

The February 10, 2009 meeting of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Curt Cosby, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilmembers:	Brian Burns	Mark Kobasuk
	Doug Evans	Ken Pulskamp
	Tracy Hueber	Daryl Zornes

Mayor: Curt Cosby
Solicitor: Doug Miller
Fiscal Officer: Keri Everett
Police Chief: Tom Synan

Audience Participation

5K Race

Resident Darwin Brooks, 6620 Crull Street. Mr. Brooks is a member of the Civic League and has been asked who has paid for the security for the 5K Race in the past. Mr. Brooks asked Chief Synan to respond. Chief Synan said the 5K Race was first paid by the Newtown Civic League and the 2008 5K Race was paid by the St. John Fisher group currently in charge. Mayor Cosby asked if the Maintenance Department had been reimbursed in the past. Mr. Brooks said yes in the past; not sure about the two employees, but Charlie would be there along with the police and they would write him a check at that time.

2009 Appropriations, First Reading

Mayor Cosby said council will have the first reading tonight on the appropriations. The finance committee met last night.

BZA

Mr. Burns gave an update of the Board of Zoning Appeals. There was one hearing February 5th; the matter was resolved. The minutes are up-to-date and the board did grant a variance.

Moundview Park

Mr. Burns spoke to the meeting held at Moundview Park yesterday regarding using the meeting room and facilities jointly. The Civic League is currently using the facilities and there are multiple non-profit entities within the village that have expressed interested in holding meetings there. The result of the meeting was a better understanding of what each group has done, along with their future plans and how the scheduling will be handled. Mr. Burns said Becky Fairley will be in charge of keeping the calendar for the various groups utilizing the meeting room at Moundview. Mr. Burns said at a later date, some boards will come before council with plans and ideas to upgrading Moundview.

Checklist / Martin Marietta Mining

Mr. Evans asked Solicitor Miller if the amount of \$8,400 on the checklist to him was higher because of the work he is doing for the village regarding Martin Marietta. Solicitor Miller said yes generally; he also was paid in January. Solicitor Miller said that is the correct current billing and does not believe that came through in January. Mr. Evans wanted everyone to be aware of the reason the amount is higher. And Mr. Evans thanked Solicitor Miller for the work he is doing for the village. Solicitor Miller said there have been other things going on too. Mr. Evans asked if Solicitor Miller thought we are three-fourths done with the hearings. Solicitor Miller said yes because the presentation has been done, as far as traffic. Solicitor Miller said he believes there are a lot more presentations to come from other communities and citizens. As far as the village's dollars, Solicitor Miller said he doesn't see any reason for him to attend those hearings to just sit there and listen to that because he would have no intention of cross-examining them or asking any questions. He said the village's issue was traffic. The other areas, such as noise and dust are being handled by someone else. Solicitor Miller said he is happy to go, but recommended for the village to save the money, rather than send him to more hearings. Mr. Kobasuk asked if the expert did a traffic report. Solicitor Miller said, not really, it was more looking at their traffic report and deficiencies of that report. Their traffic report only covered the entrance into the mine and the intersection at Broadwell and Round Bottom Road. He didn't do a separate traffic report; it's really not up to us to do that. The applicant should be presenting what the effect would be on the surrounding neighborhood, not one intersection and one entrance. Obviously, it is going to have a much greater effect than those two intersections. Mr. Kobasuk asked about a time-line for a resolution for the Anderson Township Board of Zoning. Solicitor Miller said maybe May, but unsure of how long they will deliberate. Mr. Kobasuk asked when Solicitor Miller thought the evidence would close; he said if they continue with their two meetings a month maybe April. Once all of the citizens and communities have made their presentations, Solicitor Miller believes Martin Marietta will come back with some rebuttal evidence and at that time, Solicitor Miller would get back involved at that point, particularly if they discuss traffic. Solicitor Miller stated that it is not that he is ignoring the other items, but there is a lot more people worried about those types of items like noise, dust and vibration. The village is carrying the ball on traffic, not on the noise, dust and vibration. And Mr. Evans stated the \$800 to Jack Pflum is for the Martin Marietta issue; Solicitor Miller stated that is correct.

Checklist / Advertising Bid

Mr. Evans spoke to Ms. Everett about the one to Enquirer Media for advertising for bid for Brandstetter Carroll. The amount is for \$1,356 and Mr. Evans asked if there is any way we can do this cheaper by advertising in the local paper. Ms. Everett said council left that for Bruce Brandstetter to handle. Mayor Cosby suggested council look at handling this ourselves. Mr. Evans said people get the plans off of ACI, not the Enquirer. Ms. Everett said it has to go in the paper two times; Mr. Evans said to make it small.

Checklist / AFLAC

Mr. Burns asked Ms. Everett why there is a check to AFLAC on the checklist for \$191.46. Ms. Everett said that comes out of the employee's paycheck; the village is not paying AFLAC for the employees. Ms. Everett pulls the money from the employee's check and then the village sends a check to AFLAC.

Mr. Burns made a motion to accept Checklist dated 2/10/2009, in the amount of \$37,552.97. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. Puskamp-Abstain, Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes. Motion Carried.

Recent Snow

Recently, the village experienced two snow falls one week apart and Mr. Evans thanked everyone for helping with salting and plowing the streets. Chief Synan and Police Officers: Vontz, Bischoff, and Kaiser volunteered relieving Maintenance Workers: Tony and Robert for a few hours to allow them to go home and get some rest. Mr. Evans said the only complaints he received was regarding the mess from the black bottom-ash, mixed with salt; the village purchased this from the county. Mayor Cosby said this was the county-mix and thanked the employees of the police department that volunteered to get behind the truck for both of the snow falls. Mr. Puskamp thanked Doug Evans for personally plowing the streets in the village also; he was noticed by quite a few residents. Mr. Puskamp also thanked Tony and Robert for the long hours, as well the officers that helped. Good job!

Winterfest

For those who were not here, Mr. Evans spoke to the many compliments he received on Winterfest. Everyone had a great time! Mr. Evans thanked Barb Greve, Pauline and others and thanked Joe Motz him for going above and beyond making the horse-drawn carriage rides possible. Mr. Evans said it was a great event for the village and thanked everyone again!

Contract Street Sweepers

Mr. Puskamp contacted Contract Street Sweepers; they will be out this week to give an estimate on a village-wide sweep to clean every street. We need to clean the streets as soon as possible to prevent the residual of the black bottom ash from going into the storm sewers. Mr. Puskamp said it would be helpful for the residents to sweep or blow off the sidewalks into the curb and then the sweepers can remove it from the streets.

Rumpke Invoices for Moundview Park and Cemetery

At a previous meeting, Mr. Puskamp had asked Ms. Everett to hold off on the Rumpke contract so he could look into the costs for Moundview Park and Cemetery. The Cemetery bill was decreased and the Moundview Park bill stayed the same. Mr. Puskamp wanted to bring this to council's attention and give Ms. Everett permission to sign off for a one-year contract with Rumpke.

Mayor's Monthly Court Statements, December 2008 and January 2009

Mr. Puskamp made a motion to approve the December 2008 and January 2009 Mayor's Monthly Court Statements, as presented. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Board of Elections

Mr. Puskamp made a motion to approve the agreement with the Board of Elections for the May 2009 and November 2009 elections. The agreement covers May 4th and 5th and November 2nd and 3rd for set-up and actual election days. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

ODNR Grant Resolution for Short Park Restrooms

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 NO. 07-2009 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Kobasuk asked the amount of the grant awarded to the village. The grant amount awarded is \$25,471.00; original grant request was \$42,000.00. This is for the Short Park restrooms. Mayor

Cosby has contacted Hamilton County Park District to discuss what they could pitch in towards the restrooms because the bike trail will go through Short Park. They have expressed interest in the past of maybe assisting with the cost.

