

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
INDIAN HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL  
January 25, 2016**

A meeting of the Indian Hill Village Council was held on January 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Village Administration building.

Officials present:           Mr. Daniel J. Feigelson, Mayor  
                                  Mr. Mark D. Kuenning, Vice-Mayor  
                                  Mr. John B. Armstrong, Council member  
                                  Mrs. Melissa S. Cowan, Council member  
                                  Mr. Donald C. McGraw, Council member  
                                  Mr. Abbot A. Thayer, Council member

Officials Absent           Mrs. Molly R. Barber, Council member

                                  Ms. Dina C. Minneci, City Manager  
                                  Mr. Donald L. Crain, City Solicitor  
                                  Mr. Paul C. Riordan, Clerk/Comptroller

Visitors present:        Mr. Jim Barnes, 4021 Wilma Court, Cinti, OH 45245  
                                  Mr. Brad Bird, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mr. Brian Dearborn, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mr. Michael D. Dressell, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mr. James E. Dunigan, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mr. George Kipp, 415 Mill Street, Milford, OH 45150  
                                  Mr. Steve Makin, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Ms. Pearl Neal, 7734 Wetherfield Dr., West Chester 45069  
                                  Mr. Dean Ramsey, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mr. Chuck Schlie, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mr. Carl Watts, 6525 Drake Road, 45243  
                                  Mrs. Jodie Watts, 3583 Brookhaven Dr., Amelia, OH 45102  
                                  Ms. Megan Watts, 3583 Brookhaven Dr., Amelia, OH 45102  
                                  Mr. Zach Watts, 3583 Brookhaven Dr., Amelia, OH 45102  
                                  Mr. Rich White, 7714 Naomi Ave., 45243  
                                  Mrs. Beth Wood, 6525 Drake Road, 45243

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Mayor Feigelson read the following Resolutions.

**RESOLUTION NO. 01-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO PAUL R.  
WHITE, II FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF THE  
VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL**

**WHEREAS,** Paul R. White, II began his employment with the Indian Hill Rangers on

May 7, 1988, and is retiring from his position on January 8, 2016 after 27 years with Indian Hill and 33 years of public service; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II, during his tenure with the Indian Hill Rangers had the responsibility of patrol, a supervisor of a patrol squad; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II was promoted to Lieutenant July 31, 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II coordinated the “Cop Card” Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II was a member of the International Police Olympics team, which represented Indian Hill in Australia in October 1988 ; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II was involved in several fundraisers including Captain of the Indian Hill “*Team In Training*” running team in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II was a long time member of the Indian Hill Ranger Honor Guard and performed at many ceremonial functions; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II assisted the Indian Hill Rangers in receiving the honor of “Best Dressed” police department National Award in 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II was greatly involved at Indian Hill High School being a role model as coach of the softball and golf teams; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II is known throughout the community and will be deeply missed by its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Paul R. White, II is retiring from the Village of Indian Hill and will be pursuing other endeavors, and it is appropriate to recognize his valued service to the Village of Indian Hill.

**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 Village of Indian Hill this resolution of special thanks and sincere appreciation to Paul R. White, II for his good and valuable service as an Indian Hill Ranger from May 7, 1988 to January 8, 2016 to the Village of Indian Hill and to wish him the very best on this major and meaningful life milestone decision.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be given to Paul R. White, II in recognition of his extraordinary contribution of time, effort, and expertise given in the interest of the Village of Indian Hill and its residents and to wish Rich many happy and healthy years in his retirement.

PASSED: January 25, 2016

**RESOLUTION NO. - 02-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO GEORGE C. KIPP, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, OHIO**

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr began his employment with the City of the Village of Indian Hill on January 12, 2004 as the Project Manager; and after twelve (12) years of Village service and almost thirty (30) years of consulting service, George C. Kipp, Jr. is retiring on January 12, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr. has provided leadership and knowledge to Village management, Village Council and Village employees in directing all aspects of project management within the Village and Village owned areas; and

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr, through his guidance and passion for a reputable end product, has made the Village a high standard model for infrastructure as he helped the Village build and maintain dependable and durable streets, culverts, landslides and pier walls; and earned a high level of respect by actually having a specific blend of asphalt named after him of which other governments have utilized the “George Kipp Mix”; and

