

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
INDIAN HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL  
September 23, 2019**

A meeting of the Indian Hill Village Council was held on September 23, 2019 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
Ms.	Dina C. Minneci, City Manager
Mr.	Scott D. Phillips, City Solicitor
Mr.	Paul C. Riordan, Clerk/Comptroller

Visitor's Present:

Chief	Steve Ashbrock (retired), Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District
Mrs.	Robin Armstrong, 4630 Drake Road
Mr.	JB Kropp, 4595 Drake Road
Chief	Steve Oughterson, Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District
Chief	Chuck Schlie, 6525 Drake Road
Mr.	Casey Ward, 4810 Drake Road

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

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the regular meeting of August 23, 2019 had previously been distributed to each Council member. Council member Thayer made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Council member Armstrong and was approved as corrected, 7-0.

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 5, 2019 special Council meeting (Community Forum) 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.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Kuenning recognized Mr. Stephen M. Ashbrock for his service to the City of the Village of Indian Hill, Ohio in his position as Chief of the Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire District. Mayor Kuenning presented the following Resolution 19-19 to Mr. Stephen M. Ashbrock.

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO STEPHEN M. ASHBROCK  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN  
HILL, OHIO** was presented and read.

**WHEREAS,** Stephen M. Ashbrock has served as the Fire Chief for the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District since January 2000 and entered retirement on July 1, 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief Ashbrock completed 43 years in the fire service with almost 20 years of continuous leadership and service to the residents of Indian Hill and Madeira; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Ashbrock was dedicated to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of the entire community by distributing his highly respected public safety skills and knowledge. This was highlighted as he worked double duty to oversee the construction of two extremely effective, efficient and state-of-the-art public safety facilities, generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Ashbrock's strong educational background includes a Master of Public Administration from the University of Cincinnati, a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program, and a faculty member within the University of Cincinnati's Fire Science program; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Ashbrock fire and emergency medical service influence extends beyond Indian Hill as he was a founding member and past Commissioner of the Hamilton County Ohio Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, a member of the Board of Directors of the Hamilton County Fire Chiefs' Association, and a member of the International Fire Service Training Association Executive Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Ashbrock has accumulated several fire and emergency service honors for his professionalism and expertise including the EMS Spirit of Excellence Award from University and Children's Hospitals, the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association Distinguished Service Award and the establishment of the Stephen M. Ashbrock Fire & EMS Scholarship at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Ashbrock, his wife Mary Kay and son Ted have been long time Indian Hill residents and have demonstrated a high level of community involvement by not only actively participating in Indian Hill events but also making their home a few yards away from the hustle and bustle of the Indian Hill Fire Station; and

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

**Section 1** That a copy of this Resolution be presented to Stephen M. Ashbrock and spread upon the records of the City of the Village of Indian Hill 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 Chief Ashbrock and his family many more happy and healthy years.

Mr. Ashbrock thanked Council for allowing him to serve the Village of Indian Hill and he expressed that it has been his honor and privilege to serve the Village and he thanked Council for allowing him to serve.

Mayor Kuenning expressed to Mr. Ashbrock that he has left a long and deep and lasting legacy in both the Village of Indian Hill and Madeira and the Village is very grateful for his services.

Ms. Minneci introduced Steve Oughterson, the new Fire Chief for the Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire District to Council. She explained that he was formerly with the West Chester Fire

Department. Since he started several weeks ago, Chief Oughterson has been doing his due-diligence and learning about his new position and working very well with Village staff and Madeira staff.

Mayor Kuenning welcomed Chief Oughterson to his new position and said that the Village would do everything they could to help him be successful.

Mrs. Robin Armstrong, 4630 Drake Road, explained to Council that she was there representing the residents on Varner Road and she said that they would like to work with Council and Chief Schlie to make Varner Road safer. She brought 34 letters from concerned parties to give to Council. Mr. Casey Ward, 4810 Drake Road, said that they believe that traffic on Varner Road has increased substantially over the last 18 months, including truck traffic with an increase in the size of the trucks. He said that the question is how can the truck traffic be diverted from Varner Road?

Chief Schlie explained that he has recently spoken to Evans Landscaping and they agreed to redirect the traffic to lessen the load on Varner. Chief Schlie also explained that if a truck makes a delivery in Indian Hill it is not considered through traffic. It's only when a truck goes through Indian Hill would it be in violation of Village Ordinance. Chief Schlie explained that it has been more than a decade since there has been a car accident on Varner Road. He also explained that a deer camera will be placed on Varner to record the traffic for further analysis. He said that it is not possible to put another type of camera in the location at this time. The result will be that traffic will be transferred to other roads in the Village. Chief Schlie explained that moving traffic to Muchmore Road will likely increase accidents in that Muchmore has historically had more accidents than Varner Road.

