

The November 13, 2007 meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor John Hammon, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Councilmembers:** Curt Cosby Mark Kobasuk  
Doug Evans Debbie McCarthy  
Tracy Hueber Ken Pulskamp

**Mayor:** John Hammon  
**Solicitor:** Doug Miller  
**Fiscal Officer:** Keri L. Everett  
**Chief of Police:** Tom Synan  
**Street Commissioner:** Charlie Siegel (absent)

### Catherine Fitzgerald, Hamilton County Development Corporation

#### Contract Proposal:

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I read the contract and thought it was a great benefit to us.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** We appreciate you reducing the price.

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** Sure. I think we put a lot of the programs in place and I recommended that to Mayor Hammon that we reduce the amount, at the pleasure of the new council.

**Mr. Evans:** Catherine, have there been a lot of inquiries lately about new businesses?

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** At the moment, most of my time has been taken by this new Business District Association that several of the councilmembers have been attending. They have been meeting and will begin meeting every week. This morning, I sent a representative from our office because I did have a meeting. There has been a lot of activity with the business district. The big thing is the holiday event scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>. There are other initiatives they are working on; it is a very good group. Subsequent to the first meeting, I've had a number of more calls regarding the CRA; there was quite a bit more activity because we did discuss the CRA at the Business District's meeting. That program for commercial use has to be a fairly large improvement for it to make sense. Although I received a number of inquiries, and the types of improvements that actually add value from a valuation standpoint, some maintenance types of things will not benefit. That is what we have run into. I've also been working with the gal that has the Ivy Hills Plaza on some traffic counts and some demographic information. She is working on putting Youthland Academy where the Dollar General was formally. I believe the Indian restaurant is now open. I would say right now that most of my time is spent on the neighborhood business district group.

**Mr. Cosby:** Could you provide me with up-to-date traffic counts?

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** I don't have them, but can certainly give them to council.

**Mr. Cosby:** Are they in the process of being studied?

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** No, we look at the county engineer as well as OKI.

**Mr. Cosby:** That is something I would be interested in having. A lot of people ask me about the traffic counts. I've used county studies, but they are not recent.

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** I'd be happy to do a one-sheet document with some of the favorable demographics, as well as traffic counts, kind of a flier for Newtown.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Catherine, the term in your contract is September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007. Is this going to be dated November 13<sup>th</sup>?

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** How ever you'd like to do it is fine. I just proceeded and I have been continuing to work because either way I wasn't going to drop the ball on some of the things I was working on. If you'd like me to update it to November I would be happy to.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Your old contract actually expired August 31<sup>st</sup>, correct? So, you've been doing all of this work at no charge with no contract at this point.

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** I have, but however you would like to do it is fine.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Doug, is there any problem back-dating this from September 1, given that the date has passed?

**Solicitor Miller:** Yeah, why don't we just change it saying, "This agreement is effective this blank day of September?" The term is from September 1 through August 31.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** So, you've been doing work through September 1?

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** I have, but we're not talking about a lot of money at this point.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** What is your plan for the year? Do you have a plan for the

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** Several of the things that we did historically, in terms of the site atlas, we talked to the mayor about that it probably the less useful. I think a brochure to promote the community would be very good. There is a lot of work going on with the business district group. Quite frankly, because I didn't know if the contract would be renewed I didn't volunteer for a lot of the duties because that would definitely be outside of my work with my job without a job, frankly. I see that taking up quite a bit of time. I would certainly recommend focusing on the larger employers in Newtown; you don't want to lose those folks. Keep them in the loop. I have visited most of the biggest employers and a number of them expressed interest in the Eastern Corridor transportation network. We do have Ted Hubbard coming out to the group in January. I emailed the larger employers, but will go ahead and give them a call and let them know about that. Those two things would be my recommendation. I think there is a lot of energy occurring with the business district group and then your larger employers.

**Mr. Cosby:** Would it be a good idea to maybe have Ted come to council? I think that would be something that we need to be kept apprised of as well, as just the business group.