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr. provided professional direction for numerous capital improvement programs including the Water Works plant, chemical feed building, construction of the Public Works facility and salt dome, the addition of the Administration/Rangers offices, and the Phinney House annex; and has been instrumental in the pursuit of grant opportunities to help offset costs associated with capital projects; and

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr. has worked diligently and harmoniously with the Village’s Public Works, Water Works and Buildings and Grounds committees to develop viable master plans for street resurfacing and the Grand Valley Nature Preserve as well as provide valued advice on Village operations; and;

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr. enthusiastically has promoted and led the development of the 379 acre Grand Valley Nature Preserve; and has managed the installment of many of its amenities such as the original vehicle bridge, pedestrian walking bridge, maintenance barn, boat barn development, a reclamation project to restore wildlife and natural beauty, several miles of beautiful walking trails, and the combining of two lakes into one large lake to enhance canoeing and fishing opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr. took great pride and ownership in protecting the Village’s appearance and mission of rural preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, George C. Kipp, Jr. is retiring from the Village and will be pursuing other endeavors, and it is appropriate to recognize his valued service to the Village.

**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 George C. Kipp, Jr. for twelve (12) years of strong and valuable service from January 12, 2004 to January 12, 2016 and to wish him the very best on this major and meaningful life milestone decision.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be presented to George C. Kipp, Jr. in recognition of the extraordinary contribution of time, effort and expertise given in the interest of the City of the Village of Indian Hill and its residents and to wish George and his wife Mary many happy and healthy years in his retirement.

PASSED: January 25, 2016

Mr. Kipp thanked Council for allowing him to serve. He said that Indian Hill is a fantastic community and thanked Council very much.

Mayor Feigelson swore-in Ranger Carl Watts to rank of Lieutenant.

Ms. Minneci explained to Council that she had the honor of attending the Hamilton County Police Association Annual Awards Banquet. She said that at the banquet you could say that Indian Hill was, "in the house". Three Indian Hill Rangers received awards for the work and services they had performed throughout the year. She asked that they be recognized by Council. She said in addition, Assistant Chief, Mr. Michael Dressell was elected President of the Association and he follows in a long list of Indian Hill Rangers that have been President of the Association.

Colonel Schlie explained that the Association has been around for a long time and is made-up of every community in Hamilton County - Federal agencies, State Patrol and basically anything that has to do with Law Enforcement in Hamilton County. They have a banquet every year and it is a big deal. Officer Brian Dearborn received the award for "*Honor Guard Member of the Year*". Officer Dearborn is not only on the Indian Hill Honor Guard but he is also on the Hamilton County Police Association Honor Guard as squad leader. He participated in over 40 deployments last year at ceremonies and funerals in all kinds of weather. He would do this after working a 12 hour shift for the Village.

Mike Dressell and Shawn Perdue received awards for investigations. Their combined effort with other communities lead to the arrests of the "Snap Money Gang" out of Florida. This was a burglary case that extended all the way from Florida to Ohio. There were only five awards presented at the banquet and Indian Hill received three of them. Nan Bongiani, along with two other members of the "*Most Wanted Band*" sang the National Anthem. It was a very good night for Indian Hill.

Mayor Feigelson, on behalf of Council, expressed to Colonel Schlie and to the Rangers that they are as good as it gets and they are what makes Indian Hill such a special place. He said that on behalf of Council and the Residents, he thanks all of them for their hard work and that their work is appreciated because we know that they are out there for our safety.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2015 had previously been distributed to each Council member. Council member Thayer made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Council member Kuenning and was approved as corrected, 6-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Kuenning directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Finance Committee*". He reported that the Finance committee met on January 15, 2016 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Kuenning also directed Council's attention to the December 2015 financial statements which were included in the Council packet. He reported the following financial report.