Vote

Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulkamp-Yes, Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes. Motion Carried.

Round Bottom Road Project/River Hills and Ivy Hills Lane

The Round Bottom Road project is out for bid; River Hills and Ivy Hills Lane is tied in with this project. Mr. Pulkamp was contacted by some residents from Legends Lane asking if they could also piggy-back with this same bid. This should help them with lower pricing in order to pave their own private street. Mr. Pulkamp spoke to Bruce Brandstetter today and he said they have no problem doing it with the contractors once the bid is awarded.

Mr. Pulkamp made a motion to approve the residents of Legends Lane allowing them to contract with the contractor to receive the lower rate allowing them to repave their street. This would be paid separately by the residents since it is a private street. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Council Minutes

Mr. Zornes made a motion to approve 1-13-2009 council minutes. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulkamp asked to hold off approving 1-17-2009 council minutes until the village receives a copy of the court reporter's final transcript.

Document Request

Solicitor Miller spoke to council regarding the document request by John C. Korfhagen, Attorney representing Mike Schmidt. Solicitor Miller received a request for any and all documents referring to Mike Schmidt and asked for a copy of any correspondence pertaining to Mike Schmidt.

February 9, 2009 Finance Committee Meeting

Mayor Cosby spoke of the Finance Committee's meeting last night. Reflecting upon 2008, Mayor Cosby said we were very prudent in watching expenditures. The actual numbers have just recently become available to mayor and council. Speaking of the General Fund, 2008 Revenue was \$1,822,632.86 and actual expenses were \$1,769,128.81. From actual monies collected, the village actually came in under budget \$53,504.05. At the beginning of the year of 2008, Mayor Cosby reported we had appropriated \$1,970,070.13; actual expenditures were \$200,941.32 less than amount appropriated. He said everyone needs to realize when we appropriate we have to look at everything line-by-line and give the worse case scenario of what could happen. Speaking to the police department, if we have some type of catastrophe requiring extra manpower, we have to account for that at the beginning of the year. That explains why appropriations are so much larger than actual expenditures. Mayor Cosby said council did a very good job of holding the line in 2008 and plan on working very diligently to hold the line for 2009 as well. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Mayor Cosby believes we should stay within budget for 2009. Mayor and council will review this process at the end of 2009 and look at projections for 2010. Mayor Cosby congratulated council for exhibiting fiscal responsibility demonstrated in 2008.

Mr. Evans spoke to the Finance meeting and was a bit shocked after reviewing the real numbers. Mr. Evans said after years of discussing the process of appropriating more for the police department, he understands now that adequate money needs to be appropriated to cover the shifts council put in place.

Police Department

Chief Synan spoke to the fuel-reimbursement line. Of each citation written by the police officers, \$20.00 goes to the fuel-reimbursement line. Chief Synan said when gas prices were so high, it was unfair to the residents that lived here were paying for people committing crimes, i.e.: traffic violations or drug violations. On a felony drug case the officer has to patrol, stop that car, get the drugs and then transport the person to jail and then make 2-4 trips to court. The residents are paying for the gas to go back; therefore, the police department initiated the \$20.00 fee reimbursement line.

Chief Synan said the police department has switched to purchasing gas from Hamilton County. The first month \$40.00 was saved and the second month \$65.00 saved. It's not a huge savings, but it is a savings. What happened with the fuel-reimbursement line, on an average, the police department spends \$1,200 per month on gas. With the fuel-reimbursement line, the police department paid not only paid the first month \$1,200, but has brought in \$1,600, so the \$400 rolled over to the next month. With the current cost of gas, the police department first anticipated paying at least half of the fuel-reimbursement line and is now looking at paying the entire fuel-reimbursement line, which includes oil changes. Chief Synan said that is approximately \$24,000 on an average that they will save from there.

In regards to the police cruisers, Chief Synan said it appears they just went out and purchased three new race cars with no thought behind it. A lot of money was going out on repairs of the old cruisers and the police department came up with a three-year plan to where they can sell the cars

and put that money towards the purchase price and keep the cars under warranty as much as possible. Within the first year and a half to two years, the police department saved \$16,000 on the repair cost. The first year there was zero dollars on repair cost. As of today, the police department has an attentive deal with another police department to buy the two Dodge Chargers, which is another reason the department went with the Chargers, for \$10,000 each. That \$20,000 will go towards the purchase price. Chief Synan said where \$50,000 may have been set aside; \$20,000 will be recouped on the sale of those cars. That is for next year, but \$16,000 has already been saved on vehicle maintenance on the cars. Due to the color scheme, the Chargers were about \$1,200 more expensive than the Ford Crown Victoria cruisers. Chief Synan said they looked long-term to try and save money over the years.

Chief Synan state the police department was able to reduce their operating budget due to Lieutenant McBreen doing a tremendous job in negotiating with vendors. The police department will not sign off on a purchase order or invoice until they get the best price possible!

At the Finance meeting, Chief Synan was asked why he brought in a full-time police officer instead of a part-time officer. He explained it costs \$8,000 to outfit and train an officer right off the bat. In the past, over a two-year period, the police department went through ten part-time officers, which cost the village \$40,000 every two years on the part-time program. Once that money is gone you do not recoup the money. Expertise does not usually come from the part-time program. Chief Synan said they thought it made more sense to investment in a full-time experienced person and cut down on the part-time people, making sure shifts were covered more with the full-time person. It is more of an investment because you are paying benefits, but it is money that you're actually getting something in return for. In this case, the full-time police officer, Todd Bruner had a tremendous amount of experience from Cincinnati Police Department. Officer Bruner has brought a tremendous resource with the City of Cincinnati and Newtown gets free training from Cincinnati. Training examples: taser training would have cost \$1,200 to \$1,500 each time and free training such as self-defense classes. It is an investment and we are getting a lot for our money, Chief Synan said. Chief Synan does patrol the village and many police chiefs do not. Of all places, Mariemont has had several home-invasions. The economy is going to make it more difficult out there. Police Synan said the Newtown Police Department has a reputation with the drug dealers that we are extremely pro-active. Our officers are visible and pro-active on the drug-trade. Chief Synan assured everyone they have the best police officers protecting the residents and business owners. Ms. Hueber thanked Chief Synan and the police officers for all they do!

Mr. Evans told Chief Synan that a neighbor in Ivy Hills wanted to thank Chief Synan and the officers for their help and concern for a problem they recently responded to. Chief Synan said they are very welcome and the community is very welcome and thanked Mr. Evans for his support.

Salary-Freeze

Mr. Evans spoke to the salary-freeze for 2009 for all village employees.

2009 Permanent Appropriations, Discussion

Mr. Evans asked about the Service Department salaries. Mr. Pulskamp explained the Service Department salaries used to be taken out of three different funds: General Fund, Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund and State Highway Fund. And now we are taking the Service Department salaries out of the General Fund only; leaving the Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund and State Highway Fund for the repairs and maintenance of the streets.

