

VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

January 14, 2013

Ms. Gooden-Kinney called the meeting to order. Mr. Shelton took roll call with the following members present: Mr. Thompson, Ms. Evans, Mr. Wissinger, Mr. Shelton and Ms. Gooden-Kinney. Mayor Hammond, Solicitor Hess and Engineer Grosse were also in attendance. Mr. Cruz and Fiscal Officer Hastings were absent.

Mr. Wissinger made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gooden-Kinney to approve the December 17, 2012 COW Minutes. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

Solicitor Hess reported that he will be having a meeting with Don Brosius, Scioto Township Solicitor, regarding the proposed JEDD.

Engineer Grosse reported the fence along the Walker Point walk path will be in place this week. The light poles will be the next phase.

Mayor Hammond gave Council a handout with suggested changes he would like to see in the Employee Guidelines. He would like to see the addition of a full-time plant operator, he feels the vacation should be based on hire date and not January 1, he would like to eliminate 4 weeks of vacation for full time employees, and feels 10 personnel days' needs to be reduced. Ms. Gooden-Kinney feels 3 personnel days would be enough. Ms. Gooden-Kinney and Mr. Thompson feel 4 weeks of vacation after someone has worked more than 11 years for the Village is fine. Mr. Shelton does not agree with the 10 personnel days. Mr. Thompson feels 10 days is too many, however since the Village does not offer insurance, he doesn't think it's fair to take everything away. Mayor Hammond said the sliding scale that was approved last year was to help the employees be able to purchase their own insurance. Mr. Thompson said Mayor Hammond supplied Council with the dollar amounts for the sliding scale. Mr. Thompson said he was not in favor of not offering insurance to our employees. Mayor Hammond does not feel the majority of the Council's decision, to not offer insurance, is going to hinder hiring good people to work for the Village.

Ms. Gooden-Kinney mentioned on page 2 of the Council Rules, the Fiscal Officer needs to attend all meetings. Mayor Hammond said section 1.01 of the Rules mentions a delegate to

take the minutes in the absence of the Fiscal Officer. Mayor Hammond informed Council as the Fiscal Officer's supervisor, he will not enforce this part-time employee, who worked 2,400+ hours this past year, to come to every meeting. He feels since we are recording every meeting and the minutes are being taken off of the recording, everything is working fine. He has no complaints. Ms. Gooden-Kinney asked what changes have taken place over the last year that has caused this many hours. Mayor Hammond said the only thing he is aware of is the previous Mayor had taken part in Mayor's Court. He also said there are many interruptions in a typical day at the office for Ms. Hastings. Mayor Hammond said Mayor's Court is held every 2 weeks. All of the documents are done by hand and very time consuming. Mr. Wissinger said he thought we were doing away with Mayor's Court. Mayor Hammond said he was not informed of the decision made by the previous Solicitor as to why we needed to continue with court. It was suggested that we continue with holding Mayor's Court. Mayor Hammond feels we took in a lot less revenue in 2012 than we had in previous years. Sergeant Murphy explained the process of paperwork the Ms. Hastings completes for each court session.

At this time, several suggestions were made throughout the Council Rule booklet. Items discussed were:

- 1) Items for the Agenda need to be turned in by the Wednesday before the meeting.
- 2) A roll call vote should be taken in the committee meetings and recorded in the committee minutes.
- 3) Emphasis on citizens stating their name and address when given the chance to speak to Council.
- 4) Page 11, section 9.06 – Mayor Hammond feels that the Chairperson of the meeting is the one who shall be responsible for calling a member out of order.
- 5) If you are not going to attend a meeting, please alert Mayor or President of Council of your absence. Mr. Thompson feels this is common courtesy and does not need to be documented in the rules.
- 6) Ms. Gooden-Kinney feels any proposed legislation from the Council should go through 2 Council members and the Village Solicitor before being presented to the rest of Council. Mr. Thompson doesn't feel this is a necessary step. Solicitor Hess reviews all legislation before being passed by Council. Solicitor Hess said that is the reason for the 3 readings. First reading is to present legislation. Second reading is to review and discuss. Third reading is to vote on the legislation as presented. Ms. Gooden-Kinney feels Council should discuss items being proposed for legislation amongst themselves before our Solicitor reviews

it. She noted last year, Council spent \$ 60,000+ on legal fees. It was noted there were some big projects worked on last year, including the JEDD that cost over \$ 8,000 in legal fees alone. The Go-Kart race documents and the Public Hearing on the dog-groomer in Walker Point were a few other large ticket items. Mayor Hammond feels a village our size should not be spending \$ 60,000 per year in legal fees.

At this time Mayor Hammond recommended bringing on a part-time employee to help Fiscal Officer Hastings. Ms. Gooden-Kinney feels a budget meeting is necessary before we can make any decisions. Ms. Evans feels we need to figure out if Mayor's Court is costing the village money. If we do away with court, maybe we won't need an additional employee. Mr. Wissinger suggested bringing on a Utility Clerk that would be paid out of the water and sewer funds. Mr. Shelton feels once the online bill pay is set up, this will cut back on Ms. Hastings time. Mr. Wissinger will set up a Saturday meeting for discussion on the budget.

Mayor Hammond recommended a full-time Plant Operator with a license. Total cost would be in the range of \$ 37,444 plus OPERS and Worker's Comp. Mr. Shelton asked if this would be a suitable position for Mr. Jim Muskera. Mayor Hammond said yes. He said Mr. Muskera is local, knows the utility plant very well and he enjoys working here. He is very interested in the position. If this position is awarded, we will not replace the part-time position that Mr. Muskera holds now.

Mr. Thompson asked what the Chief of Police made per hour. He is amazed that Mayor Hammond wants to pay another employee more than what our Chief makes. He feels it isn't fair. Mayor Hammond said the wages were low before he became Mayor. He proposed a dollar raise for everyone and Council agreed to the raise last year. He said if Council feels the wages are still too low, they can vote to increase the wages. Mr. Thompson made the point that your first phone call when you have an emergency in the Village is your least paid employee.

At this time, Ms. Gooden-Kinney said she needed two more Council members to join her on the Zoning Committee. Mr. Shelton volunteered to be on the committee with Ms. Gooden-Kinney. Mr. Thompson feels Jim Kuzelka would be a great asset to the Zoning Committee. For the Streets/Roads Committee, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Wissinger volunteered to be on this committee. More discussion and a vote will take place at the February Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shelton to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Joe Hammond, Mayor

Wendy Hastings, Fiscal Officer