- a. **Income Tax Receipts:** Income tax receipts for December 2015 were strong in the amount of \$1,133,000 which is about \$170,000 more than received in December 2014. The total year-to-date income tax receipts approximated the forecast of \$11,300,000. This amount is approximately \$1,000,000 more than received for 2014 and equates to 112% of budget. The receipts for 2015 were also \$1,258,000 over budget. The receipts lend strong support for the projections for future years income tax receipts.
- b. **Real Estate Tax:** Total real estate tax receipts for the year were \$808,000 which is approximately \$16,000 over budget.
- c. **Operating Disbursements:** Total operating disbursements for December were \$1,200,000, which is \$64,000 less than December 2014. The difference is due to timing of various disbursements. Total disbursements for the year were \$10,600,000 which is \$277,000 below the budget. The reason that the disbursements are over last year is because of the income tax refunds. Refunds for 2015 totaled \$380,000 compared to \$150,000 in 2014.
- d. **CIRF:** Disbursements for the month totaled \$359,000 bringing the year-to-date total to \$1,551,000. Out of the remaining \$380,000 unspent budget, \$335,000 will be carried over to 2016, and it primarily relates to Grand Valley and to work on Weil Road which is reported in the Landslide and Contingency line item. It will be carried over as an appropriation for 2016.
- e. **Water Works Receipts:** Water receipts for the year of \$2,279,000 were under the budget by approximately \$120,000 due to the reduction of receipts caused by the wet weather in 2015. The good news is even with the reduction of revenue, expenses were able to be kept in line and were under budget for the year by \$269,000 which resulted in an excess of receipts over disbursements of \$759,000 for the year versus a budget of \$642,000.
- f. **Water Works Disbursements:** Total December operating disbursements of \$880,000 is more than December 2014 by \$606,000 due to a delay in receiving the MSD sewer reimbursement invoice.

- g. **Water Works CRF:** Total disbursements in CRF Water Works fund totaled \$127,000 for the month with \$107,000 of that for meter changeovers. The amount unspent for the appropriation for treatment plant improvements of \$130,000 will be encumbered and will be carried over to 2016.
- h. **Cash and Investments:** The General Fund balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$1,954,000 which is 20% of the 2015 disbursements. This is a “cushion” for the lower income tax receipts until the majority of the receipts are received in April in order to provide for expenditures during that period. The income tax fund has a balance of \$10,629,000 which is very strong and is the primary cushion. The difference between November and December 2015 balances is simply because of the operations in December. The increase in total fund balances over December 31, 2014 is primarily due to the fire house construction fund which was not there in 2014.

Council member Kuenning directed Council’s attention to the financial statement titled, *2015 Overage / (Shortfall) Summary Statement – Operating & CIRF Funds*. He said that he likes this statement because it shows what has happened the past year and projections through 2019. He explained that the income tax receipts of over \$11,000,000 received in 2015 are a strong basis for the projections for 2016 through 2019. The reason the 2016 receipts are budgeted lower than 2015 is because there was an exceptionally large receipt in 2015 from one resident which is not expected to repeat in 2016. He explained that the CIRF expenditures included on the summary statement show the carry-over encumbrance which had been discussed previously.

Council member Kuenning highlighted that the projections show that the current total fund balances of \$17,286,000 are projected to decrease to \$12,300,000 at the end of 2019. These projections are based on conservative amounts for receipts and disbursements. This trend will constantly be monitored going forward. Mayor Feigelson asked if the Firehouse Fund expenditures are included in this summary and Council member Kuenning explained that they are not included and that this statement is primarily the general operating funds, including the Income Tax fund and the CIRF Fund. It does not include receipts and disbursements for funds designated for particular purposes over which Council has little control. Mayor Feigelson asked for a schedule of funds which are not included in this report.

Council member Kuenning directed Council’s attention to the financial statement titled, *“2015 Water Works Overage / (Shortfall) Summary Statement”*. He explained that the budget is conservative. The summer for 2015 was very wet and therefore the Water Works revenues were not up to budget. The 2016 budget of \$2,520,000 is basically in the middle of the low and the high projections. He explained that the decrease in the fund balances reflected out through 2019 will be constantly monitored and adjusted. He said that as we move forward in 2016, we will be preparing cash flow forecasts to see what the effect on the Water Works rates will be going forward.

- i) **Rowe Fund:** The market value of as of December 31, 2015 was \$3,049,252 which was a 1.808% decline from November 2015. The unrecognized gain was \$523,008. The year-end receipts for the Rowe Arboretum were \$113,000 with

expenditures of \$155,000 which left an excess of disbursements over receipts of \$42,000, however the shortfall was made up by net gains on sales of investments of \$269,000 resulting in a positive net change in fund balance of \$227,000. Because of the strong market activity it was not necessary to have a subsidy to the Rowe Arboretum Fund from the General Fund. The goal of the fund is to grow the stock dividend income each year so that ultimately cash income will equal cash expenditures expect for unusual capital items.

