

The Village of Walton Hills

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date: October 11, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

Mayor Hurst called the meeting to order. The roll call was taken by Katie Iaconis. Present: Councilpersons Denny Linville, Mary Brenner-Miller, Paul Rich, Gloria Terlosky, Don Kolograf, and Brian Spitznagel. Administration present: Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer; Bill Mason, Law Solicitor.

Persons having business before Council – Mayor Hurst states that he sees no one in the audience so they will move on to the next item on the agenda.

Council Comments – Mayor Hurst states that the Council has received the printouts every month about the recreation, police, and service garage, of events coming up and what is going on for your records. We did stop wood chipping on Monday, but we have so much chipping, we will probably be doing it this time next week. Everybody's brother over the weekend piled everything outside, but we are on top of it. It's the end of the season. Mayor Hurst asked Councilman Linville for any comments. Councilman Linville states that he had a little incident today. With the Agmet situation, he went to the doctor up there, and he lived through the dogs who answered the door at the office. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller made the announcement that we will have the annual Walton Hills Halloween party and trick-or-treat on Sunday, October 30th at the Walton Hills Church of Christ. I believe it starts at 5:00 for the costume judging and it goes until 7:30 with all kinds of events. I will be one of the judges, so come and have some fun. Councilwoman Terlosky states that she has two things. The first is regarding the recreation proposed, Kathleen Kapusta will be speaking on Thursday, the 13th. That's one of the best things we have ever done to hire that woman. When she talks about something, there are no questions. She puts things out there for everyone to understand it. She talked about the medical things last month at the meeting. She knows her stuff. The second thing is that the 50+ Club is going to meet on Monday over in the community room. It is the first meeting for the year in October and our speaker will be talking about drones. We have opened it up to the public. Anybody, they do not have to live in Walton Hills, can become a member of the 50+ Club.

Resolution of Appointing the Mayor of the Village of Walton Hills to participate in the JEDD Board of Directors – Mayor Hurst states that we need an official piece of legislation for this. Our annual meeting is coming up, if we can pass this next week at our regular council meeting. This was pointed out by the lawyers that we have in Columbus, and Bill drafted the legislation and prepared everything. If there are any questions, open it up for Bill to answer. I would like to put this on next week's regular council meeting for suspension if possible.

Discussion on Item F – Resolution for going out for bids on the Walton Road Drainage Project – Mayor Hurst states that it was in March or April of this year that we had the bad rain and a little bit of flooding. We had been trying to find out what the problem was and we jetted out all the pipes and could not get them clean on Walton Road in the backyards, the concrete pipes that were in the ground they put in when we used to have open ditches. The former administration put these drains underground to hide the smell from when we had septic tanks and swells. Since we have regular sewer in our front yards, and these pipes have all eventually broken down and plugged up. On Jefferson, where the Gaglione family is, which is the first family when you make the turn. They have given us permission to go on their property at the back of their house because that drain backs up and comes towards their house. It has only gone to their deck; it has not gone inside their basement yet. We want to remove the concrete pipes and turn it back to stream or natural creek. The Army Corps of Engineers approved the plans that our engineers have presented and these plans

we went over today with those residents and they signed the temporary one-time easement. We will access everything through our top parking lot, but that all belongs to the Gaglione family so we needed their permission. This family right beside us, Luke's, and then the next family is Lutzo and the next family was Hanlin, I believe. All those families are impacted with this flooding. Their buildings have been washed underneath and everything else. This has been going on since 2006. The plans are being revised. A lot of work was done in 2006 and 2007, but was never followed through on. We are going to use the storm water money. We would pay the money up front and get reimbursed. Approximate right now, I don't have the number in front of me right now, but I believe it was around \$70,000. This takes care of almost 9 acres. It's not a personal yard or anything like that. It does impact four different homes. This is the best solution we can get the storm water sewer district to refund us our money. This is our first project. Our goal is to start it this year and get it to where it is stabilized and in the spring finish it. We don't have enough money to cover the whole cost this year. That's why we waited until this time of the year to do everything the way we are doing it. If you give me permission to go out for bids, then hopefully we can get the rough part done before snow hits the ground and get the banks secure with rocks and then finish everything by next year. Council, I would like to put that on next week for suspension for our regular council meeting.