Resident Randy Seligmann, Ivy Hills Blvd. asked Mr. Pulskamp if he could back the numbers up because the way it looks now, it looks like the salaries in the Service Department are 2.5 times what they were a year ago. Mr. Pulskamp said to go back to page 6, under Salaries there was an actual of 2008 and you will see there is a "zero" in 2009. The State Highway Fund, Salaries is "zero" appropriated for 2009. Mr. Pulskamp said that is where those numbers were. Mr. Pulskamp said the number past numbers cannot be reworked because those salaries actually came out of those funds. Ms. Everett said before we were taking the salaries out of those funds and then taking money for street repairs out of the General Fund, instead of doing that, Ms. Everett said she is leaving the street money in the Street Fund to use for streets and taking salaries all out of the General Fund. She said if she kept taking salaries out of there the General Fund would end up having to send money to those funds for street repairs. Ms. Everett said that doesn't make sense to her anymore, so she is just keeping it all in the General Fund and keeping all of the money in that Street Fund to use for street repairs. Mr. Pulskamp said it would be easier next year and for future years to see this is one line for the salaries for the Service Department. Mr. Seligmann said he agreed and thanked everyone.

Mr. Evans spoke to the estimated revenue and noted in 2008, the village received \$88,589.99 from Inheritance Tax, recognizing this cannot be appropriated and the amount always has to start at "zero." Mayor Cosby said you have to start the Inheritance Tax line at "zero," and he said you hope it stays at zero.

Mr. Evans spoke to the General Fund; specifically to the Municipal Income Tax for 2008 was \$1,214,861.88 and Ms. Everett estimated 2009 for \$1,100,000.00 due to the economy. Mayor Cosby said we try to be conservative with regards to what we expect to bring in and what our maximum expenses would be when it comes to appropriations if everything fell apart with the entire year. Mr. Burns noted the village did lose the Local Government Revenue; the last

revenue the village received was \$6,731.07 in 2007. Mr. Pulskamp said overall our appropriations for 2009 are roughly \$70,000 to \$75,000 less than last year. Mr. Pulskamp anticipates a very good ending balance for 2009.

Mr. Pulskamp discussed the Round Bottom Road project with 70/20/10 match; 90% of it will be paid by the county and state. That is roughly a \$365,000 project and will cost the village about \$36,000. We're looking at doing Ivy Hills Lane, as discussed last year and River Hills Improvements, Phase IV. Mr. Pulskamp said we are going to tie it all together as one project to obtain the lowest possible price. Legends Lane will also be tied in with this project; it is a private street and this will allow the residents to benefit from lower pricing.

Mayor Cosby spoke to Administrative appropriations. The majority of administrative cannot be changed. Advertising is something that has to be done. Dues and Fees; we cut eliminated some organizations we were members of that we didn't feel benefited the village. Hamilton County Storm Water fees for \$16,215.00; we took out of the budget because we're going to pass that back to the citizens. Ms. Hueber asked if \$130,500 for "MED/HOSP" was for medical insurance for the employees; Mr. Pulskamp answered yes. Office Supplies, Becky and Keri try to get the best price and saving \$30 to \$100 here and there adds up!

Mr. Kobasuk referred to Page 5 - \$2,406,339.37 is appropriated for 2009; estimated revenue is \$1,615,951.43. He asked if we are spending \$700,000 more than we take in and Ms. Everett said not \$700,000 because the \$500,000, which has been put away to carry over is included in the \$2,406,339.37. Mr. Kobasuk said so we are still running in a deficit spending \$203,721.07 beyond what we are taking in. Mayor Cosby said as far as appropriations are concerned yes, but again, as you saw in 2008, what we appropriated and what we actually spent.....you appropriate for worse case scenario and spend prudently and as we showed for 2008, we came in \$53,500 under what we collected actual dollars. Ms. Hueber said that is actual dollars; what we actually came under with appropriations was way over \$200,000 plus.

Mr. Kobasuk said, Curt, given the budget, what is your feeling on repealing the tax credit that was discussed some months ago. He asked if that is off the table. Mayor Cosby said his feeling is with the economic climate and the prudence demonstrated in 2008 and plan to demonstrate in 2009, he does not think it is a good time to revisit that situation. He said council may have to revisit it in the future and will take a look at everything in 2009. Mayor Cosby spoke to the road projects and how hard we work towards obtaining grant monies where we can. Unfortunately, there are some neighborhoods, such as Ivy Hills, the Villages, Edith, Jefferson and Pine Streets and River Hills that just don't qualify for grant money. We try to plan for the future and grow the carryover anticipating those upcoming projects. There are no guarantees, but at this time, it doesn't seem prudent to revisit repealing the tax credit until the end of 2009 when we can look at actual numbers and see where we are at. Mr. Kobasuk thanked Mayor Cosby. Mr. Evans said there were projects done without grant money that were more or less an emergency. The Curb and Gutter in River Hills and the slurry seal on Pinehurst and Ivy Hills Blvd. Mr. Evans said we could not have gotten a match for these projects. Mr. Pulskamp said they have looked into it and basically, any of the housing district areas of the village; we will never get a grant for any streets. Ms. Hueber said there are areas we could still cut back if we had to; we have visited the insurance issues and salary-freeze. Mr. Pulskamp said this 2009 appropriation is showing a salary-freeze. Ms. Hueber said before we do anything else, there is also the garbage pick-up. Mr. Kobasuk asked Ms. Everett for the savings by implementing the salary-freeze. Ms. Everett said not tonight, but she can get it for him for the next meeting. She said she originally had 3% in the appropriations. Mayor Cosby said we will certainly give the number of what the salary-freeze will save. Mr. Kobasuk said it is a hardship on folks but he understands the reason. Mayor Cosby said they understand. Mayor Cosby said he has not sat down and spoke with each employee. Mr. Evans said they are aware of the situation, along with everybody else. Mr. Kobasuk said he wanted to make sure we won't lose good people for this one year. Ms. Hueber said there are no jobs out there and she doesn't think people will leave to go anywhere. Mr. Kobasuk said it is a bad economy. Chief Synan said there are a lot of police jobs.

Debbie Mysliviec, 3221 Ivy Hills Blvd. asked if we are freezing the employee's salaries why does the appropriation go up for next year. She asked if it would not remain the same as actuals from this year. Mayor Cosby said actuals and appropriations are two different things. He said we have to appropriate to cover all shifts and all contingencies in every department. Mrs. Mysliviec asked even in Administration; Mayor Cosby said yes in everything. Mr. Pulskamp said they have to figure every person is working every single hour they are scheduled to work just in case they do work every hour. Mr. Pulskamp said that is for part-time and full-time employees; everyone that is paid hourly.

Randy Mysliviec, 3221 Ivy Hills Blvd. spoke to the \$400,000 sitting in the Property Purchase and asked why it is just sitting there and asked why wouldn't that \$400,000 be in the Town Entrance or in Parks. Mr. Mysliviec asked if someone was contemplating spending \$400,000 on a property purchase. Mayor Cosby said that money has been sitting there for a couple of years and once it is in the line....Ms. Everett said not in the actual line, that it is in the fund. She said once you transfer money from the General Fund to another fund it must stay there. The only way to get that money back is Solicitor Miller would have to go to court. Ms. Everett said it was put in there because several years we had the interest in the E-Check building so every year we were saving money aside for that purchase. Since then we have put it on hold but the money has been saved over several years. Mr. Pulskamp said the money is within that Capital Improvement Fund, but in a separate line but we can move that money inside of that fund, but it can't come out of that fund. Mr. Mysliviec thanked everyone.

