019.

Ms. Minneci requested date changes for February and May 2019 committee meetings:

- Public Safety/Law changed to Thursday, February 7, 2019 – Public Safety at 7:30 a.m. and Law at 8:00 a.m.)
- Public Works/Grounds/Water Works changed to Tuesday, May 7, 2019 – Public Works at 7:00 a.m., Grounds at 7:30 a.m. and Water Works at 8:00 a.m. The meeting dates and times were approved by Council members.

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Kuenning declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark D. Kuenning, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Paul C. Riordan, Clerk