Council member Armstrong asked that the City Solicitor take a look at Village Ordinances 77-01 and 77-05 which he believes already covers 2-axle vehicles. City Solicitor Phillips explained that he had read the Ordinances and he said that his interpretation is that deliveries cannot be made through the Village; however, if the delivery has a destination in the Village, trucks can use Village roads. The Ordinance also calls for the *most direct route* and he said that this would be very hard to enforce, but the Village could attempt to enforce it. City Solicitor Phillips said that he would have to research if traffic could be limited to 2-axle vehicles on Varner Road. Mayor Kuenning said that the Village will make some counts of the traffic on Varner and continue to work with Evans Landscaping to redirect traffic. The situation will be reviewed again at the next Safety committee meeting on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am.

Council member Armstrong requested that City Solicitor Phillips be directed to draft an emergency Ordinance limiting traffic on Varner to 2-axle vehicles. After discussion, Mayor Kuenning said that at the next Safety committee meeting, which is a public meeting, it will be determined if such an Ordinance is necessary. The Safety committee will then make a recommendation which will then be brought to Council. Ms. Minneci said that the Law and Safety committees will be combined at 7:30 am on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kuenning thanked the residents for their input and he said that Council wants to be sure that any action they take does not have unintended consequences. Council member Armstrong said he is concerned about safety on Varner Road and the south-end of Drake Road.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Sewell directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Finance Committee*". She reported that the Finance committee met on September 12, 2019 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Sewell reported that Mr. Aaron presented a draft on the updated website to the Finance committee. He continues to work with the website developers on the formatting. Department heads are providing Mr. Aaron with revised content for their specific portions of the website. She said that at this time, the new website is expected to go live in November.

Council member Sewell also directed Council's attention to the August financial statements which were included in the Council packet. Council member Sewell highlighted the following in her financial report:

- **Income Tax Receipts:** The Village received \$175,756, which was \$108,210 more than received in August 2018. Year-to-date receipts are 99% of budget.
- **Water Works CRF:** Total expenditures equated to \$73,796. This relates to the water main replacement on Shillito Lane.
- **Long Term Debt:** The next principal and interest payments will be made in November.

The financial statements for August 2019 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 staff presented the preliminary 2020 operating and capital budget. The presentations included the following departments: City Council, City Manager, Technology Services and Inspection Division. She said that significant recommendations are as follows:

- a) **City Council** – 1) Overage in year-end solicitor fees is due to Planning Commission appeal and foreclosure issue and 2) increase in miscellaneous is due to Ordinance review occurring every two years. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 0.7% increase.
- b) **Clerk/Comptroller** – 1) Increase in professional service for management fees due to payment schedule, but it is offset by investment revenues; 2) decrease for one-time tax server hosting upgrade; and 3) purchase of computer and software updates. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 4.3% increase.
- c) **City Manager:** 1) Increase due to national conferences being longer distances in 2020 and 2) increase in AutoCAD maintenance contract that comes due every three years. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 5% increase.
- d) **Technology Services** – Increase in 2020 is associated with three month transition due to retirement of Technology Manager. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 21% increase.
- e) **Inspection Division** – Increase in contractual is due to state required septic inspection fees for Village owned properties and NPDES water quality sampling. Overall, the initial 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 3.8% increase.

Council member Sewell reported that staff commented on the overall preliminary 2020 Capital Improvement Replacement Fund (CIRF) budget summary. Significant capital recommendations for 2020 include:

- a. \$1,700,000 for bridge repair – Blome Road (50% collaboration with Hamilton County) and Given Road
- b. \$1,200,000 for road resurfacing program – includes seven roads such as Weil Road, Hopewell Road, Fawn Meadow Lane and a portion of Loveland-Madeira Road; concrete curb replacement, crack sealing and flex mat.
- c. \$155,000 for anticipated culvert replacements on Spooky Hollow, Keller and Drake Roads.
- d. \$454,000 for anticipated landslide repairs on Hopewell Road, Given Road and a study for Redbirdhollow Trail.
- e. \$220,000 for septic design and replacement at Buckingham Lodge, Little Red Schoolhouse and Livingston Lodge.
- f. \$387,000 for major street equipment replacement – includes salt truck, leaf vac and utility truck.
- g. \$300,000 for emergency landslide/culvert repair