Discussion on Item G – Resolution to accept the Senior Snow Plowing Contract – Mayor Hurst states they opened the bids up Thursday, so we should have a recommendation like we do every year on Friday with the agenda for next week. The Mayor asks if there are any questions from the audience. I would like to put that on the agenda next week as well, so we can put it in our journal.

Discussion on Item H – Resolution to accept bids for striping and cracked ceiling – Mayor Hurst states this is the one that you gave us permission to go out for bids and those bids will be opened up Friday, so probably about 2:00 we will have a memo telling us which ones are the best, and we will go from there. It will probably close the end of November. There are no questions from the audience.

Discussion on Item I – Mayor Hurst states this is a proposal for our court system. Gloria made the comment and I took it and run and hopefully will make a touchdown with it. We will look at traffic codes because they are always changing on a state level. If that happens, we are going to ask you to modify our traffic codes. They did change a couple of different laws where you have to have your headlights on with your wipers. We want to make sure we can capture whatever the fine would be for that. Bill is going to look at all the traffic codes and see where that is at. My proposal is to raise the court costs. If you look on the memo that I gave everyone here, in 2011 I started doing court and we had 1,122 cases and the revenue from that was \$150,000. In 2012, you can see the progression. It has gone up to 1,328 and we did \$191,000. In 2013, we did 1,311 cases and \$188,000 was the revenue after all the bills were paid. In 2014, we did 1,392 cases and we raised \$198,000. In 2015, we did 1,474 cases and the revenue from that was \$213,000. In 2016, right now we are at 1,139 cases in the beginning of September. Next week I will have September's numbers, but we have already raised \$210,000. We are on track to continue to progress forward. This shows the volume of our traffic. It shows that everything is increased. What I have for the proposal is that we raise our court costs from \$100 to \$115. With legislation, Bill can provide us with \$10 would be added to the existing \$10 for police cars, which would generate about \$29,000 a year and \$5 I want to start throwing toward offsetting my auxiliary. It's better than paying police officers overtime as our past practice. This \$5 would generate about \$7,300 to offset my cost for my auxiliary. Our main goal is not to exceed what we have in Garfield Heights, which is our regular court system. Garfield Heights is at \$137, so we are still far underneath that. I think this is a good benefit to raise more money through court. Councilman Rich states that if you do a quick calculation from 2011 to 2015, our cases increased 24%, why can't we just raise it to \$125? Mayor Hurst states that we could, but I don't want to get too aggressive. I would say that if Garfield went up another \$10, then I would go up another \$10. I want to stay beneath them because I don't want people to say it's cheaper to go to Garfield. It's your call, you're in charge of the purse strings, but this is my proposal. A police car costs us around \$26,000 once we outfit it, so this should cover it. We will buy three police cars in 2017, so in 2018, we should be able to order a police car each year after that. We will have enough money to cover that instead of buying three and four at a time,

and keep them in rotation. That's the way we did in 2004, 2005, and 2006. We bought new cars each year, but we went through that numbers crunch in 2008 and 2009, we didn't buy anything. Then in 2012, you allowed me to buy three or four more and that's why we have some debt, but we are in the process of paying that debt off. Councilman Linville states that right now we have 335 fewer cases versus 2015, yet we have raised almost money equal to that amount we collected in 2015. Is there some place in the State we can watch this in terms of saying we are being exorbitant in giving out fines. The Mayor states if you look at the police report in the packet, they had an OVI checkpoint on the 23rd and that is not in this quota. At that OVI checkpoint, 410 cars went through there. If you add that to the 1,139, you're already over last year's. It tells you 410 cars and 5 diverted further testing, 3 citations issued, no OVIs for this taskforce and it went until 2 a.m. We do get audited every year and we did not have any problems at our courts. Councilwoman Terlosky asks what year it was when we raised the court costs? The Mayor states it was 2012. Councilwoman Terlosky states it has been four years, so that is justified. There is much more traffic in our village and we want to keep it safe. I think we are justified in increasing. Mayor states we have not increased it every year. Hopefully we can put this on the agenda for November or December to talk about and then Bill can draft the legislation and then hopefully kick in in January 2017.

Other Business – Mayor Hurst states he met last week with ODOT and they are going to tear 271 and 480 all to pieces in the next four years. They are going to do it just like Mayfield Heights with an express lane and your off and on ramps will be over on Freeway Drive by John's Trailers. I have blueprints. We will have a meeting on that. We will have to inform everyone this is an over \$100 million project and they are rebuilding all the bridges and rebuilding down by Bedford Heights. It will be very, very hectic for the next four years and they are starting in the spring 2017. I want you to be aware of it. We have no control. They wanted to know why I was there and I said it was because they are going to put impact on Route 8. This will be a big impact on our village.

