

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
INDIAN HILL VILLAGE COUNCIL  
February 23, 2015**

A meeting of the Indian Hill Village Council was held on February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Village Administration building.

Officials present:

- Mr. Keith M. Rabenold, Mayor
- Mr. Daniel J. Feigelson, Vice-Mayor
- Mrs. Molly R. Barber, Council member
- Mrs. Melissa S. Cowan, Council member
- Mr. Mark D. Kuenning, Council member
- Mrs. Laura S. Raines, Council member
- Mr. Abbot A. Thayer, Council member

  

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

Visitors present:

- Mrs. Ali Bird, 19 Brompton Lane, 45218
- Mrs. Jackie Bird, 1004 Ligorio Avenue, 45218
- Mr. Larry Bird, 1004 Ligorio Avenue, 45218

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

**RESOLUTION FOR NADINE S. WEBER:** Mayor Rabenold said that Council would miss working with Mrs. Weber. For all of us it has been a treat to see her on a monthly basis and sometimes more frequently. He said, “Nadine’s done a great job for the Village. We admire your professionalism and your patience with all of Council and the different committees and we will miss working with you and we wish you the best in your retirement”. Mayor Rabenold read the following Resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. - 07-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO NADINE S.  
WEBER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITY OF THE  
VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL, OHIO**

**WHEREAS,** Nadine S. Weber began her employment with the City of the Village of Indian Hill on January 25, 2000 as the Accounting and Billing Manager and was later promoted to Finance Director; and after 15 years of Village service and 20 years of service with the City of Blue Ash and the Colorado State Parks, Nadine S. Weber is retiring on February 27, 2015; and

**WHEREAS,** Nadine S. Weber has provided financial leadership to Village management, Village Council and Village employees in directing the finances for all aspects of the Village; and through her guidance and leadership, the Village has become a financial model for all forms of City Government to follow as she helped the Village obtain a “Triple A” bond rating; and

**WHEREAS,** Nadine S. Weber provided financial 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/Police offices, and the Phinney House annex; and

**WHEREAS**, Nadine S. Weber has worked diligently and harmoniously with Village Finance committees to develop financial statements and provide meaningful advice on Village operations; and

**WHEREAS**, under Nadine S. Weber's financial management, the Village has produced clean audited financial statements which were consistently praised by numerous auditing firms; and

**WHEREAS**, Nadine S. Weber has promoted the preparation of comprehensive annual budgets which provided Council with reliable tools to incorporate long range planning; and

**WHEREAS**, Nadine S. Weber's financial expertise, including being a Certified Public Finance Administrator (CPFA) and holding an Ohio Financial Accountability Certification, was of immense value during the financially difficult times brought on by the most significant recession in recent history which resulted in minimal disruption to Village operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Nadine S. Weber is retiring from the Village and will be pursuing other endeavors, and it is appropriate to recognize her 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 Nadine S. Weber for 15 years of good and valuable financial service from January 25, 2000 to February 27, 2015 and to wish her the very best on this major and meaningful life milestone decision.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be presented to Nadine S. Weber 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 Nadine and her husband Dan many happy and healthy years in her retirement.

Upon motion by Mayor Rabenold, seconded by Council member Kuenning, the Resolution was passed by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Rabenold declared Resolution number **07-15** adopted.

Mrs. Nadine Weber thanked Council for everything and she said that she appreciated all of the opportunities she had working for the Village of Indian Hill and that she enjoyed working with each and every Council member.

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR INDIAN HILL RANGER BRAD BIRD:** Mayor Rabenold swore in Indian Hill Ranger Brad Bird. Mayor Rabenold told Ranger Bird that everyone is excited to have him as a member of the Indian Hill Rangers. He said that Council takes great pride in the Rangers. They are better than any other department in the State of Ohio.

Mayor Rabenold said that he wished Officer Bird a long tenure with Indian Hill and he wished him the best of luck.