- j) **Green Areas Fund:** The market value as of December 31, 2015 was \$2,168,147 with a strong unrecognized gain of \$895,193. The investments decreased 2.58% over November 2015 balance due to negative market conditions. Total receipts for the fund were \$24,848 and disbursements totaled \$23,947 resulting in a slight increase to the fund balance.

The financial statements for December 2015 had previously been distributed to each Council member. There being no exceptions noted, the financial statements were accepted as issued.

Council member Kuenning reported that the Finance committee reviewed a report from Standard and Poors (S&P) which has renewed the Village's 'AAA' rating. The 'AAA' is the highest rating applicable to public sector bonds, and there are only a handful of Ohio cities and school districts that enjoy this prestigious bond rating. S&P based its assessment on the following factors: 1) strong economy with access to a broad and diverse Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA); 2) strong budgetary performance; 3) strong budget management and good financial policies and practices; 4) budget flexibility in tax revenue collections (which means the Village can raise the income tax level to 1% without a vote of the residents); and 5) low overall debt level as a percentage of market value. There is no plan to increase the tax rate. Council member Kuenning said that the goal is to operate the Village so that the bond rating is protected in case the Village wants to issue a bond issue in the future.

Council member Kuenning reported that the Hamilton County Auditor has done a review of its estate tax disbursements. He said that after the review, it was determined that the Village will receive a net refund of approximately \$7,000 in estate tax revenues that were paid in error to other communities.

Council member Kuenning reported that the State Auditors' office has scheduled the Village audit to begin in early March. The State Auditor has control over who will do the audit and it is their discretion whether the Village can hire outside auditors however, they have decided to do the audit themselves this year. He said that staff will schedule a pre-audit meeting with the Audit committee and the auditors once an exact commencement date has been set.

Council member Kuenning reported that the Finance committee reviewed a Resolution to accept the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District appropriations for 2016. This is a Resolution 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 2016, both Indian Hill and Madeira will pay

\$1,583,683. This expense may be reduced by EMS billing credits received during 2016. He said that the Finance committee recommended passage of the Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2016 APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MADEIRA AND INDIAN HILL JOINT FIRE DISTRICT**  
was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Kuenning, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Feigelson declared Resolution **03-16** adopted.

**LAW COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Armstrong directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Law Committee*". He explained that the Law committee met on January 14, 2016 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Armstrong reported that Mr. Crain presented the December/January legal activity report to the Law committee. The report included updates on real estate questions, zoning compliance, environmental regulations and land transfer contracts. Background also was provided regarding an arbitrator's decision on a hearing from 2015.

Council member Armstrong reported that the Law committee reviewed draft legal documents centering on the transfer of two pieces of property associated with the Fire Station construction that is to begin in 2016.

Council member Armstrong reported that Mr. Paul Madden's term on the Planning Commission is expiring. He said that the Law committee recommends Mr. Madden be reappointed for another eight year term.

**A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MR. PAUL F. MADDEN A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL PLANNING COMMISSION** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Armstrong, seconded by Council member Cowan, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Feigelson declared Resolution **04-16** 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 January 19, 2016 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Cowan reported that Mr. Adkins provided the Buildings and Grounds committee with the departmental activity report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He highlighted the maintenance performed throughout the buildings and parks.

Council member Cowan reported that Mr. West provided the Buildings and Grounds committee with the Project Management report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. She reported that 15 pavers for the Veterans Memorial had been purchased in 2015. This is the most purchased in one year since the Memorial's installation. She explained that the Buildings and Grounds committee heard an update from Mr. West on the Ranger building construction at Grand Valley, which is currently expected to be finalized in April, but it is dependent on the weather.

Council member Cowan reported that Mr. West provided the Buildings and Grounds committee with the annual statistics on Grand Valley attendance. She said that although the 2015 total attendance rate is slightly down from 2014, its 18,135 total remains close to the four year average of 18,548. Figures are based on Grand Valley card swipes minus employees and vendor use.