Council member Sewell reported that per the Summary of Expenditures by Department and Fund and the Budget Summary Statement, the total 2020 preliminary operating budget of \$13,409,222 reflects a 4.9% increase compared to the 2019 year-end estimate. She said that the total 2020 preliminary operating and CIRF budget of \$18,230,722 reflects a 2.7% increase compared to the 2019 year-end estimate. Significant factors relating to the increase are Fire Department Fund (replace three part-time positions with three full-time positions), Technology Services (retirement transition), significant repairs needed for aging facilities, and committing to the ten year infrastructure improvement plan. The percentage increases include fully funding line items in 2020 that were not fully utilized in 2019 to account for unpredictable weather and maintenance issues.

Council member Sewell said that the Finance committee and staff discussed how the entire budget still remains in preliminary stages with changes to estimates and reevaluation of requests being made on a continuous basis. A revised total operating and CIRF budget will be presented at next month's Finance meeting for review.

Council member Sewell reported that the Finance committee reviewed the annual Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as set by the Hamilton County Budget Commission. She said that the Finance committee recommends passage of this Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AMOUNTS AND RATES AS SET FOR THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION, AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR** 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 **20-19** 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 September 11, 2019 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Armstrong reported that the Law committee reviewed the August legal activity report, which was provided prior to the meeting. There were no questions or discussions on this matter.

Council member Armstrong reported that the City Charter defines the City's organizational structure, powers, functions and procedures and acts like the City's Constitution. Earlier in the year, Council created a Charter Review committee to assess the entire City Charter to evaluate recommendations which allow municipal operations to be more efficient, to bring the Charter format up-to-date and to capitalize on home rule capabilities to promote practices best suited for the Village. He said that the committee consisted of Vice Mayor Melissa Cowan, Mr. Bear Tullis (resident), Mr. Karl Grafe (resident), Mr. Scott Phillips (City Solicitor), Mr. Jon West (Assistant City Manager), Mrs. Jessica Chaney (Director of Administrative Services) and Ms. Dina Minneci (City Manager).

Council member Armstrong reported that the Charter Review committee, after convening several times during the summer, met with the Law committee to provide an overview of the changes being recommended. He said that an executive summary of the recommended changes in addition to a redline version of the Charter were distributed to the committee. The recommendations included stylistic and formatting changes, reduction in Ordinance effective dates, clarification of the petition initiative, establishment of bid processes, redefining thresholds for contracts and clarifying real property sales.

Council member Armstrong reported that the timeline for the Charter review includes Council holding three readings at the September 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup> (including a Public Hearing) and November 18 Council meetings. If passed, these Charter changes will be presented to the Board of Elections to be placed on the March 17, 2020 ballot for voters to decide. In addition, a letter of all recommended changes with an Executive Summary will be sent to all residents in January/February 2020. Residents also will be provided updates on the Charter recommendations in upcoming Bulletins and on the Indian Hill website. Also, a general overview was presented at the September 5<sup>th</sup> Community Forum.

Council member Armstrong reported that the Law committee provided additional changes to the redline recommendations. Such changes will be incorporated and disbursed amongst all of the Council for final approval prior to the first reading.

Council member Armstrong said that the Law committee recommends a first reading of the Ordinance.

**AN ORDINANCE TO CAUSE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL TO BE PLACED ON THE MARCH 17, 2020 BALLOT** was presented and read for the first reading.

**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 September 11, 2019 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Cowan reported that the departmental activity and project management reports were sent to the Buildings and Grounds committee members prior to the meeting to allow time for 2020 budget discussions. Copies of the reports are included in the Council packet.

Council member Cowan reported that staff presented the preliminary 2020 operating and capital improvement budget. Presentations included the following departments: Camp Ross Shooting Range, Parks, Recreation, Buildings and Grounds, Bridle Trails, Green Areas, Grand Valley and Rowe Arboretum. She said that significant recommendations are as follows:

- a. **Camp Ross Shooting Range** – 1) Purchase of two AED’s for both sides of the range: 2) increase in ammunition and clay targets which are offset by revenues and 3) replacement of steel targets. Equipment requests include a pole barn to shelter the five stand shooting area, under roof lighting, and replacement of thrower carts. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 31% increase. The Shooting Range is self-sufficient with the revenues from memberships and user fees being used toward expenditures. No General Fund revenues subsidize this account.
- b. **Parks** – Equipment requests include a fertilizer spreader and pole saw. Facility improvements include Drake Park restroom roof repairs, Stephen Field restroom partitions and repairing asphalt walking path in parks. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 2.4% increase; however, this will adjust after Recreation personnel costs are transferred to the new Recreation Fund (refer to “c”).
- c. **Recreation** – Mr. Gully and Mr. Alley provided an overview of their efforts to place the Recreation Commissions’ finances under the Village’s jurisdiction and obtain comparables from past years. Mr. Alley is working with the Commission chairpersons to determine final estimates for revenues and expenditures for each of the sports. The Buildings and Grounds committee discussed that the General Fund will continue to supplement personnel costs, but all sports must remain self-sustaining.
- d. **Buildings and Grounds** – Livingston Lodge repairs include addition of backyard concrete pad and tables to accommodate bigger functions. Historical Society expenditures decreased due to renewed contract terms. Other building improvements include replacement of fuel pumps, replacing last of seven HVAC systems in Public Works, repairs to Public Works exhaust fan/duct and repairs to Public Works garage doors. Overall, the operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 16.1% increase.
- e. **Bridle Trails** – Contractual services request include the resurfacing of the driveway approach to Clippinger Fields which creates an increase in the operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget.
- f. **Green Areas** – Contractual service request include a Village wide urban forestry study that was recommended at Council’s strategic planning session. This creates an increase in the operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget. No General Fund revenues subsidize this account.

- g. **Grand Valley** – Improvements include trail drainage and building up of south trails due to high waters throughout the year. Overall, the operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 6.5% decrease.
- h. **Rowe Arboretum** – Improvements include an upgraded septic system, trail and drainage repairs, paving the gate entrance and painting of building. Equipment request include replacement of a portion of deer fence. The Buildings and Grounds committee also discussed having a portion of the Rowe Arboretum Manager’s salary be placed under Public Works to account for the work performed within that department. Overall, the operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 14% increase.

Council member Cowan said that staff indicated that these recommendations remain preliminary and changes continue to be made to line items to ensure cost efficiencies. Revised preliminary budgets will be submitted at the October Buildings and Grounds committee meeting for review.

**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 September 10, 2019 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Krehbiel reported that staff provided the departmental activity and project management reports after the meeting to allow time for 2020 budget discussions. Copies of the reports are included in the Council packet.

Council member Krehbiel reported that staff presented the preliminary 2020 Public Works operating and capital improvement replacement budget (CIRF). It includes the following departments: Street Maintenance and Repair, State Highway Maintenance, Snow Removal and Waste/Recycling Collection. Significant requests are as follows:

- a. **Street Maintenance and Repair** – 1) increase in salaries due to reallocation of Superintendent salary and Assistant Superintendent promotion; 2) decrease in maintenance due to historic usage and 3) decrease in signage based on historic usage. Equipment requests include a pavement roller. Trailer and zero turn mower. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate compared to the 2020 budget equates to a 13% increase.

Under the CIRF, requests include \$1,200,000 for the Village’s overall street resurfacing program that accommodates concrete curb, flex mat and crack sealing and paving on approximately seven streets, including Loveland-Madeira, Weil and Hopewell Roads. Other CIRF requests include three landslide projects, three culvert repairs, a fence/gate installed at Old Remington and replacement of a utility truck.

- b. **State Highway Maintenance** – The significant request in this account centers on the engineering of a landslide on State Route 126. This account is state mandated and it is a self-sufficient fund that is earmarked for the state highways. Therefore, expenditures can only be used for the repairs and maintenance associated with the areas of State Route 126 that fall within the Village. Revenues are derived from state gas and auto taxes only. No General Fund revenues are utilized.

- c. **Snow Removal** – requests for 2020 are very similar as to what was appropriated in 2019 except for a request to replace an existing brine mix storage tank. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end estimate to 2020 comparison equates to a 7.5% increase. This is due to fully funding the 2020 overtime as weather is unpredictable. Under the CIRF, requests include the replacement of a salt truck.
- d. **Waste/Recycling Collection** – 1) increase in salary and benefits due to Assistant Superintendent promotion and 2) increase in recycling disposal charges due to Rumpke passing on a 50% increase in dumping fees. Overall, the initial operating 2019 year-end budget to 2020 budget comparison equates to a 4.4% increase. Other CIRF requests include two collection carts – one for collection, one for recycling.