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of the Special meeting of January 12, 2015 had previously been distributed to each Council member. Council member Feigelson made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Council member Barber and was approved as corrected, 7-0.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the regular meeting of January 26 2015 had previously been distributed to each Council member. Council member Feigelson made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Council member Kuenning and was approved as corrected, 7-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Kuenning directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Finance Committee*". He reported that the Finance committee met on February 13, 2015 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Kuenning explained that the Finance committee met with investment advisors from Bartlett who provided the Finance committee with its annual update on the investments for the General Fund, Water Works Fund and inactive funds. He said that in 2014, approximately 22% of the investments were moved into 3-5 year maturities due to the declining interest rates. He said that the Finance committee made this decision three years ago due to declining interest rates. He said that it is now anticipated that rates will most likely rise this year. Consequently, a recommendation was made to not purchase 3-5 year maturity bonds in 2015. No bonds that currently exist in the 3-5 year timeframe will be traded; however, as they expire, they will be reinvested in bonds with smaller timeframes to capitalize on the rising interest rates. He said that it is anticipated that the 22% in 3-5 year maturities will be reduced by 1/3 to 1/2 by the end of 2015.

Council member Kuenning explained that the investment advisor from Bahl & Gaynor provided the Finance committee with its annual update on the Rowe Arboretum investments. He said that the current annualized income for the portfolio is a 3.1% yield. Since its inception in 1992, the account's performance has had a 9.27% annualized return rate. In 2015, it is estimated that the account will yield approximately \$97,400 in current income. The Finance committee discussed an inquiry regarding the liquidation of a small percentage of the stocks to provide for more cash on hand in case of another economic downturn. The Finance committee felt the current reserves and stock standings were sufficient to withstand any upcoming decline and decided to maintain the current portfolio.

Council member Kuenning reported that Mr. Tom Kanis, Range Master, had presented an additional appropriation request for the purchase of four trap machines that are used on the skeet field. He explained that the replacement of these traps was not anticipated until 2016; however, deterioration is occurring much quicker than expected and replacement parts are difficult to locate. Consequently, the Shooting Club Advisory Board wishes to replace them in 2015 before the spring when the traps will be needed. The cost of the replacement will be approximately \$17,000. The Shoot Club reserve funds will be used as the revenue source for this unanticipated expenditure. No General Fund monies will be used to subsidize the purchase. Council member Kuenning said that the Finance committee recommends approval of an emergency additional

appropriation Ordinance increasing the appropriations for the Shooting Club Fund from \$126,290 to \$142,790.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 12-14 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HILL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** was presented and read.

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

Upon motion by Council member Kuenning, seconded by Council member Thayer, the Ordinance was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Mayor Rabenold declared Ordinance 02-15 enacted.

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

Council member Kuenning directed Council's attention to the notes to the financial statements which explained some slight differences between January 2015 and January 2014 financial receipts and disbursements. He highlighted that the Village received \$50,000 in real estate taxes in January, which was only \$5,000 less than received in January 2014.

Council member Kuenning explained that water usage receipts for January were \$171,696 which was almost equal to January 2014 receipts. The operating disbursements for the Water Works of \$149,089 in January 2015 exceeded the January 2014 disbursements by only \$8,600 due to the timing of contractual services and supply payments.

Council member Kuenning reported that year-end cash and investments were \$23,872,423 which is an increase of \$347,505 from the previous month and an increase of \$491,290 from the same time last year.

Council member Kuenning reported that the market value of the Rowe Arboretum Funds as of January 31, 2015 was \$3,055,835. The unrecognized gain was \$686,572 and the total monthly earnings equated to \$80,367. He said that the total year operating expenses equate to 6.6% of budget.

Council member Kuenning reported that the market value of the Green Areas Funds as of January 31, 2015 was \$2,145,247. The unrecognized gain was \$874,180.

Council member Kuenning explained to Council that the unrecognized liabilities for accrued vacation and other benefits would be recorded in the financial statements in the next month or the following month.

The financial statements for January 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 he and Mayor Rabenold and staff met with Representative Brinkman to provide him an overview of Indian Hill's income tax base and how legislation affecting state income tax will directly affect Indian Hill's tax base due to its use of Ohio adjusted gross income. He explained that the newly created HB 64, known as the State bi-annual budget, includes a provision for the exemption of a pass thru entity's first \$2,000,000 in sales. Council member Kuenning said that he provided Representative Brinkman suggested language which assists in allowing Indian Hill and the City of Wyoming to use adjusted gross income as their tax base to continue the inclusion of such income on its local tax return. He said that staff has set up a meeting with Senator Jones for March 3, 2015.

**LAW COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Raines directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Law Committee*". She reported that the Law committee met on February 12, 2015 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Raines reported that Mr. Crain presented to the Law committee the January/February legal activity report which centered on Green Areas transactions, legal case updates, contract interpretations and Mayor's Court activities.

Council member Raines reported that Ms. Minneci indicated to the Law committee that she and Mr. West have been reviewing the Village's rental contract for Livingston Lodge as well as its rental agreement with the Indian Hill Historical Society. Based on conversations with the Village's risk management group, staff recommended some more clarifying language changes to both agreements in order to incorporate consistency and to tighten the Village's liability exposure.

Council member Raines reported that staff had provided the Law committee with a memo from Mr. Scott Phillips outlining a resident's request to research the Village's ability to place a historical façade easement on Village homes. The focus of this request is to help maintain the rural and historic preservation attributes included in the Village's Charter. She said that Mr. Phillips highlighted the responsibilities that would be placed on the Village if such an easement were created. After discussions, the Law committee directed staff to research other organizations who the Village may work in cooperation with to ensure all aspects of the request are captured.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mayor Rabenold directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Buildings and Grounds Committee*". He reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee met on February 17, 2015 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Mayor Rabenold reported that Mr. Kanis, Range Master, presented an additional appropriation request for the purchase of four trap machines that are used on the skeet field. This request was previously reported on in the Council meeting.

Mayor Rabenold reported that Ms. Minneci and Mr. Kanis provided an update on the Shooting Club's risk management review. Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA), the Village's risk management agency, took a tour of the Shooting Club. The MVRMA representative was very impressed with the parameters and regulations put in place to

ensure staff and member's safety at all times. Such parameters included the safety rules that are clearly posted throughout the facility, personal protective gear required at all times, the safety class (taught by Mr. Kanis) required for all new members and background checks performed on all staff. Mayor Rabenold reported that MVRMA provided some ways to assist the Village in tightening its liability provisions. Those included: 1) adding updated and clarifying language to the waiver signed by all members when they enter the facility, and 2) all staff annually signing off on the Shooting Club's rules and regulations to verify understanding and appreciation. MVRMA also recommended the Deputy Range Masters and Range Master go through a third party certification process. Mayor Rabenold said that Mr. Kanis will work to have all current and future employees go through a Certified Range Safety Officer program.

Mayor Rabenold reported that Messrs. Adkins and Kipp provided the Buildings and Grounds committee with the departmental activity and project management reports, copies of which were attached to the meeting minutes. These items are standard for this time of year. He said that Mr. Adkins highlighted the increase in park maintenance to assist with the start of the lacrosse programs in March and he said that staff is working with the Symmes Township Zoning, Hamilton County Storm Water and Hamilton County Building departments to obtain a permit for the proposed Grand Valley Preserve Ranger office building.

Mayor Rabenold reported that Ms. Minneci gave an update on the Grand Valley Master Plan process that was included in the 2015 Council goals. The Building and Grounds committee asked staff to provide ideas and thoughts regarding the projects included in the 2004 plan as well as other ideas they feel have developed since 2004. After staff presents ideas to the Building and Grounds committee for discussion and feedback, Ms. Minneci will coordinate a meeting with the Grand Valley Advisory committee in March where these thoughts will be relayed and examined. After the input has been finalized, staff will prepare a presentation for the April 27<sup>th</sup> Community Forum.

Mayor Rabenold reported that Ms. Minneci indicated that the Equestrian Club has requested use of Clippinger Fields for a member horse clinic in June and the Grounds committee has approved this request.

Mayor Rabenold reported that Mr. Dave Couch gave a donation to the Green Areas Trust Fund.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Barber directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Public Works Committee*". She reported that the Public Works committee met on February 17, 2015 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Barber reported that that Messrs. Adkins and Kipp provided the Public Works committee with the departmental activity and project management reports, copies of which were attached to the committee minutes.

Council member Barber complimented Mr. Adkins on the fine work the snow crew did during the snow storms.

Council member Barber reported that Mr. Kipp provided an overview on a proposed construction drive requirement that staff recommends implementing as part of the site clearance

permit process for new homes and demolition projects. By requiring construction drives in certain situations, it will help reduce the mud and debris that appear on the roads as well as reduce the deterioration of the edges on the paved public streets. Costs for such driveways would be approximately \$2,500 - \$5,000 and would be the developer's responsibility. She said that staff is researching whether this addition to the site clearance permit process requires legislative approval.

Council member Barber reported that the Hamilton County Storm Water District annual HCSWD/EPA report has been completed. She said that this looks at the illicit discharge detection and elimination mostly due to on-site septic systems. She said that they are very impressed with our facilities and processes.

