

**Village of Wellington
Council Meeting Minutes
Barbara O'Keefe, Mayor
Council: President Guy Wells, Sandy Denes, Helen Dronsfield, Jeff Hyde,
Steve Maurer, Hans Schneider**

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| Council Chambers | Tuesday February 17, 2015 | 7:30 p.m. |
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1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** . Mayor O'Keefe called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Councilwoman Sandy Denes . Present Councilman Steve Maurer . Present
 Councilwoman Helen Dronsfield . Present Councilman Hans Schneider . Present
 Councilman Jeff Hyde . Present Council President Guy Wells . Absent
 Others Present . Mayor O'Keefe, Village Manager Pyles, Finance Director Shaw, Law Director Bond, Police Chief Barfield, Sgt. Shelton, Public Works Supt. Brasee, Electric Supt. Bealer, Water/WW Supt. Rosemark, Zoning Inspector Furcron, Clerk of Council O'Brien, Enterprise Reporter Urbanik, and Interim Superintendent Stanley Mounts (left at 7:55 PM)

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** . Mr. Hyde recommended changes to the minutes under Reports of Committees, Finance (in bold) Mr. Hyde announced that Casey Moore, Jim Clark **and Frank Marley** had retired from the department. Mr. Hyde reported that the Fire District will be on the May ballot for their Fire Levy, which he believes is a replacement. Ms. Denes explained that they are going up **.25 mills** and that it is a replacement levy. Motion by Maurer, 2nd by Denes to approve with Mr. Hyde's recommended changes. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting ~~yes~~ **yes**.

4. **FINANCIAL REPORTS** – Ms. Denes had questions regarding the bills; Ms. Shaw and Mr. Brasee answered her questions. Motion by Denes, 2nd by Maurer to approve the expenses and pay the bills. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting ~~yes~~ **yes**.

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| 101 GEN | \$ | 90,596.45 |
| 201 Street CM&R | \$ | 22,590.60 |
| 202 State Highway Fund | \$ | 5,244.47 |
| 212 RR Grade Xing | \$ | 548.94 |
| 290 Caring Fund | \$ | 200.00 |
| 401 Capital Improvement | \$ | 128,788.51 |
| 501 Water | \$ | 22,419.13 |
| 502 Sewer | \$ | 16,388.47 |
| 503 Elect | \$ | 25,909.98 |
| **Power Bills | \$ | 31,207.50 |
| 504 Garbage | \$ | 24,931.47 |
| 505 Cable TV Franchise Fund | \$ | 240.00 |
| 506 Storm Sewer Capital | \$ | 20,675.15 |
| 508 Consumer Deposit | \$ | <u>3,712.62</u> |
| | | |
| Total | \$ | 393,453.29 |
| Pay 3 | \$ | 82,575.91 |
| Grand Total | \$ | 476,029.20 |

5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL, AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS:**

- Mayor O'Keefe . Mayor O'Keefe introduced Wellington School Interim Supt. Stanley Mounts. Mr. Mounts gave a report of the state of the school system to council. Mr. Mounts explained that the school is in dire need of financial restructuring. He further

- reported that he had prepared a 2.5 million dollar reduction proposal for the school board, who will receive the proposal at the next school board meeting. He further reported that the school board could do one of three things; 1. Nothing . Then the state would come in and take over. 2. Levy . Mr. Mounts explained that he felt this was not conducive as the school needed to get their finances in order, to regain the trust of the community. 3. Live within their means . That is the approach they will be taking. He mentioned that enrollment is down, however, the number of personnel has remained the same. He further mentioned that the treasurer has to submit a program reduction of over \$900,000 for the next school year, they will be submitting a 2.4 million dollar program reduction which will enable them to stay afloat the following year. Mr. Schneider asked if the reduction would come from the elimination of employees, programs and increases in pay to play fees; Mr. Mounts responded, yes, that is a possibility. Ms. Denes mentioned that she feels that the state report card needs to be improved also; Mr. Mounts agreed. Ms. Denes asked what the student to teacher ratio was; Mr. Mounts explained that it varied, however the Middle School has some classes with 10 to 12 students in them. Ms. Dronsfield asked if they could look to the state for more money; Mr. Mounts explained that Governor Kasich's 2016 proposed budget is \$228,000 less for Wellington schools. Mr. Hyde asked whether salaries and benefits would be the majority of the cuts or would they come from program cuts; Mr. Mounts explained that salary and benefit cuts would far outweigh the program cuts. Mr. Mounts reported that the next school board meeting will be held next Tuesday at 6:30 PM at Westwood. Mr. Hyde asked if the new school is on track to be open for the entire school year next year; Mr. Mounts said that they hope to have it completed in October and move over winter break in December. Mr. Hyde asked if they have opened the interview process for a new superintendent; Mr. Mounts said yes, and he felt they would have a candidate sometime in March.
- Law Director Bond . Nothing to Report
 - Chief Barfield . Chief Barfield thanked the village employees for keeping the streets plowed; he also gave accolades to the Police Dept. for keeping the streets free of cars during snow events.
 - Finance Director Shaw . Ms. Shaw reported that she attended a RITA seminar, where she learned that there were millions of dollars worth of fraudulent refunds last year on the state level. She explained that residents, when filing their state and federal taxes this year, may have to answer some personal questions in order to file their taxes online. She further explained that the state was pulling information from several data bases in order to verify a tax payer's identity.
 - Village Manager Pyles . Mr. Pyles mentioned that his report and his superintendent's reports were in the packet and they would be happy to answer any questions.
 - Main Street Wellington . Ms. Denes reported that the window in the old Irish Market had been replaced. She further reported that the Wine about Winter event would be held on Saturday Feb. 28th. The participating store hours are 10:00 . 4:00, and the wine tasting event is from 1:00 . 5:00 at Fort's Tavern and the tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased at Main Street, Forts, or from a Main Street board member.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Finance . Mr. Hyde reported that the committee had met prior to the council meeting. He further reported that the Utility Office hours are 8:00 AM . 4:30 PM, and reminded residents that they could pay their utility bill online. Mr. Hyde made a motion to end Josh Poling's probation, increase his hourly wage, from \$21.00 to \$21.35, effective the next full pay period, 2nd by Maurer. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting yes+. The next finance committee meeting will be March 16th prior to council. Mr. Hyde mentioned that the Fire Board Levy Committee will be meeting on Thursday, and the next Fire Board meeting is March 4th at 7:00 PM.

