

The March 24, 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.

Councilmember's:	Brian Burns	Mark Kobasuk (absent)
	Doug Evans	Ken Pulskamp
	Tracy Hueber (absent)	Daryl Zornes

Mayor: Curt Cosby

Solicitor: Doug Miller

Fiscal Officer: Keri Everett

Police Chief: Tom Synan

Mayor Cosby

- 2009 Appropriations, Third Reading tonight
- Lobsta Bakes of Maine – Opens Thursday, March 26th. We wish him well!
- Board of Zoning Appeals has a “resident” vacancy, submit letters of interest

Forest Hills School District

Randy Smith, 7493 Pinehurst Drive, Newtown. Mr. Smith is a member of Forest Hills School District Board of Education. Mr. Smith addressed council regarding the 6.9 mil tax levy to be on the May 5, 2009 ballot. The 6.9 mil levy is a continuing operating levy. In the past, Mr. Smith had shared with council that the school district was looking at replacing Wilson Elementary and due to the increased operating needs, that has simply gone away. The monies will be used strictly for operating, not capital improvements. The school district has two sources of income: 1) 1/3 of income is from the state and 2) 2/3 of income comes from local property taxes.

Randy Corbett, 7104 St. Edmonds, Anderson Township. Mr. Corbett is Co-Chair of the Levy Campaign Committee for the Forest Hills School District. Mr. Corbett presented council with a handout of information regarding the 6.9 mil levy for the May 5, 2009 ballot. Mr. Corbett explained that the continuing operating levy means that the levy will not expire and continues into the future. Mr. Corbett said the increased coverage is for general operating expenses only, not for new buildings or technology. Mr. Corbett said \$12 million in cuts have been made for the next 3 years, which will enable the operating levy to last for a minimum of 3 years. He did say a lot of that will depend on the state funding, which has been flat-lined for 3 years. At this point, it looks like Governor Strickland will decrease the money, not increase it. Mr. Corbett said the Forest Hills School District is an outstanding school district, which plays a major role in people desiring to live in Anderson Township and the Village of Newtown. He said we can choose to pass this levy or begin to watch our children get left behind and watch our property value decline.

Mr. Pulskamp said he received the levy information in the mail today and was quite appalled at some of the information. The first page, cost to the homeowner, says it is \$204.82 per \$100,000. For a layman, they will think that is all the levy is going to cost them. Mr. Pulskamp said it does not say it is an “additional” \$204.82 on top of what they are already paying, which is equivalent to about a 21% tax increase. Mr. Pulskamp figured the additional cost of the levy for a few homes of the people attending the council meeting and they will pay from \$1,200 to \$2,000 more per year. A local business, which the village gets probably 60% of their tax revenue from, they are presently paying almost \$50,000 per year to Forest Hills School District and now we are going to tax them another \$6,800 per year on top of that. Mr. Pulskamp quoted an article from Jeanie Peter, wife of Al Peter, Trustee for Anderson Township. Mrs. Peter quoted, “During this time of economic decline and hardship, it is unconscionable and unreasonable for the Forest Hills School Board to ask taxpayers for additional monies in order to increase employee compensation. They seem to have no regard for the income of Anderson Township property owners or their ability to pay.” Mr. Pulskamp said he could not have said it better. Mr. Pulskamp said he believes it is the wrong time to ask for more money. The last levy passed for Forest Hills School District was passed in 2005 and the district says they can’t keep up. Mr. Pulskamp said the Village of Newtown is looking at the same situation with expenditures moving ahead of revenue. He said the village has made cuts and learning to live within our means. The village has not had a tax increase since 1974 when the income tax

was originally passed. Mr. Pulskamp said he thinks it is unconscionable to ask for a 21% increase and said he will personally be out Election Day urging everyone to vote "NO!"

Mr. Burns asked Mr. Corbett what percentage of the current budget is spent on salaries and benefits. Mr. Corbett said 87%. The last base increase was a 3-year contract for 3%, 3% and 2.75%, per Randy Smith. Salary negotiations are currently underway for the school district. Mr. Smith stated for the record, the opinions shared are his, not the Board of Education.

Council thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Corbett for their presentation.

Checklist

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve Checklist dated 3-24-2009, deletion of Check No. 7320 for \$983.00 to Orkin Exterminating, Inc. and Check 7315 for \$600 to Evans Landscaping Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent, Ms. Hueber-Absent. Motion Carried

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve Check No. 7315 for \$600.00 to Evans Landscaping for Mulch. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent, Ms. Hueber-Absent. Motion Carried.

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve Check No. 7320 for \$983.00 to Orkin Exterminatin, Inc. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Abstain, Kobasuk-Absent, Ms. Hueber-Absent. Motion Carried.

Moundview

Mr. Burns made a motion to approve \$5,000, not to exceed, for materials renovating Moundview meeting rooms and upstairs apartment. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion.

Discussion

Mr. Pulskamp asked if the letter has gone out to the tenants. Mr. Burns said yes the letter has been served. Mr. Burns said someone from the village will do a final walk through. Mr. Pulskamp said the village may end up keeping the security deposit due to the anticipated damage that has been done to the apartment. Mr. Burns said that would be his expectations. They should be out at the end of April. Ms. Everett said the security deposit is \$500. Solicitor Miller said there are specific requirements to follow if the security deposit is not returned. Basically, itemize the bill to them as to why the security deposit is not returned. Mr. Burns will do a walk through of the apartment.

All Aye (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Board of Zoning Appeals and Fire Board

Mr. Burns announced Darwin Brooks resigned his position from the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Little Miami Fire District Board. Residents interested should submit a letter of interest to council and mayor. The Fire Board meets once a month discussing the general business of the fire department. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets once a month if there is a case to be appealed.

Councilman Evans

Mr. Evans talked to Clermont County Engineers and they have almost \$1 million to fix their end of Round Bottom Road. Mr. Evans said he mentioned to the engineer at Clermont County that Newtown is going to fix our end here and they will do theirs in July. Mr. Evans said he also went to the Trustees meeting to let them know he has had two of the three county commissioners driving their portion of Round Bottom Road. They discussed how close the telephone poles are some of the other work to be done. Mr. Evans also talked to the Clermont Trustees about ways to fund their project so the whole Round Bottom Road project will be finished. Mr. Evans spoke to the amount of people using Round Bottom Road, from the

parks, bike cyclists, trucks and local businesses. He said a lot of the businesses there pay a lot of money that gets TIF'd and the TIF money ends up going upon Beechmont Avenue or Five Mile Road into their building. Mr. Evans said he and the local businesses would like to that money used in this area ensuring the rest of Round Bottom being safer for the residents and everyone.

Round Bottom Road Project

Mr. Pulskamp spoke to the pre-construction meeting held today for the Round Bottom Road project. They are anticipating beginning May 1st. The blacktop plants are not opening until April 23-24th. Mr. Pulskamp asked Solicitor Miller to prepare a no parking ordinance for the River Hills subdivision and Ivy Hills Lane for the construction period. Mr. Pulskamp will get the dates to Solicitor Miller. They are anticipating beginning River Hills subdivision and Ivy Hills Lane late May or early June 2009. They will start Round Bottom first and then Ivy Hills Lane and River Hills together. Mr. Burns asked about the telephone line running in front of the lights that were recently turned on. Mr. Pulskamp said that still has to be moved. Mr. Pulskamp said the signals still need to be timed together on the interconnect.

Street Cleaning

Since the last council meeting, the roads have been swept. Oyster Bay Lane was missed; Contract Sweepers will be out April 1st to do the main sweeping of Church and Main Streets. At that time they will clean Oyster Bay Lane.

Supplemental Appropriation, First Reading

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a First Reading of A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION AND A TRANSFER AND RECONCILING THE BUDGET AND AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009. Mr. Evans seconded the motion.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a Second Reading at the April 14th council meeting. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

FEMA, First Reading

Mr. Pulskamp asked Ms. Everett if there was a time constraint on the Federal Grant Fund. Ms. Everett said we have received the money and it has already been placed in a Federal Grant Fund. Ms. Everett said she is waiting for a list of expenses that made up the \$18,000 so that whatever was expensed from the General Fund goes from the Federal Grant Fund back to the General Fund. Ms. Everett said the money has been received and receipted and is sitting in the special fund.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a First Reading of A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FEDERAL GRANT FUND AND DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS. Mr. Evans seconded the motion.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a Second Reading at the April 14th council meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Mayor's Monthly Statement to Council

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt February 2009 Mayor's Monthly Statement to Council. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Permanent Appropriations for 2009, Third Reading

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 03-2009 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE VILLAGE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2009 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Cemetery Storage Building

During the Fall 2008 storm, the roof was destroyed to the storage building at Flagg Spring Cemetery. Mr. Pulskamp said we have received three estimates. This will be reimbursed by the insurance company for this repair.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$2,750 to Silas King for replacement of the roof to the storage building at Flagg Spring Cemetery. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Town Hall Storage

Recently, Maintenance began a project of adding more storage space down stairs at Town Hall. We currently do not have the manpower to complete the project. Mr. Pulskamp presented an estimate of an outside contractor to complete the project. He is estimating 8 hours per day for 8 days to complete the work at \$18.00 per hour. Mr. Pulskamp said the village pays our employees more than that by the time PERS and health insurance is added into their hourly pay. Mr. Pulskamp said he is going to look into outsourcing more projects to try and save the village more money. Mr. Silas King gave an estimate not to exceed \$1,152 to complete the project. Mr. Pulskamp said if we do it in house it will probably cost \$1,800 to \$1,900 to finish the project. Mayor Cosby will probably do the electric work to cut costs.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,152 to S & K Remodeling for the demolition and rebuilding of shelves in the storage room in the basement at Town Hall. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Mulching Village-Wide

Mr. Pulskamp spoke to nine areas in the village in need in mulching; these areas are typically mulched and cleaned by the Maintenance Department. Mr. Pulskamp said he sat down with Robert and Tony obtaining exact amounts they used last year and added up their time sheets and obtained the numbers from Keri of what we pay them per hour. Last year we paid them \$2,932.18 between their wages and materials only last year. Evans Landscaping can do these projects for \$1,300.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,300.

Discussion

Mr. Evans said he will donate the mulch, but cannot donate the labor. Mr. Pulskamp said that would take off about \$800, which would take the amount to \$2,100 for labor if the village employees do it or \$1,300 for Evans to do it. The difference is hand labor compared to a machine that will put it down. Mr. Burns said it takes maintenance two days to cut ten acres of grass at Short Park and then there is Moundview Park and the cemetery.

Mr. Zornes seconded the motion. Mr. Burns-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Zornes-Yes. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Council Minutes

Mr. Zornes made a motion to approve 3-10-2009 council minutes. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. (Ms. Hueber-Absent, Mr. Kobasuk-Absent) Motion Carried.

Human Resource Meeting

Mr. Zornes rescheduled the Human Resource working session for Monday, March 30th at 7:30 p.m.

FTC Rules – Identity Theft

Solicitor Miller said the village is now required under FTC rules to adopt an identify theft policy by May 1st. This would be for different accounts the village maintains. Solicitor Miller will prepare a resolution for the April 14th council meeting.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to adjourn council meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Zornes seconded the motion.

Transcribed by Becky Fairley