Council member Krehbiel reported that Ms. Minneci presented an Ordinance for the Public Works committee's consideration which revises the Public Works Personnel Ordinance to account for raises that will begin for Public Works employees on September 1, 2019 when the current union contract expired. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Public Works AFSCME union disbanded which was validated at a State Employment Relations Board (SERB) meeting on September 19, 2019. He said that the Public Works committee recommends an emergency passage of this Ordinance at this meeting in order to have increases effective September 1, 2019.

**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. 10-18, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

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

Upon motion by Council member Krehbiel, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Kuenning declared Ordinance **10-19** enacted.

**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 September 10, 2019 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Mayor Kuenning reported that the departmental activity and project management reports were sent prior to the meeting for review to allow time for budget discussions. Copies of the reports are included in the Council packet.

Mayor Kuenning reported that Mr. Adkins presented the preliminary 2020 Water Works operating and capital budget. Highlights are as follows:

- a. Addition of a full-time distribution employee due to demands from mandated asset management program and balancing daily duties with increased water main repairs. Mayor Kuenning explained that not knowing when breaks will occur and being on call puts stress on the system and this hopes to alleviate it.

- b. Reallocation of Superintendent salary from 75% to 50% to both Water Works and Public Works.
- c. Addition of Assistant Superintendent salary with a 25% allocation.
- d. Water tank inspections (occur every five years).
- e. Upgrade water softener controls
- f. Cleaning and repair of one well compared to two in 2019.
- g. Building improvement requests include power disconnects to assist in weather-related outages, desiccant replacement in dehumidifier and furnace replacement in treatment plant.
- h. Under the Capital Improvement Replacement Fund (CIRF), items being requested include: 1) water main replacement on Algonquin; 2) engineering for Main Street water main replacement and water meter pit on Perin Road; and 3) replacement of valve truck and meter reader van.

Mayor Kuenning reported that the total 2020 preliminary operating budget of \$2,300,000 (less sewer reimbursements to MSD & Madeira) reflects a 10% increase compared to the 2019 year-end estimate. He said that in addition to the items listed above, overtime wages, supplies and contractual services were not fully utilized in 2019. However, budget amounts for these accounts remain the same in 2020 due to unpredictability relating to weather and number of water main breaks. The total 2020 CIRF budget of \$1,600,000 reflects an 11% increase compared to the 2019 year-end estimate.

Mayor Kuenning said that these recommendations remain preliminary and changes continue to be made to line items to ensure cost efficiencies. Revised preliminary budgets will be submitted at the October Water Works committee meeting for review.

Mayor Kuenning reported that the Water Works committee reviewed an update on Madeira's water service study which compares Greater Cincinnati Waterworks costs to Indian Hill costs. Madeira is wanting to implement \$4,000,000 in water main repairs immediately over the next two years. In order to accommodate this, Madeira is asking the Village to amend its current water service contract with them to increase the 25% surcharge on Madeira resident invoices to 50% and to eliminate the \$500,000 threshold in order to allow Madeira flexibility to utilize additional funds over the two year period to repair mains.

Mayor Kuenning reported that Madeira has indicated that this is not a final solution as they still have not made a decision on the Cincinnati proposal. He said that should Madeira decide to stay with Indian Hill, there will be an expectation that Indian Hill will take over capital maintenance and replacement of the pipes. This process will require analysis including what happens to the funding necessary to do the \$4,000,000 replacement project. However, the 50% surcharge is needed immediately to move forward with the projects if nothing else changes. Mayor Kuenning said that the Village will not take over the mains until they have been replaced. The Village would want to be involved in the process to make sure the mains are repaired in accordance with Village standards. Ms. Minneci said that Madeira's Council is also considering the water main issue at their Council meeting and no decisions will be made by the Village until everything is to the Village's satisfaction.

Mayor Kuenning reported that staff indicated it is comfortable with Madeira's request, but also would like to amend the contract to include a provision for Indian Hill to be reimbursed for concrete repairs on water main breaks due to the significant cost and number of such breaks.

Mayor Kuenning reported that the Water Works committee agreed to Madeira's requested amendments as well as the addition of the reimbursement provision. Staff will have further discussions with Madeira to begin the process of amending the contract for an effective date of January 1, 2020.