Council member Cowan reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee reviewed a draft Resolution accepting the 2015 Green Area donations which equated to 16.8256 acres. This compares to 5.9897 acres in 2014 and 2.6343 acres donated in 2013. This large amount of acres is due to the Hoyt donation of 10 plus acres. Council member Cowan said that the Buildings and Grounds committee recommends passage of the Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT 2015 GREEN AREA AND LAND DONATION GIFTS** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Council member Cowan, seconded by Council member Kuenning, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Feigelson declared Resolution **05-16** adopted.

Council member Cowan reported that the Equestrian Club graciously donated \$2,500 for bridle trail maintenance. In addition, the organization's 100 plus members volunteer many hours during the year to assist Public Works with maintaining trails throughout the Village, and it requires all of its members to purchase a Bridle Trail pass. She said that their work and donation are very much appreciated.

Council member Cowan reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee discussed a request to hold a brief wedding ceremony at Grand Valley in the north lake area. The small group includes all current card holders and does not involve any significant structure, only a small trellis. The reception will be held elsewhere and no personnel help will be required. She said that the Buildings and Grounds committee approved the request.

Mayor Feigelson asked if there is a separate fund for the Veterans Memorial and Ms. Minneci said that there is and that fund can only be used for the maintenance and improvements of the Memorial.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Ms. Minneci, in Council member Barber's absence, directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Public Works Committee*". She

explained that the Public Works committee met on January 19, 2016 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Ms. Minneci reported that Mr. Adkins provided the Public Works committee with the departmental activity report, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. She explained that Mr. Adkins highlighted the statistics for the first two snow occurrences of the season. She said that 1,000 tons of salt have been received, which brings the salt barn inventory total to 3,000-3,500 tons. Mr. Adkins explained to the Public Works committee the Village's pretreatment methods which include brine and calcium that the Village received for free from the City of Montgomery.

Ms. Minneci reported that Council member McGraw inquired about relocating the Bird Sanctuary sign in order to differentiate the Veterans Memorial from the Bird Sanctuary. She said that Mr. Adkins will look into the relocation as well as upgrading the sign itself.

Ms. Minneci reported that staff indicated to the Public Works committee that there were no projects active at this time. However, preparation will begin for the ninety day shutdown of Weil Road due to landslide upgrades. The project will begin in March, but communicating to all those affected by the road closure will begin in February.

Ms. Minneci reported that the Public Works committee reviewed a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to prepare plans, specifications and the bidding process for 2016 projects, equipment and supplies that exceed \$50,000 or are not on the state bid list. Items include the road resurfacing program, Grand Valley entranceway upgrades, Camargo Road and Demar Road pier wall construction, Public Works/Water Works equipment and vehicles and Blome Road water main installation. She said that the Public Works committee recommends passage of the Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EMPLOY AN ENGINEER TO PREPARE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR STREET REHABILITATION, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OTHER SPECIAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SAID WORK AND PURCHASE OF SAID EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES** was presented and read.

Upon motion by Mayor Feigelson, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Feigelson declared Resolution **06-16** adopted.

**WATER WORKS REPORT:** Mayor Feigelson directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Water Works and Deregulation Committee*". He reported that the Water Works and Deregulation committee met on January 19, 2016 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Mayor Feigelson reported that Mr. Adkins provided the Water Works and Deregulation committee with the departmental activity report, a copy of which was included in the Council packet. He explained that Mr. Adkins highlighted that two water main breaks were repaired and the areas restored.

Mayor Feigelson reported that Mr. Adkins provided the Project Management report. He explained that Mr. Adkins highlighted the four bids that were received for the water treatment plant improvement project. The project includes electrical upgrades and a reconstruction of the slab floor. The total repairs were estimated at \$223,000; however, the lowest and best bid received was \$124,351 from DER Development. This was a project that was a holdover from 2015. The project is expected to be completed in May.

Mayor Feigelson reported that the Water Works committee reviewed a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to prepare plans, specifications and the bidding process for 2016 projects, equipment and supplies that exceed \$50,000 or are not on the state bid list. Water Works items include equipment and vehicles, treatment plant improvements (high service pump), and Blome Road water main installation. He said that this Resolution was presented previously in the Council meeting by the Public Works committee.