Mr. Burns spoke to Ragland Road and Drake Street, both of which we put in for grants. He said these are high items on the list of improvements for last year. Mr. Burns said he is concerned for the safety of Drake Street Bridge; Mr. Pulskamp said it is possible we get funding and we should know in August and this is high up on the list for funding. He said if we get funding it will happen in 2010 and that is where that money will come from. That is why it is not in the 2009 improvements. Mr. Pulskamp said we are looking for approval in August 2009, but will be actually for 2010 and that is when we would have to appropriate the money. It is high on the priority list! Mayor Cosby stated we will also probably put in again for Ragland Road; typically, those projects don't get funded on the first round.

2009 Appropriations, First Reading

Mr. Evans made a motion to have a First Reading on AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE VILLAGE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2009 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Evans made a motion to have a Second Reading on 2009 Appropriations. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cosby asked if there was any other order of business or anyone else.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Tiettmeyer said he is on the agenda. Mayor Cosby replied, okay go ahead.

Citizens Finance Committee (Final Report Submitted)

Randy Seligmann, 3241 Ivy Hills Blvd.. Mr. Seligmann said he appreciates all the hard work council has put together, but it appears if it wasn't for the \$88,000 inheritance tax and the extra \$100,000 in municipal income tax, as good as we came in under the appropriations, if it wasn't for those two items of increased revenue by almost \$200,000 then the expenses would have still exceeded the revenues for 2008 and going forward with the idea that we may bring in less money in the future council has still not addressed the possible shortfall in the budget deficit he sees happening within the next 2-3 years. Mayor Cosby said it is true that it has not been addressed in this appropriation.

Mr. Curt Tiettmeyer presented and read a final report to council from the Citizens Finance Committee (Budget Solutions Committee). The report is as follows:

On August 12, 2008, by a 4 to 3 vote, Newtown village council passed the first reading of an ordinance repealing the credit for municipal income taxes paid to another municipality. This action was taken in an effort to resolve the forecasted General Fund deficit in the year 2010.

This set forth a series of events leading up to a special meeting of the village council held at Miami Valley Christian Academy on September 16, 2008. Over 100 village residents were in attendance with the overwhelming majority voicing their opinion against repealing the income tax credit. Mayor Cosby proposed and decided to move forward with a budget committee. He solicited citizens to sign up for the committee and encouraged everyone to participate, get involved and share ideas to solve the current budget situation.

The first meeting of the committee was held on September 30th with introductions and many questions of the financial statements of the general fund, which Keri Everett provided. Regular meetings began to occur as scheduled by Mayor Cosby. In these meetings, committee members suggested a large number of possible cost-saving options, such as staff FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) reductions, health care/benefit changes and a reduction in the use of consulting services. The committee also spent a significant amount of time trying to clarify the village's actual financial situation, since the budget documents showed large differences between appropriations and actual spending for 2008.

At the committee meeting on November 10th, Curt Tiettmeyer presented a document identifying a summary of facts, challenges facing the village and recommendations. We have included this as an attachment.

The committee's first recommendation (with unanimous support) was to review the impact of a 2009 balanced budget. The committee recognized that this would require a 15% cut in total expenses and would be a significant challenge to the village. The committee also recognized that a single year cut of this magnitude might not be desirable, but we wanted to start from a worse case scenario and make our final recommendations from that point. The committee also agreed that as citizens, we are not in a position to identify line-by-line where the cuts could be made but offered to assist in this process in any way that we could.

On December 9th, the committee met immediately after the scheduled council meeting. All council members who were present stayed for the committee meeting. Ken Pulskamp reported that the Service Department could cut their 2009 budget by \$60,000 by deferring new equipment purchases, although much of that reduction would not affect the general fund. Mayor Cosby stated that he had not reviewed the budget but did not anticipate any cuts. Chief Synan stated that he was not comfortable with any further cuts in the police budget. After much discussion over the projected 2009 budget deficit, the Mayor agreed to provide the committee with the balanced budget showing the 15% reduction in expenses that we requested a month earlier. He

further stated that he would schedule the committee's next meeting as soon as the expense reduction figures were available.

As of today, no meeting has been scheduled and no communication has been received from the Mayor.

Since the committee's first meeting, committee members have collectively spent more than 150 hours of time to help the village through this difficult and challenging situation. Our suggestions were dismissed and we were repeatedly told that things in government are different than the private sector.

We understand that the 2009 budget has continued to move forward without us, including tonight's first reading of the 2009 Appropriations resolution. Therefore, we are forced to conclude that we will not be able to finish our work, our collective 150+ hours of effort have little or no perceived value to council, and the purpose of the committee was simply to provide political cover for some type of tax increase.

The committee understands that you are charged with many duties that must be performed. You are responsible for the safety and security of all of the citizens, visitors and employees in the Village of Newtown. However, you must do so in a responsible manner. Projected budget deficits are not in the best interest of the village.

Only at our request did we find out that 2008 year end financials were complete. Results are much better than expected due to both higher than planned revenues and lower expenses. However, council cannot continue to budget for deficit spending. Council cannot continue to fund unbudgeted projects that commit the village to annual maintenance and operating responsibilities in perpetuity (such as the municipal parking lot, the fountain and the proposed restrooms at Short Park.) Council must properly address one of the primary responsibilities, budgeting for ongoing road improvements.

We are very concerned about the reactive nature of the village's leaders. This review process has convinced our committee that council plans and funds its activities based on opportunity rather than taking a long-range approach.

We urge council to immediately address the 2009 Budget projected to result in deficit spending. Council must establish a long range plan that addresses the values and desires of all of its citizens. But most importantly in this difficult economic climate, we recommend that the village focus its resources on the three basic functions of local government:

1. Safety
2. Road Conditions
3. Maintenance of all Public Properties and Right-of-Ways

Based on the facts uncovered and the events that have transpired over the last 5 months, it is the opinion of this committee that council should not move forward with any tax increases, repeal any existing tax credits or pass on any additional fees (such as the waste collection charges) to the residents. Unless and until the village demonstrates and debates the impact of a significant expense reduction and begins to adopt a more systematic method of planning and budgeting for its future expenditures, we cannot support the need for additional village revenue from any source.

Report signed by:

Curt Tiettmeyer, Citizen Finance Committee
Randy Seligmann, Citizen Finance Committee
Beth Bamber, Citizen Finance Committee
Joe Harten, Citizen Finance Committee
Debbie Mysliviec, Resident

Mayor Cosby stated for the record there were other members of the Citizen Finance Committee that refused to sign the letter submitted with the final report.

Final comments:

Mr. Tiettmeyer said he agrees with Randy; the one-time increase in revenue for 2008 that we want to applaud over, really is just a matter of luck. Unfortunately, that increase in revenue came from someone that died in the village. Otherwise, there would be a deficit in 2008. Mr. Tiettmeyer asked mayor and council what makes one think they will get lucky in 2009 and somebody else is going to die.

Mayor Cosby said number one, he would not consider that lucky.

Mr. Kobasuk asked Mayor Cosby if there was a reason we did not give the committee the budget with the 15% reduction. Mr. Kobasuk said he did promise them at a meeting he attended. Mayor Cosby said the things they said they would come back with to the committee with a reduction showing what a 15% reduction would do has absolutely nothing to do with the appropriations that we are under a timeline, as you know to get passed by this council. They are two separate issues. Mayor Cosby explained the first finance committee meeting was held last evening; the first one since the December 9th and that meeting was called at the previous council meeting. The main issue on the agenda for the finance meeting was the appropriations and did not

address what a 15% cut would look like at that meeting. Simply because they were consumed with the appropriations, Mayor Cosby said. He said they still had that as their intent and at that December 9th meeting, it was discussed they would hold that meeting and then get back with the Citizens Finance Committee for further consultation. Mayor Cosby said they agreed that was the best thing to do because a point had been reached in that committee that needed to be done. It appears that this committee feels that we are no longer listening to them and that they are done, Mayor Cosby said. Mayor Cosby said he takes a little exception to that because they had an understanding of what they were going to do and what they were going to report back. He explained the holidays, snow days in January and the first meeting called of the finance committee was at the last council meeting, which was held last night. Mayor Cosby said these issues still have not been discussed. We never were under a timeline, as far as when these things were going to be discussed, when we were going to report back. Mayor Cosby said we have not moved forward on any tax increase issue whatsoever, as he said they would not do until a conclusion had been made. It seems this committee has offered their own conclusion that we were ignoring the process, which couldn't be further from the truth, Mayor Cosby said. Mr. Tiettmeyer said he disagreed.

Ms. Hueber said we have their opinion; it is over. Mr. Pulskamp said they did not receive final numbers for 2008 until January 26th. Doug called a finance meeting as soon as council had the numbers. Ms. Everett said because that was just brought up, it says only at your request. She said she did get a couple of requests and did email back saying that you would hear from her as soon as they were done. Mr. Pulskamp said he believes council has acted very diligently in the time they have had since getting the numbers to go over them and do what they can.

Mr. Tiettmeyer said this committee started in September 2008 and November 10, 2008 is when they asked for specific information and it was not delivered. He said one month later they asked again for the information and were told they would have it. Mr. Tiettmeyer said Mayor Cosby is right in the sense that they did not say when they would get the information. Mr. Tiettmeyer said the rest on the committee agree that to go two months without any communication from the mayor whatsoever is totally inappropriate and an embarrassment.

Mayor Cosby said there was no communication because there was no new material to give. There were no more meetings past the December 9th meeting. Mayor Cosby said all they are talking about is January and here we are at the first meeting in February. Mayor Cosby said he did not say that at the first meeting in February the third reading would be held for the tax. He said they have never been under the gun; there was never a directive, "I want this back in 30 days," or he would have told them that would have been impossible to do. Mayor Cosby said so it is not an embarrassment from the mayor when there is nothing to report. Mayor Cosby asked Mr. Tiettmeyer if the Citizens Finance Committee held a meeting at Town Hall on Sunday, February 9th. Mr. Tiettmeyer said yes they did. Mayor Cosby asked if he was invited to that meeting and Mr. Tiettmeyer said no he was not invited. Mayor Cosby asked why is that and Mr. Tiettmeyer said because the mayor is not considered to be one of the independent citizens of the committee. He said they did not invite any other members of council or who sat on the finance committee. Mr. Pulskamp said there is no communication from the committee back to council also. Ms. Hueber said she thinks council should take this letter like a resignation and make a motion to accept the letter. It is their opinion and be finished. Mr. Kobasuk said these are residents that gave a lot of time and let's think this through. He asked Mayor Cosby if he was still going to deal with them and give them a reduced budget. Mayor Cosby said they still are going to do that and was never under a time line. Mayor Cosby said frankly, it makes him angry they sit there and say it's embarrassing he did not get back to them when he had nothing to report back until we had a finance committee meeting on the subject. Mayor Cosby said it is not him alone that works the numbers. It's a committee; it's a process. They meet twice a month and do not meet everyday.

Mr. Tiettmeyer said was obvious to the committee that their opinion was not valued when they heard council was moving forward with the 2009 appropriations. Mr. Tiettmeyer told council and mayor that they can tell the committee their actions and statement are inappropriate and do whatever they want within the limits of the law with the funding and expenses. He said this is strictly the Citizen Finance Committee's opinion and this is where they stand.

Mr. Evans said even though he was not the committee he went to some of the meetings out of the goodness of his heart. He too volunteers 150 hours plus every year and then some and donates his council salary to the Friends of Newtown. He said he listened to the committee and they had great points. Mr. Evans said he too just received the papers last night from the finance meeting that was set up two weeks ago at the last council meeting. Mr. Evans asked Ms. Everett if it correct that he just got the numbers from her tonight when he walked through the door. Ms. Everett said no that she mailed them out on Friday. Mr. Evans said he did not get them in the mail; the first time he saw them was last night. And the 15% was discussed in the 2.5 hr meeting last night. Mr. Evans said the finance committee discussed ways to get the budget as low as they can and what can be done to keep our good employees and keeping current safety and road services. Mr. Evans stated the services have not suffered at all. We still have good snow plow, police and fire services. He agreed we all need to work on communication with one another. Mr. Evans said he will stick up for the mayor when needed, as well as for the Citizens Finance Committee. We are all in this together and need to get along, Evans said. Mr. Evans told Mr. Tiettmeyer that Mayor Cosby is not against him and that Mr. Evans took exception to some of the things Mr. Tiettmeyer said tonight. Mr. Evans said we all may not agree all of the time, but at the end of day we get along with one another. He said council and mayor do listen to people and try to get issues worked out. Mr. Evans spoke to the five people that did sign the final report from the Citizens Finance Committee and is taken back by some of the things written in the report. He noted there is still 2,500 people that didn't sign the letter. Mr. Seligmann said the committee did

not go door-to-door and the only people that could have signed the report were people on the committee. He said one member on the committee did not go to more than one meeting and two other committee members decided not to sign the letter. Mr. Seligmann said we are all on the same side; the revenues are not going up and expenditures are going up. He said within two years we will no longer be a village and that is all the committee is trying to get across.

Mayor Cosby spoke to the revenues and expenditures and stated he and council do understand where they are and have tried to explain that back and forth on multiple occasions. Mayor Cosby said he believes we are all in this together, but he does not think the document presented by the Citizens Finance Committee tonight reflects that. He said the document tells him the committee has basically turned in their resignation. Mayor Cosby asked if that was an accurate assumption. Ms. Hueber said yes and if that is what they are saying that we should drop it and take their resignation. Mr. Kobasuk said there has been a communication problem and Mayor Cosby replied, "There has been nothing to communicate." Mr. Kobasuk suggested maybe that is what the mayor needed to tell the committee. (People were yelling over one another and not at the microphone.)

Randy Mysliviec, 3221 Ivy Hills Blvd. Mr. Mysliviec spoke to the numerous meetings late last year discussing opposition of the tax increase and the desire of the residents to see more containment of the growth of spending. Mr. Mysliviec said he personally provided the statistics of the rate of spending growth of the village over the last five years and how the rate of spending growth dramatically outstripped the growth of revenues. And that really caught the attention of the community. The Town Hall meeting last September was overwhelmingly represented by the community opposing any kind of a tax increase and wanted to see more fiscal responsibility. Mr. Mysliviec spoke to the lack of support by the residents for any kind of a tax increase; particularly, in this economy. He said people look at the budget view for the next several years and think we are headed for a train wreck. We will either need a tax increase or either gain control over spending, Mr. Mysliviec said. Mr. Mysliviec said although he was not part of the committee, he agrees the six or seven people on the committee were just trying to help. He said he cannot imagine why anybody would have to wait for a year-end. Deciding if you can do with one less employee, make a freeze in spending and eliminate items are things that can start now, Mysliviec said. Mr. Mysliviec said the committee was formed and has done their work and studied the problem making their recommendations. He said the responsible thing to do is focus on getting the expenses down right now, start making cuts and cut the things that are least important. Mr. Mysliviec said while council thinks they have done a great job controlling expenses, the growth of expenses far outgrew the rate of growth of revenues. Mr. Mysliviec said he believes the Citizens Finance Committee is looking for action and would have preferred to just get on the path to making some cuts in the fourth quarter going into 2009.