Mayor Kuenning reported that staff indicated it continues to wait on the City of Cincinnati's passage of its amended contract for water services to include all of Meadows of Peterloun in the Indian Hill service area. The City Solicitor has reviewed the amendments. Upon receiving approval from Cincinnati, staff will place it on the Village agenda.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member McGraw directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Safety Committee*". He reported that the Safety committee met on September 12, 2019 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member McGraw reported that the Fire/EMS and Ranger reports were distributed prior to the meeting to allow time for the 2020 budget review. Copies of the reports are included in the Council packet. He said that there were no discussions on these reports.

Council member McGraw reported that Colonel Schlie presented the preliminary 2020 Police department operating and CIRF budget. Significant requests included:

- a. Increase in physicals, training and firearms due to the retirement of an Assistant Chief/Captain and a Ranger which will result in a promotional and hiring process.
- b. Costs associated with replacement of 20 year old gun racks.
- c. Cost associated with replacing significantly aged furniture and computers.

Council member McGraw said that overall, the Police department's initial operating 2019 year-end estimate compared to the 2020 budget is a 5.4% increase. Requests in the Capital Improvement Replacement Fund (CIRF) include replacement of one (1) Ranger Tahoe and one (1) unmarked vehicle.

Council member McGraw reported that Chief Oughterson presented the preliminary 2020 Joint Fire District budget which is based on the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District Board's recommendations. He said that the Village's operating and capital expenditures are based on 50% of the fire district budget with the City of Madeira being responsible for the other 50%. He said that overall, the Fire District's initial operating 2019 year-end estimate compared to 2020 budget equates to a 15.3% increase. This significant increase is due to a second phase of replacing three part-time positions with three full-time positions. The first phase began at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. The expenditures include the offset of an estimated \$100,000 in EMS reimbursements.

Council member McGraw reported that Chief Oughterson recommends that both communities approve the second phase of the transition from three part-time positions to three full-time. The Chief emphasized the same needs that were reported last year:

1. The ability to achieve a daily staffing level of eight personnel per shift. Since the phase one transition of three part-timers to three full-timers, the average daily staffing has increased to 6.7 per shift.

2. The “pool” of part-time personnel is dwindling due to fewer people entering the firefighter/paramedic workforce market, less desire to take on additional hours and other departments in the region hiring more full-time staff because they have similar scheduling problems, including Montgomery and Cincinnati.
3. Educational opportunities for EMS/paramedic classes have decreased due to schools shutting down.

Council member McGraw reported that the Safety committee addressed the Joint Fire District’s estimated remaining reserve balance of \$313,000 in 2019 and how that reserve amount would be utilized in the future when it comes to the contributions expected from both cities. He said that discussions ensued about utilizing the remaining amount to reduce future city contributions or as a reimbursement to the cities. Staff indicated that the contract amongst the two cities and the Joint Fire District expires at the end of this year, and talks have started to incorporate a provision which addresses how Joint Fire District reserves will be used in future years. Council member McGraw said that after extensive discussion, the Safety committee indicated its initial support of the second phase of part-time to full-time transition. However, the Safety committee directed staff to talk more with Madeira representatives to understand if they are truly in favor of it before making a formal commitment.

Council member McGraw said that other Police and Fire recommendations remain preliminary and changes continue to be made to line items to ensure cost efficiencies. Revised preliminary budgets will be submitted at the October Safety committee meeting for review.

Council member McGraw reported that staff indicated that Mr. Armstrong wished to have the Safety committee discuss amending legislation to eliminate two axle trucks from traveling on Varner Road. He said this continues the conversations from past Safety committee meetings in addition to the discussions that took place at the September 5<sup>th</sup> Community Forum where residents on Varner Road expressed concern about safety due to the trucks. He said that this is the subject which was discussed previously at this Council meeting. He said that staff will provide the Safety committee with an update on these discussions at next month’s Safety committee meeting to help evaluate the two axle restriction on Varner Road.

Council member McGraw reported that at the Strategic Planning Session last month, Council directed staff to research a budget for a traffic study within the Village to determine if it would be recommended to be incorporated into the 2020 budget. Thus far, he said that staff has received a quote of \$17,000 for a traffic count study that could be utilized in the future to understand where traffic is coming from, what roads are being used the most and what time of day is traffic most prevalent. He said that the Safety committee will review this budget item at next month’s meeting to determine recommendations for the 2020 budget.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Council member Thayer reported that the September Planning Commission meeting had been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:** Ms. Minneci reported the following:

- On October 21<sup>st</sup> a public meeting will be held on the Charter revisions.
- On November 18<sup>th</sup> a public meeting will be held on the 2020 Budget.

- On December 2<sup>nd</sup> a Council Organizational meeting will be held.

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