Council member Feigelson asked Ms. Minneci if the Village has received calls for mailbox damages over this past weekend that may have been due to snow removal efforts. Ms. Minneci said that she was meeting with Mr. Adkins the next day to review what happened and what caused the damage.

**WATER WORKS REPORT:** Council member Cowan directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Water Works and Deregulation Committee*". She reported that the Water Works committee met on February 17, 2015 to review several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Cowan reported that Messrs. Adkins and Kipp provided the Water Works committee with the departmental activity and project management reports, copies of which were attached to the committee minutes. She explained that there are no current Water Works projects in progress. She reported that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Design services for the construction of multiple projects for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements was advertised in the Indian Hill Journal on February 11 and February 18, 2015. The Statement of Qualifications is to be submitted to the Water Works Department by February 27, 2015. She explained that the Village is seeking to pre-qualify three consulting firms for the engineering and design services over the next three year period (2015, 2016 & 2017). The Village intends to enter into a three year contract with each of the three consultants. Council member Cowan reported that Phase One (2015) of the Water Treatment Plant Improvements includes design and engineering for the upsizing of the existing electric transformer and wiring, concrete repairs to the Water Treatment Plant floor slab and adding an additional new high service pump. The estimated cost of construction for the Phase One improvements is estimated at \$350,000. The funding comes from the Water Works Capital Improvement Replacement Fund.

Council member Cowan reported that staff provided an update on the water rate analysis that Council included in its 2015 goals. She said that the following information was distributed for review.

- A. Water usage since 2010 compares dry years to wet years.
- B. Water rate comparisons in southwest Ohio.
- C. Indian Hill water rate increases. The last increase was in May 2008.
- D. Metropolitan Sewer District rate increase. The last increase was in January 2015.

Council member Cowan reported that Mr. Adkins provided the Water Works committee with a descriptive overview of capital and water main projects that are anticipated for the next ten years. Reasons for the projects range from the need to upgrade older infrastructure to increasing volume throughout the Village.

Council member Cowan reported that staff will work to finalize a ten year cash flow which incorporates the discussed capital projects along with projecting operational expenses. From this analysis, staff will provide water rate recommendations to the Water Works and Finance committees at a combined meeting on March 6, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Council member Feigelson directed Council's attention to a memo titled, "*Safety Committee*". He reported that the Safety committee met on February 12, 2015 to discuss several items in advance of the Council meeting.

Council member Feigelson reported that Chief Ashbrock presented the Fire/EMS report for January, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. Council member Feigelson highlighted that there was a fire incident on Burley Hills involving a pellet stove and damage was not excessive. He explained that EMS runs for the month were 83 compared to 91 in January 2014.

Council member Feigelson reported that Colonel Schlie presented the Rangers' Activity Report for January, a copy of which is included in the Council packet. He explained that Chief Schlie highlighted a few burglary incidents that have taken place on or near Miami Road. A Code Red and an E-Mail blast were sent to residents in that area encouraging them to lock doors and not leave valuables in their vehicles. He said that the Rangers are researching a few leads on the suspects. Colonel Schlie, who was present at the Council meeting reported that an arrest was made yesterday in this case.

Council member Feigelson said that the Indian Hill Rangers do a great job and what they do is incredible and he thanked Colonel Schlie and his staff for their work.

Council member Feigelson explained that the Safety committee reviewed requirement for ceremonial "swearing-in" for newly hired Ranger Brad Bird which took place this evening. He explained Mr. Bird began his employment on February 2, 2015. Mayor Rabenold officially swore Mr. Bird in that day in order to accommodate legal requirements for him to perform police duties; however, it was felt that it would be good for Council to have the opportunity to meet Mr. Bird and welcome him to the Indian Hill community. Mr. Bird is filling the position left vacant by the retirement of Ms. Nan Bongiani.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Council member Thayer reported that meetings were not held in January or February due to lack of agenda items.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Minneci reported that there will be a retirement party for Mrs. Nadine Weber on February 27 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Livingston Lodge.

Ms. Minneci reported that the Community Forum will be held on April 27, 2015 and the upcoming Indian Hill Bulletin will have a general announcement for the evening and the following Indian Hill Bulletin will have more information.



Ms. Minneci requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible pending ligation with legal council. Council member Kuenning moved that Council move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending ligation with legal council. The motion was seconded by Council member Feigelson and was carried by unanimously roll call vote. Council moved into Executive Session.

Council returned from Executive Session, there being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Rabenold declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Keith M. Rabenold, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Paul C. Riordan, Clerk