Mayor Feigelson reported that the Water Works committee heard an update on the gas aggregation program. Constellation, the Village's gas aggregation broker, acquired a rate of \$0.335/ccf for residents during the January-April 2016 meter readings. This rate is much lower than Duke's current rate of \$0.4273/ccf and last year's aggregation rate of \$0.497/ccf. This is a Flex Down rate which means if the rate falls below \$0.335/ccf, the residents will receive the lower rate; however, it will not go higher than \$0.335. The low rate is due to the very mild fall and winter.

Mayor Feigelson reported that the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) has delayed its annual sewer increase until mid-year. MSD is awaiting recommendations from the Hamilton County MSD Rate Affordability Task Force.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member McGraw directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Safety Committee*". He reported that the Safety committee met on January 14, 2016 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member McGraw reported that Chief Ashbrock presented the December and year-end Fire/EMS report, a copy of which was included in the Council packet. He reported that Chief Ashbrock highlighted how 2015 EMS runs of 1,083 were almost equal to the 1,082 runs in 2014. He indicated the District had discussions with the local nursing homes regarding protocol for when contracted paramedic services can be utilized compared to when Fire District services are required.

Council member McGraw reported that Colonel Schlie presented the Rangers' Activity Report for December, a copy of which was included in the Council packet. He reported that Colonel Schlie said that with the retiring of Lt. Rich White, Ranger Carl Watts has been promoted to Lieutenant after successfully finishing top of the civil service testing list. The

Village utilizes the Rule of 3 in its Lieutenant promotional process. A promotional ceremony took place at tonight's Council meeting for Lt. Watts as he began his new position on January 9, 2016.

Council member McGraw explained that with the promotion of Lt. Watts, Colonel Schlie is finalizing the process to introduce a new Ranger to the department to fill Lt. Watt's position. At this time, it appears the new officer will begin the first week in February. He will be sworn in by the Mayor and Colonel Schlie on his first day, but a ceremonial swearing in will take place at the February Council meeting.

Council member McGraw reported that Colonel Schlie provided the Safety committee with a statistical update on the deer hunting program. Through the 2015-2016 season, 132 deer have been dropped along with 11 coyotes. Although this number is reduced from previous years, it fits into the pattern of the number being reduced by 25 each year over the last five years. Colonel Schlie expects about a total of 150 drops by the end of the season compared to 175 in the 2014-2015 season.

Council member McGraw reported that he inquired about statistics regarding the reduction in false alarm calls received by the Rangers with the new alarm monitoring system transition finalized. He said that staff will work with Mike Aaron to accumulate those figures.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Council member Thayer directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Planning Commission*". He reported that the Planning Commission met on December 15, 2015 to review several issues.

Council member Thayer reported that the Planning Commission conditionally approved a special exception request by the Madeira-Indian Hill Joint Fire District at 6475 Drake Road which is under the continuing jurisdiction of the Planning Commission. The approval included variances to the front yard setbacks and lot coverage for the construction of a new Fire Station Headquarters.

Council member Thayer reported that the Planning Commission tabled a request by Donald Wenker for Concept Plan approval of Shawnee Run Estates Subdivision located on a vacant tract of land between Shawnee Run Road and Ahwenasa Lane.

Council member Thayer reported that the Planning Commission granted the approval of the re-subdivision of Part Lots 1 and 2, Lot 3 and Lot 4 of Whitegate Farm Subdivision and to add additional area to the lots from an adjacent property. The request adjusted and consolidated lot lines and did not create additional building sites. He said that the January 19, 2016 Planning Commission meeting was cancelled because the tabled item was pulled from the agenda.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Minneci said that if the Council members are comfortable with the recently distributed documents on the land transfer she will send them over to the Fire District legal counsel for their review. She said that in several weeks there should be new drawings and bid specifications. These will be reviewed by the construction team, which includes herself to make sure that the bid specifications are in order and to review the design.

She will then bring them back to Council so they have a good understanding of the cost and drawings. She said that she has not heard of any changes in the timetable. She said that the final date for the Madeira station is still June but it is weather-dependent.

Ms. Minneci reported that the Administrative offices will be closed for February 15, 2016 for President's Day.

Ms. Minneci reported that she said that she is working on the date change for the New Residents' Party.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Daniel J. Feigelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Paul C. Riordan, Clerk