Mr. Kobasuk asked Mr. Mysliviec if he would like council to reflect the 15% cut. Mr. Mysliviec suggested council take a look at what the committee was suggesting. He said he has heard many suggestions where the community could get its expenses beyond what the appropriations reflect. Mr. Mysliviec said freezing the village employee's salaries is a great move; nobody in the private sector is currently getting salary increases. He also spoke to the recommendations of benefits, reducing things such as the window cleaning and cutting back like people are in their own homes. If you can come up with a different way to find the 15%, other than what the committee is suggesting would be fine, Mysliviec said. We just need to get the overall level of spending growth down and reduce our spending in anticipation of the fact that the next year or two will be tough fiscally on the revenue side. Mr. Mysliviec said the community is not going to support a tax increase. Mr. Mysliviec said he does not see many cuts in the budget, other than the pay-freeze.

Solicitor Miller asked Mr. Mysliviec what budget he is referring to. Solicitor Miller explained the 2009 appropriations is not a budget. It is a document the State of Ohio requires to be passed by council by March 31st every year or they cannot pay bills. Mr. Mysliviec said they could have appropriated less. Solicitor Miller said this is not a budget; budget things are ongoing. Council could have appropriated 10 million dollars. It doesn't matter; it simply has to be done under state law or you may not pay bills. Mr. Mysliviec asked if council has figured out how to spend 15% less and has it built in with run rate right now spending 15% less as of January 1 then we were one year ago. Mr. Puskamp said council has been doing that for the last nine months and will continue doing it. Mr. Mysliviec said the only group that didn't grow its greater than the rate of revenue was the police department. They had the smallest rate of growth and expenses relative to everything else. Solicitor Miller said the 2009 budget was submitted in July 2008. You are required to submit the budget for the following year so there is a budget for 2009. The appropriations merely give the village the authority to pay bills; it doesn't mean these are final numbers. And doesn't mean they are correct numbers, but you are not allowed to pay a bill unless you have appropriated money and that is the purpose of the appropriations. Mr. Mysliviec said he understands, but the village spent more money; its rate of growth last year was faster than its rate of growth of revenues. Mr. Mysliviec said you are projecting in the appropriations; again, the rate of spending will out grow the rate of revenue growth. Mr. Mysliviec said at some point in time the appropriations do roughly mirror the budget, Mr. Puskamp said no. Solicitor Miller said first of all, it is unusual to see appropriations that even show revenue numbers. Most appropriations only show the expense. Solicitor Miller said his point is it sounds like the committee thought it was finished and it isn't finished because this isn't the budget. Mr. Seligmann said they never said they were finished and never said anything about resigning. Mr. Puskamp said he has the final report the committee submitted. Ms. Hueber said it says, "Final Report." Solicitor Miller suggested everyone get back together to work the problem because this is not a final budget for 2009 at all.

Mrs. Mysliviec said what concerns her is the whole tax issue was based on appropriations. The whole position presented saying we needed a rebate of a tax credit. (Everyone talking over one another!) Solicitor Miller said there might have been a budget back in July 2008, but there wouldn't have been any appropriations then. Mrs. Mysliviec said there was a document in September 2008 evaluated at the meeting. It was an appropriation and that was where everybody talked about why we needed a tax increase or repeal of the tax credit. Ms. Hueber said we are beating a dead horse here. Mrs. Mysliviec said her point is they used appropriations to justify a tax increase. The document was in a meeting that 100 citizens were a part of, Mrs. Mysliviec said. Solicitor Miller said this doesn't need to be a final document. Ms. Hueber said she is going to take this as a final document; they just want council to do it their way instead of how we have cut costs.

Ms. Everett said the reason for the concern for an increase in revenue, whatever that may have been, whether it would have come from the income tax credit was based upon a forecast. Ms. Everett said she used past actual numbers for that forecast and did use the appropriations passed for 2008 and then forecasted out to 2012. She said the concern for where we were going to get additional revenue and council taking the stand of talking about the credit at first was based from that forecasted worksheet. Mrs. Mysliviec said based on appropriations. Ms. Everett said based on past actual numbers, based on 2008 past appropriations and forecasting out to 2012. Mr. Mysliviec said using the appropriation numbers and Mrs. Mysliviec said for 2008 with increases against 2008.

Mr. Kobasuk commended Mayor Cosby for dropping the tax credit repeal. In this economic time we don't want to raise taxes, Kobasuk said and commended Mayor Cosby again for dropping that. He said Mayor Cosby has heard the citizens and did what was right. Mr. Kobasuk spoke to involving the citizens and not alienating them. Mr. Kobasuk said Mayor Cosby has said he going to give the citizens a revised budget with a 15% cut because he is not done with his work yet. Mayor Cosby said he is not finished, but the communication was not, "where are we mayor." Mayor Cosby said what he got was a meeting this past Sunday that did not include the rest of the committee; perhaps they did not want to hear what they had to say. And then issued a final report, which indicated to the mayor that committee is finished.

Mrs. Pauline Murrie said she attended most of the Citizens Finance Committee meetings and has talked to a lot of people in the village and 99% of the people that live in the village are happy with the way things are going. Mrs. Murrie said she made a statement in the committee meeting Sunday that the present council stepped into the previous regime and catching up with some of the previous mistakes. Mrs. Murrie said she does not always agree with council, as they don't always agree with her. Therefore, we are catching up with some of these mistakes and together the groups need to pull together, Murrie said. Mrs. Murrie said Mayor Cosby is not responsible for all of this and she will defend the him and defend the committee when necessary. Mrs. Murrie said she did not want to sign off on the final report submitted by the committee; she agrees with some of the things in the final report and does not agree with some of the things. Mrs. Murrie said it is a total waste of time for everyone to be divided and we cannot go on like this.

Mr. Seligmann spoke to Mrs. Murrie being present at the committee's meeting Sunday where a rough draft was presented by Curt Tiettmeyer and every single paragraph was gone over. Mr. Seligmann said it was opinion, he made several changes to make the report not as harsh and every single paragraph was gone over. And Mr. Seligmann said they thought in the end that Mrs. Murrie was in agreement. Mrs. Murrie said she is in agreement with some of the thought processes, but still does not think we can take the approach that council and mayor are all the bad guys and the citizens are the good guys.

As an outsider, Solicitor Miller said, as he sees it the committee members took the appropriations to mean their work was done and over because council is approving the appropriations, and it is not. You go on with working whatever budget numbers you were working; this merely meets the state requirement allowing council to spend money and pay bills.

Heather June, 3161 Sawgrass Court. Mrs. June has lived in the village a long time and said it has been a good place to live. The police department has been great and she said she appreciates living in a small town. Mrs. June is from a small town and understands outsiders coming in expressing an interest in the community. Mrs. June understands territoriality, as well as all sorts of complexities that begin to happen when there are two different groups of people starting to merge together. And this issue, while it was a hot topic, was actually the very first topic that has actually begun a process of integration in this village, June said. Mrs. June asked council if they agreed and asked if they had had much interaction with Ivy Hills residents over the years. Mayor Cosby said, "No!" Mrs. June said the thing she heard is, "why aren't you guys more involved." Mrs. June spoke to the opportunity to actually integrate for the first time since Ivy Hills came into being. She said she personally thinks there are so many benefits from both sides and what distresses her is there is so much personal negative energy occurring between both groups. Mrs. June said her concern is looking at village; she likes living in Newtown, having a small community. Mrs. June said she likes the village where one can actually drive down to the Tavern and have a beer or a sandwich and go to the UDF for coffee. Mrs. June said she likes knowing the Police Chief knows who the residents are, but if we are not careful and not fiscally responsible and if we are not all fiscally responsible, we are going to be incorporated into Anderson Township. Mrs. June said she has no interest in that and stated she doesn't even know if it is a possibility.

Mayor Cosby said that won't happen. Mayor Cosby said he and council understands the importance of being fiscally responsible and we are trying to grow the village in many ways with a few new businesses opening up in the last year. Mayor Cosby said he initiated the dialogue with the committee as a way to reach resolution. Mayor Cosby said he in no way emailed anyone

saying the committee was done. And because certain people were not on the committee, Mayor Cosby said he was actually accused of picking the committee members in his favor, which obviously couldn't be any further from the truth. Mayor Cosby said he simply took people that volunteered for the committee and tried to get a good group together without it becoming so large that we could not accomplish anything.

Mrs. June suggested when talking to groups it would be best to drop the "what happened," "what we did, what we said," the "he said, she said." It doesn't get anyone anywhere in any type of negotiation. Mrs. June also suggested a buffer to be between the council and those working on the committee because both groups strongly believe they want to work together. But there is a bit of a communication problem and there are personal comments, gestures and talking here and there, of which none are very professional. Mrs. June said if this is going to work we all need to step up and agree to not make inflammatory comments. We don't need to be defensive; we need to be forward-thinking and that may mean for now having a buffer in between. Mrs. June spoke to the village having a solicitor assisting the village with other issues and suggested using Solicitor Miller's professionalism to give an outside opinion. Mrs. June said the outside opinion often smoothes the waters, which is needed right now. Mr. Pulskamp asked if Mrs. June was volunteering and she said she would be glad to volunteer.

Mr. Burns thanked Mrs. June for speaking of her passion for the village. Mr. Burns agrees with having a buffer between the two groups. He said he believes tonight could have been handled in a better and is ashamed to sit between both groups. We are all neighbors and the council was elected by the people to represent them. He stated council is trying to work on a budget and feels council did and will go a good job on the budget. Mr. Burns said he is sorry there are personal differences but feels we can work past them. He said professionally and personally there will be differences and thanked the committee members for their time. Mr. Burns told Mr. Tiettmeyer he appreciated what he has done, but really doesn't like the letter. Mr. Burns did say he thinks there is good factual information in the letter and some general statements that didn't help convey the point. Mr. Burns said let's sit down and finish this. Mr. Burns asked exactly what information was requested and not given.

Mr. Joe Harten, 3251 Ivy Hills Blvd., Mr. Harten stated that everyone that signed the document, signed it and Curt Tiettmeyer is just the messenger. Mr. Harten said Curt Tiettmeyer shouldn't stand alone; the five members that agreed signed the letter and everything should be directed to all five. Mr. Harten told Mr. Burns that his question is a very fair one and to Mayor Cosby's point. He said he believes it was crystal clear in terms of what the committee was looking for and crystal clear as to what was agreed to December 9th, that a budget would come back with 15% cuts. Mr. Harten said he absolutely understands that takes time to work through and understands that mayor and council are working on behalf of the village in many ways and recognizing most have full-time jobs. Mr. Harten said the committee made their request November 10th and did not receive it until December 9th and now it has been ninety days waiting. Mr. Harten said he cannot allow any of his professional or personal commitments wait for ninety days without some kind of communication. And he said they essentially heard nothing for sixty full days after one month of nothing coming back and that is what they are asking for. Mr. Harten said that all they really wanted is the next step in the process.

Beth Bamber, Pinehurst Drive. Mrs. Bamber said she also signed the letter and much thought went into it. Mrs. Bamber said the information was requested in November and during that time Mayor Cosby emailed the committee on a regular basis to call meetings. Mrs. Bamber said he was the chair of that committee and the committee did not email each other or email him to ask for committee meetings. Mrs. Bamber said to say that they could have done something else was not the protocol being followed. Mrs. Bamber said it was left discussing the budget or the appropriations for 2009 and were hoping to see that before it came to the council. She said again, it was two months; many of them work from home and sometimes have to work sixty to hundred hours a week to get things done. And when sixty to ninety days went by with no information back and also a comment Mayor Cosby made at a meeting saying he didn't anticipate cuts. Mrs. Bamber said all they were asking for is numbers. Anyone here would agree if you would have asked for that and did not get anything back and the communication stopped for sixty days, people would assume that people were not interested hearing from us again, Bamber said. She said they were not asked to attend the recent finance meeting, but were asked to the last one. Mrs. Bamber said all they can do is read behavior not minds.

Mayor Cosby said again, communication is a two-way street. Again, the numbers received, which council was waiting on, were just received prior to or the day of the last council meeting, which is when the finance committee meeting was called. Mayor Cosby said the Citizens Finance Committee was not invited to the Finance Committee meeting because it was understood at the December 9th meeting that there was work to be done before meeting again with the committee. Mayor Cosby said that work has still not been achieved because of being under a deadline with the 2009 appropriations to complete and turn in. He said that does not mean the issues will not be addressed that he had said would be addressed. Mayor Cosby said they fully plan to do that, but has to run through the Finance Committee, it is not just me sitting down striking 15%. He said until the hard numbers were received, there were no numbers to work with. A Finance Committee meeting was called for immediately to first deal with the 2009 appropriations, which is required by law. The next Finance Committee meeting will deal with the budget issues that have been discussed. Mayor Cosby said it was discussed that the 15% cut may mean we lose two police officers, somebody in administrative and somebody in maintenance. And that may be what it is and then we were all going to sit down and evaluate whether or not that was something we could live with. Mayor Cosby said we have not achieved that yet. He said we as a committee have taken 3-4 months from December and all of a sudden it is all over with because you didn't receive your request in sixty days. Mayor Cosby said the

committee needs to give them time to work through their request. Council and committees are getting back into a regular routine since the holidays. Mayor Cosby said he never once sent out an email stating the committee was done and their opinion was not valued. He said we are here to finish what we said we would finish.

Mrs. Bamber said that sounds good. She said the committee was looking at the appropriations or budget numbers they were given and the financial statement from 2008. She said they were looking at those numbers to work off of and not assuming they needed appropriations budget for 2009 to be able to make budget cuts. Mrs. Bamber said they were looking at 2008 financials and taking 15% off of those numbers.

Mayor Cosby said he understands that and they have not met on that subject since December 9th. He said they do not meet on a regular basis and he puts in countless hours on all kinds of issues for the village and issues that have nothing to do with this committee or this projected budget. Mayor Cosby said he is not complaining, but stating a fact. He said the Finance Committee has not gotten to a point to be able to sit down and look at the questions you all posed to us and figured out an answer for you.

Mrs. Bamber said it would have been helpful if it would have been communicated to the committee that this was being worked on. Mayor Cosby said it has not been worked on. Mrs. Bamber spoke to the behaviors and receiving the emails on a regular basis and met on a regular basis and then it all abruptly stopped. She said that is how they assumed....and were not invited.

Ms. Hueber said you should never assume. Ms. Hueber said she is so tired of hearing that there has been no communication; it's a two-way street. Ms. Hueber said council is working on getting things done and not sitting out there like the committee trying to figure out the difference between appropriations and this and that because they don't know the whole big picture. Ms. Hueber said if she has an issue she will call and call and won't wait six to eight weeks. Ms. Hueber said the committee just sat out there waiting and didn't send out an email and no body asked any questions. Ms. Hueber said they didn't know the committee was sitting out there twiddling your thumbs. Ms. Hueber said this is ridiculous; we're talking about this in circles.

Mrs. Bamber said this is the thanks citizens get for donating hours and hours to try and serve, non-paid offering their services. Ms. Hueber replied, "This is what we get in here!" Mrs. Bamber said you all are in public service and everyone is trying to donate service and I think the way you speak to people is terrible.

Mayor Cosby told Mrs. Bamber that their input is appreciated and the entire committee is appreciated and that is why he formed the committee. He said they have not had an opportunity to address the issue and get back to the committee; be that a communication problem, Mayor Cosby said he can take part of that. Mayor Cosby said the committee needs to take part of the communication breakdown as well; everyone was able to communicate enough to have a meeting amongst them this past Sunday. He said they could have communicated to him that the committee was getting ready to have a meeting to draw some final conclusions where the final issue stood. Mayor Cosby repeated that he has not communicated because he has not had anything to communicate until they are able to sit down and address the issue. He said we may still be here thirty days out and still not have this issue completely addressed. We have to mesh schedules of people that hold other jobs and it may not be worked out in one night. It could possibly take 2-3 meetings which could take another month and a half. Mayor Cosby said they have not dropped the ball and not sat at the table and said they are going to take a vote on the third reading of repealing the tax credit because he said that will not be done until a conclusion has been reached. Mayor Cosby said he is sorry if the Citizens Finance Committee assumed one thing or another, but again, communication is a two-way street. Mayor Cosby said he is not trying to shirk his duty as communication back to the committee. He has not communicated because there is nothing to report.

Mrs. Bamber said it was left that Mayor Cosby was going to contact the committee for the next meeting and so they have been waiting. Mayor Cosby said that is exactly right and they have not had that meeting.

Barb Greve, 5039 Village Drive., resident and business owner. Mrs. Greve spoke to the reason she did not sign the letter submitted with the final report from the Citizens Finance Committee. She wanted to come to the meeting tonight and felt this was the forum where they would get a response to acknowledge, which she did hear, Mayor Cosby say that they were going to address the budget. Mrs. Greve said she personally did not feel the committee was done with the job of helping them. Mrs. Greve said she did not want to offend anyone and wanted to listen to address the fact that she listened to Mayor Cosby tonight and he did state in the beginning of the meeting that yes they were going to address the budget. At that point and time, she knew the committee's job was not done and it may take a little longer. Mrs. Greve said until she heard Mayor Cosby's side of the story and knows he has addressed what she was waiting to hear. She said if he had not addressed it then she would have felt more comfortable signing some type of a statement but is satisfied with what she heard from Mayor Cosby tonight.

Becky Fairley, Administrative Assistant spoke to the January 13th council minutes; everyone doesn't have these minutes because they were just approved tonight.

Mrs. Fairley read from the January 13th minutes, Page 4: (Insert)

Budget Solution Committee

Mr. Kobasuk asked about the status of getting the citizens the budget discussed at the one of the Budget Solution Committee meetings in 2008. Mayor Cosby said they are meeting with the committee heads of various departments; until that happens, there is nothing new to report. Mayor Cosby said the holidays slowed down the process; the committee chairs will meet in January and will probably meet with the Budget Solution Committee in February. Mr. Kobasuk asked to present the budget to the committee and Mayor Cosby said yes.

Mrs. Fairley said so it was not forgotten and Mr. Kobasuk brought it up looking out after the Citizens Finance Committee. Mayor Cosby said he appreciates that and those minutes were not finished for the last meeting due to other circumstances; therefore, they were not approved and everyone couldn't read them. He said we were behind one meeting but things are addressed. It is not that communication was complete dropped, Mayor Cosby said. Mr. Kobasuk asked if Mayor Cosby could give a projected time to meet and Mayor Cosby said he cannot until he gets with everyone and their schedules. Mr. Kobasuk said he just does not want to alienate these folks; there seems to be a lot of tension in the room.

Mr. Pulskamp said he would like to harness their energy also into fighting Forest Hills School District to take down another tax levy in May. It is all part of the economic situation of the entire village.

Mrs. June suggested chalking this up to a learning experience and move forward and suggested personal phone call interaction for a while.

Mrs. Murrie said when she has a question she either pops into Town Hall or makes a phone call. She said she gets an answer or leaves a message and people do call back. Mrs. Murrie said it is a two-way street. She said she calls Mayor Cosby and has always been available; his personal cell phone and their phones at Town Hall are always open and always answer no matter what. Mrs. Murrie said these people are reachable and you only have to pick up the phone and call and they will be more than happy to talk to us.

Moundview Park – Motorcycle Rally

Chief Synan spoke to council regarding a motorcycle rally scheduled for Saturday, July 11th. It is a benefit rally and will end up at Moundview Park and expecting 250-300 riders. They have an application for a temporary liquor license to sell beer. The mayor will need to sign off and Solicitor Miller suggested bringing this to council to make sure you are okay with it. Solicitor Miller suggested having some kind of insurance coverage if they are going to sell beer up at Moundview. He said they should get the insurance and name the village as an additional insurer; they would pay for it. Solicitor Miller said that is if council wants to allow them to sell beer in the park. Councilman Evans asked if they are supposed to be drinking and driving. Chief Synan said it is no different than the Civic League running the 5-K race. Chief Synan said from the race there are 700-900 runners that go in the park. Everybody ran and came back and drank beer. Chief Synan said they did discuss shutting down the streets to make it as safe as possible. Solicitor Miller said in order to get a liquor license, the Chief of Police of the jurisdiction has to sign off on it and the property owner has to sign off on it, which would be the mayor. Solicitor Miller suggested council taking a vote approving it and authorizing the mayor to sign. He also said he would make it a condition for the charity to have insurance. Mayor Cosby agreed. Solicitor Miller said they would get the insurance and name the village as additional insurer. Mr. Evans voiced his concern with so many riders with the park possibly already rented for baseball. Mr. Pulskamp said he did not have a problem as long as they get the insurance. Mr. Kobasuk asked what was in it for the village. Mr. Pulskamp said the same thing we get from the 5-K race, in which Mr. Kobasuk responded, with the 5-K there is physical fitness and this is beer drinking and riding motorcycles. Chief Synan said it is a fund-raiser and they may visit some of the local businesses and brings recognition to Newtown.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve the charity motorcycle ride for July 11th at Moundview Park on the condition the park is available and the group obtains liability insurance and names the village as an insurer.

Discussion

Ms. Hueber asked if there would be a need for extra security; Chief Synan said he will make sure if there is any extra charge for security he will charge the group and not the village.

Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Burns-No, Mr. Evans-No, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Ms. Hueber-No, Mr. Kobasuk-No, Mr. Zornes-Yes. Motion Failed.

Chief Synan will notify the group.

Mr. Kobasuk made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Evans.