- Police . Mr. Hyde reported that the Police Committee will meet the first meeting in March.
- Public Works . Ms. Dronsfield reported that the committee will meet on March 2nd prior to council. She thanked Bob Brasee and his crew for their fine job of keeping the streets plowed.
- Utility . Ms. Denes reported that the committee had met prior to council and had discussed the engineering costs of the new electric sub-station. The committee also reviewed the Barker St. repaving bids and an ordinance is on the agenda for tonight. Ms. Denes made a motion to accept Supt. Bealere's recommendation and hire Justin Tripp at \$15.00 per hour with a six month probation, to begin after passing the drug screen or March 1st, whichever is earlier, 2nd by Hyde. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting %yes+. Ms. Denes mentioned that the committee reviewed Mr. Pyles's solar installations and billing systems policy, and will be reviewing it further at the next committee meeting. She reported that the committee had heard Mark Rosemark's water plant staffing strategy, which was very informative. The committee will meet again on March 16th prior to council.
- Ordinance . Mr. Schneider mentioned that the committee will meet prior to council on March 2nd. He reported that the Ambulance Board will meet on March 10th, and the Planning Commission will meet on Feb. 25th. Mr. Schneider thanked Chief Barfield and his department for keeping the streets free of cars during the snow events.

7. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-08

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A NATURAL GAS PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY 2nd Reading

Motion by Hyde, 2nd by Maurer, to move the 2nd reading. Roll call vote was taken, Wells . Absent, Denes . Yes, Dronsfield . Yes, Hyde . No, Maurer . No, Schneider . Yes.

Mr. Bond advised council, according to their rules, when there is a 3 . 2 vote, the ordinance will be tabled. If council wants to get it back, they will have to take it off of the table at the next meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 139.06 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RELATIVE TO POLICE CHIEF RESIDENCY 2nd Reading

Motion by Schneider, 2nd by Maurer to suspend the rules. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting %yes+. Motion by Denes, 2nd by Maurer to approve as read. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting %yes+.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015 – 10

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ELITE EXCAVATING COMPANY OF OHIO, INC., THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ROADWAY, SEWER AND WATERLINE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG BARKER STREET, AND PROVIDING FOR AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE 1st Reading

Motion by Denes, 2nd by Maurer to suspend the rules. Mr. Maurer explained that they are passing the ordinance as an emergency in order to keep the process moving along, so that the construction could begin sooner. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting %yes+. Motion by Maurer, 2nd by Hyde to approve as read. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting %yes+.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015 – 11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4.1 OF THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSITION OF POLICE LIEUTENANT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE 1st Reading

Motion by Maurer, 2nd by Schneider to suspend the rules. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting ~~yes~~. Motion by Maurer, 2nd by Schneider to approve as read. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting ~~yes~~.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 12

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD TO HEAR OBJECTIONS RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF BARKER STREET FROM HERRICK AVENUE EAST (SR 18) TO APPROXIMATELY 511 FEET NORTH OF HERRICK AVENUE EAST BY GRADING, DRAINING, CURBING, PAVING AND CONSTRUCTING AND RECONSTRUCTING WATERLINES, STORM SEWERS, SANITARY SEWERS, MANHOLES, CATCH BASINS, PAVEMENTS, SIDEWALKS, SIDEWALK APPROACH RAMPS, AND DRIVEWAY APPROACHES WHERE NECESSARY, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

1st Reading

Motion by Denes, 2nd by Maurer to suspend the rules. Ms. Denes mentioned that the board meets on March 5th and the resolution needs to be passed as an emergency. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting ~~yes~~. Motion by Denes, 2nd by Maurer to approve as read. Roll call vote was taken with all members present voting ~~yes~~.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-13

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON, OHIO FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015 THAT THE FOLLOWING SUMS BE AND ARE HEREBY APPROPRIATED

1st Reading

8. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Dronsfield reported that the WHS boys wrestling team won the PAC conference, at Black River HS, the first time since 2011. The team was welcomed into town by a police escort, which Ms. Dronsfield mentioned, was thrill for wrestlers and the parents. Ms. Dronsfield asked Chief Barfield to let his officers know, that the kids loved the escort and that it was a lot of fun for everyone. She also congratulated the wrestlers.

9. NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

10. ADJOURN . Motion by Maurer, 2nd by Schneider to adjourn at 8:10 PM