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** Certainly. I'll check on his availability for maybe January.

**Mr. Cosby:** Yeah.

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** I'm sure he will be happy to come out.

**Mr. Evans:** When you talk to businesses what are some of the positive things they say about Newtown and what are the negative things they maybe council can improve?

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** It is two different groups. The weaknesses that the larger employers discussed are traffic congestion on SR 32, shortage of sit-down restaurants; we do hear quite frequently, availability of blue collar workers. Frankly, that is an issue throughout the county. There were a lot of very positive comments: police and fire protection. On the flip side, infrastructure was mentioned as strength of the community, utilities. Again, the workforce was considered a strength. If the businesses can find the people and are happy with their work ethic, reliability, etc., it is a matter of finding those people. We work fairly closely with Super Jobs, which is like a one-stop job placement, particularly more for blue collar positions. They do consider this economy to be somewhat of a full-economy, so employers are really looking at stealing from other employers. That is just a reality at this point; offering better benefits to actually try to recruit from other employers. That is the type of economy we are dealing with right now. And that is the case as well in Newtown.

**Mayor Hammon:** To get this contract done, I would like to have a motion made to adopt the resolution so we can give Catherine a copy to have signed to send back to us.

**Mr. Puskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Puskamp made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 34-2007 a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING a CONTRACT WITH THE HAMILTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Puskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

**Mrs. Fitzgerald:** Who would you like for me to check in with regarding Ted Hubbard and his availability? Do you want me to work let Keri know?

**Mr. Cosby:** You can call me on my cell.

### **Audience Participation**

#### **Resident Donna Brooks, 6620 Crull Street** (No Parking Issue) (Handout)

"First of all I'd sincerely like to thank the members of council who made a valiant effort to help improve the Village of Newtown by enacting a No Parking Ordinance for the Crull subdivision.

And secondly, I'd like to congratulate the members of council that fought to have the ordinance repealed, and won. You were obviously mistaken for someone who really cared what image the village portrays to the rest of the surrounding areas.

I understand that to rescind the No Parking ordinance was voted on, and was "the will of the people" – but fail to understand how it became a village-wide concern, as to whether the people in the Crull subdivision should park on the street or not.

There again, particular congratulations to a member of council who "assisted" in getting the issue on the ballot – assisted to the point that this council member actually obtained the petition and carried it around to friends and neighbors to get signatures. It is thought that this was above and beyond the call of duty of a councilmember. It has always been the belief that council was here to represent all of the residents of the village – not a select group.

On the other hand, it is felt that the whole parking issue could have been avoided in the first place, if residents had not been told several years ago by the police department that nothing could be done about parking in front of stop signs or in the driving lanes, unless "No Parking" signs were posted!

There was never intent to create a hardship on anyone by requesting that there be no parking on the streets in the Crull subdivision. The desire was to improve the image of the neighborhood and create a safer environment for emergency vehicles to maneuver through this area.

It seemed to be a popular theme throughout the campaign that the goal of council should be to "improve the image of the Village of Newtown" in order to attract new residents and businesses. Well, who wants to buy in an area that allows their streets to become used car lots and car repair lots? It would have been a nice start to cleaning up an area of the village. Then council could have addressed the cars parked in yards on unpaved surfaces and fences in disrepair.

Once again, a sincere thank you to the members of council that attempted to continue the process of cleaning up our village – and, to the members of council that chose to keep things status quo – congratulations, you can be proud of yourselves!! You won! Nothing has changed!"

Darwin and Donna Brooks  
Concerned Residents of the Crull subdivision  
And the Village of Newtown

**Resident Sandra Martin, 6617 West Plum Street**

I just want to say "thanks" to the councilmembers who did help a majority of the people that live in the Crull subdivision, which is where I live. We don't want it the way it was with eleven junk cars, but we do want to resolve this to where we do not have to park in our yards. Thank you for helping us!

**Mayor Hammon:** Just because it is no parking doesn't mean you can park side-by-side and make it narrow. Once the signs come down when it is certified, you can still be ticketed if you park side-by-side and don't allow the proper distance between the cars. On a 14 foot road, if you're more than 4 feet out you should get a ticket.

**Mayor Hammon:**

1. Property Maintenance Inspector Contract: You have a contract from Dick Weber.
2. Maintenance Department: Tony Baxter has requested in writing that he split the hourly upgrade with Robert Beson, on a 50/50 basis.

**Mayor Hammon:** Doug, can this be done by a simple motion?

**Solicitor Miller:** Well, you have the salary ordinance; it should be done by that. At this point, you can go ahead and approve that but we should do it by an ordinance since that is basically what we are amending. I wasn't sure when this started or when it will end. I didn't know the amounts. Our current salary ordinance mentions names and individuals. I need to know the amount.

**Ms. Everett:** I don't think you're going to amend it on the salary ordinance. What is being amended, is it on the salary ordinance, it says if the supervisor is gone for five days or more they get the \$3.00 extra. We're not going to change that dollar amount on the salary ordinance.

**Mr. Evans:** It's in there already.

**Solicitor Miller:** It says, whoever is the acting-head gets the additional.

**Mr. Evans:** The acting-head wants to give half to somebody else and that is what he wants.

**Mr. Puskamp:** That is a very special thing to do.

**Ms. Everett:** I think that \$3.00 might be a separate ordinance in itself.

**Solicitor Miller:** Why don't we start it at the next pay period?

**Mr. Evans:** I don't think anybody here has a problem with that?

**Mrs. McCarthy:** No, not at all. Are we going to hire somebody else John?

**Mr. Puskamp:** As of right now, Charlie is still an employee of the village.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** No, I meant for.....

**Mr. Cosby:** We're still a man down.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Yeah, that is what I meant, for Andy's old position.

**Ms. Hueber:** We should get somebody to take the place of Andy. He has been gone for a while.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Right.

**Mayor Hammon:** I'm more than happy to turn it over to the street committee chairperson. Charlie and I went through these resumes when he got sick and have never been able to sit down and talk about anything else.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** We should with winter coming on.

**Mr. Puskamp:** I'll work on that.

**Mayor Hammon:** (Continued)

3. Congratulations: I would like to congratulate those that won in the election. Curt, I guess you're the official winner. I don't think there will be enough votes for me to catch you. I haven't heard of anything being certified yet, so good luck to the other people.

**Mr. Cosby:** Thank you John. There is no certification for another week or ten days.

**Mayor Hammon:** It could be longer with all of the provisional votes out there.

4. Drake Street Bridge: I walked it with Bruce about ten days ago and there is no access to Drake Road, so the bridge will have to be split and done in two phases. It does not include a pedestrian walkway, so the cost will probably increase.

**Fiscal Officer Keri Everett**

1. Changing Pay Date: I would like council's permission to cut the checks on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup>, instead of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, due to the Thanksgiving holiday and dealing with the banking.
2. Temporary Appropriations: I have a resolution for temporary appropriations; I'd like for you to have a first reading tonight. Again, these are temporary and once we hit the beginning of the year we can start working on the real figures and that will be done by March.
3. Potential 2008 Projects: You have a list in front of you of these potential projects. I was hoping that each councilmember could rank what you think should be a priority for 2008. That will help us focus after the first of the year when we know what kind of money we have. Don't pay too much attention to the actual streets I have listed; focus mainly on going forward with the street pavement management all together. Feel free to write in any other projects I may have missed.

**Mr. Puskamp:** The street pavement management part, the true number we're looking at is \$487,000. That is from Brandstetter Carroll, updated version. That is for every street that is in the No. 2 fair condition.

**Ms. Everett:** I think Bruce had said to try and shoot for spending \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year. Like I said, don't get caught up on the streets and the numbers, just rank the priorities. After the first of the year, I will show you how it ranked and we can go from there.

**Mr. Evans:** John, can you go down the list for everybody.

**Mayor Hammon:**

1. Round Bottom Road Improvements: For years we have been trying to get grant money to improve Round Bottom Road that is sinking. Hamilton County engineers suggested that we resurface it and they had agreed to help with some money; however, we're still waiting.
2. Street Pavement Management: Basically, we have a fifteen-year plan to resurface the roadways throughout the village. The roads generally last fifteen to twenty years, so basically it will take \$250,000 per year to keep up with that plan.
3. Drake Bridge: Across from McCullough Run has been identified as in a failure-state, poor condition. We gave Bruce less than a two-week notice and he worked up a number quick to put a box-culvert-type of bridge over it. He has that for \$160,000. I would guess that will end up being \$180,000. We were shuffled out of the first round of funding from the state into small governments. It doesn't look very positive, but it is always a possibility that small governments will give us matching 90/10.
4. Church Street Bridge Creek Stabilization: \$15,000. We had a sink hole where the road actually collapsed underneath; the footers washed out so it sucked some of the soil out from the roadway. We have most of that done and a little more.
5. Public Parking Lot: By the Newtown Feed Store; there are three options ranging from \$111,000 up to \$166,000.
6. Short Park Restrooms: \$100,000. We have had a basic restroom could be put in for \$70,000 to \$75,000. We would have to elevate it above (501), which above the floodway fringe area.
7. E-Check Building: We have the drawings from the architect, so if we wanted to put it out for bids to see what a conversion would be for a Municipal Town Hall. That would be about \$7,680.
8. Ragland Road Drainage Problem: \$100,000. That is basically is taking from where the parking spots where the blacktop sits and kind of puts a swell and runs it down to the catch basin. It doesn't address the upper part where the grass is because the sidewalk is about 4-5 inches lower than the street.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** John, shouldn't the Ragland Road project move up the ladder?

**Mayor Hammon:** There is no ladder here; this is for you to rank it the way you want it. This is not in order; this is what Keri put down. You can put it where you want it. If you want to fix it right it is \$600,000. You guys will have to decide what you want to do with it.

**Mr. Cosby:** I would think grant money is available for that.

**Mayor Hammon:** Not when we looked into it a couple of years back. There is not a community development block grant. It is based upon the age of a community; we had looked at it for Edith and Jefferson and at that time there was no money available. There may be other grants out there; you can ask Bruce to seek them or seek them yourself or get a grant-writer to look for you. There are possibilities out there; but right now, other than community development block grant, which means you would have to take subsidized housing back in is what is available to you. That is roughly \$50,000 to \$100,000 that you can get towards the project.

**Mr. Evans:** John, one thing not mentioned here is as the price of fuel, as it goes up the price of asphalt goes up about the same percentage. I would say the asphalt would be going up at least 15-20%.

**Ms. Everett:** I think the figures for the parking lot are from a couple of years ago, so they will be higher as well. It still doesn't hurt to rank the projects and we'll see where we are after the first of the year.

**Councilmember Tracy Hueber**

Now that the election is over and everybody is done slinging mud. We have this crazy website, The Newtown Voice, Doug (Miller), I would like for you to have someone in your office look at it because there is a lot of slander on there. I've had some other legal advice on it and people have attendancy to throw a lot of stones at this side of the table, but when Chief Zornes made the announcement last week that I was going out-of-town with a specific ex-councilman, so that everyone that reads the website, I don't care what you say or what you say about me, but coming from a police officer to state that my house was vacant when I have children and animals and anybody could break into my house. You think it is funny to make an announcement that I am going out of town with an ex-councilman on vacation. It was very unprofessional and uncalled for and he will now be sitting at this table. I think these kinds of things at this council table and if we're going to get along in the future that that stuff and mudslinging and that website needs to be really looked at from a legal standpoint. That is my request and that is what I have to say on that.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I agree Tracy. I am appalled that somebody is putting on a website when you are going out of town. That puts your property at risk and your family at risk. I have nothing to do with that website. I have looked at it once when John mentioned he had slanderous statements about himself on there. I can't believe Daryl, who did this?

**Ms. Hueber:** Daryl Zornes.

**Mr. Zornes:** I beg your pardon; you are wrong.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I can't believe he would do that. I don't want to get into a debate, but I agree with you. You should not be put at risk at that and I am appalled when John told me that a couple of days ago.

**Ms. Hueber:** I can put up with all of the other stuff, but when it comes up on the website and the names that read through there.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Your personal business is your own.

**Ms. Hueber:** My personal business is my own. I just think that as the table is going to move forward that this needs to be looked at from a legal standpoint. Things need to be monitored because people are saying things that don't need to be said.

**Mr. Evans:** Mark, I've never seen the website myself. I'm a big boy; I get stones thrown at me everyday.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** So do I.

**Mr. Evans:** I haven't had a speeding ticket for ten years and I don't have one now. I contested one I got when I was with two of my kids. But, for my speeding ticket to be up there on the website is not right and Tracy being a single person that is not right either.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I totally agree. That is appalling. I am not defending this website in any way, shape or form. I agree with Tracy and you that your personal life should be kept out of council. I hope we all can get along better in the coming year.

**Mr. Evans:** It's hard to when you have stuff like that thrown at you.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I don't know if we need to debate it anymore. I can't believe that Daryl Zornes would do that. It should not have happened; I am appalled. I'll do whatever I can to stop it and Doug (Miller) should look into it.

**Solicitor Miller:** That is an issue bigger than the Village of Newtown. I'll look at it.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** You don't want to put any councilmember at risk. I don't want to see Tracy's house broken into. I wouldn't want my house broken into. I'm sorry that happened to you Tracy, but we had nothing to do with it.

**Ms. Hueber:** I can handle the many things that have been said about me, but when you're single and you have kids you just don't need those types of people that are reading the website to know that your house is open.

**Ms. Everett:** Would someone tell Doug Miller the website address.

**Chief Synan:** "Newtownvoice.com"

**Mr. Evans:** How can they use the name "Newtown?"

**Solicitor Miller:** You can use whatever you want.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** It is a free country; it's free speech. It's not appropriate.

**Ms. Hueber:** People can say whatever they want to and make it up, but there are limits. I think legally we need to look into it.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** The posting she is referring to, I saw it and actually have a copy of it at home. It was not signed by Daryl Zornes, but it is by "Retired Chief," and other postings on the website by "Retired Chief" says Daryl Zornes.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I would think he would not do it; somebody could be imitating him. Somebody was imitating John.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** But, "Retired Chief" is also the same person that said he was running for council. That is all that is on there, so not proven.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I feel bad for you Tracy; it's a terrible thing. If I can help you, I will.

**Ms. Hueber:** Thanks Mark.

#### **Councilmember Ken Pulskamp**

#### **Maintenance – Wage Split**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve splitting the \$3.00 per hour wage increase between Tony Baxter and Robert Beson. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

#### **Susan Pride, Independent Governmental Affairs Consultant**

##### Discussion

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Ken, could you explain that for the audience.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Susan Pride has been working for the village for quite a few years. She goes back and audits the auto and vehicle registrations for anybody that lives in the village. If you go to get your car registered and if you do not specifically say that you live in the village then part of our taxes that would normally come to the village go to Hamilton County and Anderson Township. She goes back and audits all of the registrations and the village gets money for those she finds and then she collects her fee out of that also. She is actually not paid unless she locates these registrations. The only money she gets comes from the percentage of what she finds. It is nothing that comes out of the village's pocket.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Like a contingency. We can't lose.

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 35-2007 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING SUSAN PRIDE AS AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONSULTANT, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

#### **Dick Weber Contract**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 36-2007 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH RICHARD A. WEBER FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

**Ms. Hueber:** Have we had a monthly update? Could he provide us with a list of what is in status?

**Mr. Pulskamp:** It's been a couple of months.

**Mayor Hammon:** Basically, his contract has been reduced. He is going to try and give us twelve (12) hours a week, instead of twenty (20). He requested reduced time because he felt he was being unproductive.

#### **Supplemental Appropriations**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 37-2007 A RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RECONCILING THE BUDGET AND AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a First Reading for a RESOLUTION APPROVING THE VILLAGE TEMPORARY APROPRIATIONS FOR 2008 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE 13-2007 AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE FISCAL OFFICER AND DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

#### **Council Meeting for November 27, 2007**

Council decided to have the last meeting in November. It will be a short meeting; council will need to have a second reading for the Temporary Appropriations. The rules will have to be suspended, so attendance is required.

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to cancel the last council meeting in December. Mrs. McCarthy seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

#### **Hayride Insurance**

**Mr. Cosby:** I believe the village is still covering the insurance.

**Ms. Everett:** I was told the fire department is completely covering that.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Between Chief Driggers personally and the association was going to cover the cost.

#### **Joe Motz, Newtown Business District**

The independent policy that was introduced today was to cover those members of the business district, so that individually they are covered from liability for sponsoring the event. The issue of the hayride, I don't know if that policy was written to be in concert with that or not.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** At the last meeting, Chief Driggers said between him and the association would cover the cost of the insurance.

**Mr. Motz:** That is a liability policy.

**Solicitor Miller:** I don't doubt that he said it; you just want to make sure it happens.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Right now the village is not covering it. It is not part of our policy.

**Mayor Hammon:** If we want to carry the insurance the equipment will have to be inspected.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** The thought the village's part was the \$1,000 towards the banner.

**Mrs. Hueber:** The banner is what we are covering.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Right. We weren't going to do anything with the insurance.

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to pay the employees Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to cancel the last regularly scheduled council meeting, December 25, 2007. Mrs. McCarthy seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

#### **Councilmember Doug Evans**

1. Checklist: Has everyone seen the checklist dated 11/13/2007? There is a second part for \$830.00, which is for medical reimbursement.

#### **Discussion**

**Mr. Evans:** Keri, is it high because of the lease for the police cruisers?

**Ms. Everett:** We have them once a year; this is the second payment. You have one more year on it.

**Mr. Evans made a motion to accept the checklist dated 11/13/2007. Mrs. McCarthy seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mayor Hammon:** For the record, our monthly trash pickup with Rumpke is \$9,871.00. If you multiply that by twelve you are looking about \$118,000.

**Mr. Evans (Continued)**

2. Thefts: Tom, there have been a lot of copper thefts and other things going on around. Can you enlighten us?

**Chief Synan:** There are a lot of car break-ins and definitely a lot of copper-thefts. We've had a trailer with a ATV stolen and there have been a rash of car break-ins throughout the area, Indian Hill, the new bike trail, Madeira, everywhere. We put out a crime alert on our website and some other websites attached to it. We're asking that everyone pay close attention to what you leave in your car, such as purses, wallets, i-pods, etc. Just be very careful with what you leave in your car. This is truly "tis the season," the season we see an increase in crimes of thefts and robberies. You really have to watch what you're doing; be careful. If you're out shopping at the malls go with another person. Use common sense; don't keep your head down, always look up and park in well-lit areas. Like Doug said, there is a huge increase in metals, coppers and things like that. If you see anything suspicious call us. You guys are paying for us to be out there. Just give us a call if you see someone running around your neighborhood or someone you've never seen before and we'll run out there.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** The incident at Circle K happened mid-morning election day. These things aren't just happening at night.

**Chief Synan:** Right. From watching the video, he had his hand on the gun. We think he was going to rob the place and luckily the store clerk had a feeling. They were high on crack cocaine and fortunately because the clerk didn't feel right and we tell people this; it is human nature to sense danger, but a lot of times we blow it off and tell ourselves we're overacting. Go with that gut-feeling and that is what this clerk did, he picked up the phone right in front of them and called 911 and that is what actually scared them off. They grabbed the stuff and took off and fortunately didn't pull a gun out and no one was hurt. We got lucky with that one. This really is the season; you'll see an increase in thefts and robbery-attempts. Don't make yourself a victim; don't give them the opportunity. Give us a call with anything suspicious. If you want us to do extra patrols call us.

**Mr. Evans:** Does Anderson Township exchange information with you all or do we need to call up there and get them to help you a little bit more? I get emails all the time about different things; do you get the same emails I get?

**Chief Synan:** No. I have asked a few times

**Mr. Evans:** If somebody is breaking in, I don't care if it is the county Sheriff that stops them or you, but I'm tired of the breaking-ins and somehow we need to work together between them.

**Chief Synan:** I don't care who it is either; I've asked numerous times. I would love to have the information. As a matter of fact, you invited me to that meeting. You were the only one that invited me to that meeting. I know some people were surprised, but I've got to be honest with you, there was one person more surprised than anybody and that was me. I'm sitting there getting information at your meeting that I had no clue of and our guys didn't have a clue of.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** What meeting are you talking about?

**Mr. Evans:** There is a northern Anderson business district that is down around the SENCO area. For the longest time, we all had complained that we never saw a Sheriff down there and when something happens we want police protection and a lot of times Newtown gets there first. There was always a problem, so the business people got a bunch of people together to form this organization to get together and meet to discuss what was going on. We've had three or four meetings with about twenty-five companies represented. We had one of the meetings at my place and I said if it was going to be at my place Tommy is coming, because everybody needs to know what is going on. To me, I don't know exactly where the line is and I don't think anybody here cares. We just want police protection, just like Newtown or Anderson Township. That is when we invited Tom and they exchanged some good ideas.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** The county Sheriff did?

**Mr. Evans:** The Sheriff, yes. It's northern Anderson business district and what we're trying to do is curb the rash of things happening. Now, there is an easier way to get out, where before everybody had to come back through Newtown and now they can go across by Quaker State and Lube, the Beechwood Connector and they are out of here in a split second. We're trying to get them to work together.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** And they are not giving you the information you need?

**Chief Synan:** Not to delve too much into it; I had a meeting with some of the representatives and I was extremely upset. We bend over backwards giving out information. We put packets together and we have their officers come in and show them everything we have. I don't care what it is and I don't care who you work for and my complaint is we don't get that in return. I thought the problem was resolved, but when I got to this meeting, one of the guys leaned over and said, "Did you get this information?" I said, "No." This was the description on a car. It is more of a territory issue and has been like that for decades. No matter how ticked-off I am, I will continue to work with them and give them the information. If I don't get that back, my number one priority, and I stood here a year ago and said that our department will be as self-sufficient as possible. Although Newtown is seeing a little bit of crime, you're not seeing what is going on in other areas, because our guys are out there being proactive and being professional. Training is highly important to us and visibility. We try to do what we can with the residents. I am very proud of the fact that we work so well with the residents. You don't need a business district for us. All you need to do is pick up a phone or stop us on the road. I have maintained that promise and will keep that promise to make sure this community is safe, whether we get the information or not. I

am not happy about some of the exchange of information; I passed it on. Doug was very generous in having me down there. I was shocked at after having my meeting that I didn't get that information back; it is something we need to continue to work on. The road guys work together great. I can tell you as you get up higher some of the departments end up stopping. I have told our guys to exchange everything they have. Whatever goes on in Newtown affects everyone else. The crack cocaine is coming from Madisonville. It's not coming necessarily from Newtown, so it goes through these other communities and we pass along that information. As a matter-of-fact, the gun robbery at Circle K, we put that information out as soon as it happened and within an hour a probation officer in Madisonville found those guys. If it wouldn't have been for sharing that information, these guys on were on their way to rob another store. I appreciate Doug; he has worked very hard to try and get that information together. It's not always there. I've expressed my concerns and I know Doug has expressed concerns, but on our end we are doing what we can.

**Mr. Evans:** Most people think we're in Newtown down there or Clermont. They don't know it is Anderson Township. The businesses down there have been positive for so long with a lot of employees and SENCO and everybody was doing great, with China and different things going, some of the businesses haven't done as well and we hate to see it go down hill. We've tried to do this to upgrade things and not let things get worse. In that area, we feel we are just a part of Newtown as we are Anderson Township. We're all trying to work together and that is what Tom wants. Good police protection is what we all want; no matter if you live in Newtown or Anderson Township. It's definitely getting better, but working together with Newtown and Anderson makes it a lot easier.

**Chief Synan:** I can't control what other departments do. I can control what we do. You will not have anyone from the police department standing here asking for help because we're short handed. I am realistic and right now you have one officer per shift for all of the residents and all of the businesses. We're supposed to have two, but right now we're short handed. It is unrealistic for any police department to tell you they can protect 100%, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is only one thing that can protect this community and that is you guys working with us and council. That is why we in the police department consider ourselves a team with you guys. That is why it is so important that you guys communicate with us. Anytime you see something suspicious tell us. You're not seeing an increase in crime like down in these other areas, because of you guys working with us.

**Mr. Evans:** Someone mentioned that it would be nice to see the chief's car driving around a little more, without lettering on it, because you can see the new cars a mile away.

**Chief Synan:** I can tell you before I come to work and after work; I drive for at least one hour. I make traffic stops and I've made arrests.

**Mr. Evans:** That is the car nobody knows.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** It is good to see you out patrolling; council and the residents appreciate you being out there.

**Chief Synan:** I appreciate the residents. They have been very generous to me.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** It is nice to see that in the chief.

**Resident Bill DeVore:** I'd like to congratulate Tom; he's doing a great job. The other day I saw the neatest thing, Tom was in the back of the school yard playing ball with the kids. That was awesome.

**Chief Synan:** I got beat in basketball and then beat up! I also want to applaud our website. The Cincinnati Enquirer featured an article on our website. There is a link in our website, under forms to that article; it was very nice. Officer Orso did this for free and it is a tremendous website and he is a tremendous asset to this department. This would probably cost thousands of dollars and he did it on his own time.

### **Councilmember Mark Kobasuk**

**Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to have a Third and Final Reading to adopt ORDINANCE 14-2007 AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE PROCEDURE FOR PLACING RECEPTACLES CONTAINING GARBAGE AND TRASH TO BE COLLECTED BY THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN'S INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AND REGULATING THE TYPE AND SIZE OF SAID RECEPTACLES. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion.**

### **Discussion**

**Mr. Kobasuk:** The ordinance reads, "The containers containing garbage and other trash to be picked up shall not be set out on the curb before 5:00 p.m. of the evening preceding the scheduled collection day. These containers must be removed from the curb and/or the public right-of-way on the day of collection." So, the containers must be put away behind the house or in the garage by midnight and they cannot be set out before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** They also cannot be stored on the side of the house, visible from the street any longer.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** That is correct; that is what Dick Weber wanted.

**Roll Call: Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

### **Councilmember Curt Cosby**

1. Moundview Park: This work at Moundview needs to be done. Tri Star Contractors are to paint the porches and the door we installed last year.

**Mr. Cosby made a motion to enter into contract with Tri Star Contractors to paint the porches and the door at Moundview Park, amount not to exceed \$3,000. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion.**

**Mayor Hammon:** I have to ask, the Civic was supposed to come forward, "Have they come forward with a pledge yet?"

**Ms. Everett:** Yes. Tom Busse came in to get the dollar amount. We've not seen the money yet, **but they've come forward.**

**Mr. Darwin Brooks:** We didn't know what the number was.

**Mrs. Brooks:** Are they going to be painted before the repairs?

**Mr. Cosby:** I assume, there are some things that need to be painted before they are installed. They are not painting anything existing. They are talking about the new stuff.

**All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Councilmember Debbie McCarthy**

1. Light-Up-Newtown: The actual date is 12/8/07 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I will make sure this gets on the website.
2. Banner Invoice: Keri, I did inform Barb to make sure the invoice for the banner gets to us.

**Mrs. McCarthy made a motion to approve council minutes for 2/11/2003 and 10/09/2007.**

**Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Abstain, Mr. Cosby-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Abstain. Motion Carried 4-2.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adjourn council meeting at 8:27 p.m.. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**