The Mayor states this is the impact with the communities that are passing tax issues, so you have them. It looks like it only impacted us about \$54,000. I was misread when I said \$114,000. If you look in your package of information on the last page, this was in the paper last week from Macedonia. I highlighted what the Mayor said. It says no city workers will lose their job if Issue 18 fails. If the 25% increase fails, the city will need to look at increasing the millage or real estate taxes, assessing residents for road repairs or removing the tax credit for their income tax. The tax credit for people who work in other communities, and it could revoke their credit. They are about \$1.4 million shortfall there.

Mayor Hurst goes over the agenda for next week's Council Meeting – all for suspension.

- Resolution for the JEDD Board.
- Resolution to accept the recommendations for Senior Snow Plowing.
- Resolution to go out for bids for the drainage issue on Jefferson and Walton Road Project.
- Resolution to accept recommendation of the village engineer for crack seal and striping program.

Councilman Linville states that it has been brought up in the past, about the increased health costs. It has been suggested that Council rollback some of the pay raises that we get automatically every year. If we do such a thing as that, we have to do it fairly quick, before the next election. I think it is by August of next year before that election takes place. Personally, if we are asking other employees to take a hit, we should also take a hit. I would support rolling back some of our pay and rule out automatic increases that we get every year. I think it's 2%. I bring that up again because I know it has been mentioned and then we forget about it. I think we should do something about it. The Mayor thanks him.

Councilman Spitznagel states he agrees with Councilman Linville and we should put it on the agenda for when we do the budget for next year. I agree with Mary that we are community servants. None of us are up here to make a living out of this and I don't think it should be viewed as that. This is \$10,000 a year. I

think that is exorbitant. I do not mind cutting it in half. I don't know what anybody else thinks about that, but that's my thought. I am here to work for the village and this is not a career. I'm just here to do my civic duty. I don't think this job should be enticing financially so that you have people wanting the job just for the money. I'm sure we will work something out; that would be good.

Mayor Hurst states that he did meet with the Blondin family and there was no documentation to share with us. I was under the impression there was engineering and I was under the impression that they had counsel. None of that is factual. We looked at what is going on at their property, where they do have some sink holes. We will keep you informed. For the code of safety, I will probably put up a snow fence where the sink holes are so no one would fall into the holes. It is more than 35 feet from their driveway where you cannot really drive into it. They did have an engineer from the Army Corps of Engineers come out and they did a probe where it is sinking in some spots of their yard. We may put in some large stones and dirt over that so it is like a French drain so the water will keep flowing. You have to almost take a trip over there and look at it. It would be highly unlikely that it would impact our road or the catch basin they have there. The pitch from the road is well over 4-1/2 feet down. The catch basin is so big that you can walk under the road. It is all concrete, so that was done right on that road. On their side of the road they have a big grate over the catch basin, so worst case would not impact their house, but it would impact the pond which splits between the two yards. There is no emergency regarding washing out the road. There are some sink holes. In the back part of the yard, there is an engineered head wall that was done by the residents. We are not liable for any of this. I want to find a happy medium to make sure that no one is damaged but we do not want to bear all the cost ourselves. We have a couple of different issues in the village where our hands are tied because the Army Corps of Engineers says you cannot do that. I went out yesterday at 2:00 to get something to share with you and I thought if we had something about the other project we are working on, we would have an Executive Session. We do not have any details on the other project that we talked about before.

Councilman Linville states that Ms. Blondin really hit the nail on the head without knowing it when she made the statement where she talked about getting her attorney and work was done on other properties. We have to make sure we are spending public funds on private property accordingly because somebody will be right behind them who come in here saying they have water problems and you worked on the Blondin's property. We have to make sure this is a verifiable public interest expense. If it is not, if the engineer says it's not, and previous owners did all that, I'm fine saying it's their responsibility. If there is a reason the village needs to do this for our infrastructure to share the cost, I would go along with that also, but she hit the nail on the head and probably didn't realize it. This is why we are so careful with this.

No other comments from the audience or Council.

Councilman Brenner-Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Linville, and six ayes approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer