The February 14, 2006 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 Present: Curt Cosby, Mark Kobasuk, Doug Evans, Ken Pulskamp, Tracy Hueber

Absent: Fiscal Officer, Keri Everett
Councilmember, Debbie McCarthy

Mayor: John Hammon
Assistant to the Mayor: David Krings
Solicitor: Doug Miller
Police Chief: Daryl Zornes
Lieutenant: Tom Synan
Street Commissioner: Charlie Siegel

Mayor Hammon: First order of business. I make a request that we promote Police Officer Shawn McBreen to Sergeant, is there a motion from the table?

Ms. Hueber made a motion to promote Police Officer Shawn McBreen to Sergeant. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mayor Hammon conducted swearing-in ceremony for Police Officer Shawn McBreen to be promoted to Sergeant for the Village of Newtown.

Mayor Hammon: (CRA) After our last council meeting, I met with Catherine Fitzgerald, HCDC and discussed some of council's concerns and questions. We sat down with Randy Smith and discussed what we came up with. They seemed to be okay with it at the time. Basically, we broke the CRA up into two districts:

1) **Flood Area**: McCullough Run to Railroad Tracks to Church Street and up SR 32. This area does include 50% abatement on new construction.
2) **Rest of the Village:** This covers the rest of the village and no abatement for new construction.

All areas will have 100% abatement on remodeling and renovations and 50% on commercial. Basically, the difference is for the majority of the village, there is no abatement for new construction. The flood area will include 50% abatement on new construction.
Mayor Hammon: Council had asked for the first $75,000 not to be included. We took a sampling of the cost of the structures, not of the lot and we couldn't do it the way Council had wished to at the time. We looked at the average cost and looked at new construction and by giving it 50%, it comes out very close to what Council wanted to do. It protects the investments for the schoolboard. That's the only way we could come up with it because we could not defer the first $75,000. This is the way to accomplish that. They don't have the housing survey ready yet.

Resident Randy Smith: 7493 Pinehurst Drive, Village of Newown. I'm also President of the Forest Hills School District Board of Education. First, I want to say, "Thank You," and especial "Thank You" to Mayor Hammon for taking the time to work on a creative solution. I appreciate the extra effort that was put into something that I think is as a reasonable solution as we're going to find with a reasonable amount of investment of time. Concern for the schoolboard was when we get new students without revenue behind those students. Commercial is no concern, so move ahead. The whole concept of figuring out a way to split this up, we understand that there is an incentive needed for property in the flood plain. The way it was divided up, this looks like the best possible solution. For improvement on residential, outside the flood plain, to take that out because essentially you'd be creating a potential for new students for revenue, this looks like a good solution. Again, I want to "thank" Council for your consideration. I look at our duties as a schoolboard as two parts: 1) to do what is right for the students and 2) to look out for the taxpayers. I appreciate your consideration and would like to think this meets the needs of the discussion two weeks ago. Thank you.

Mr. Kobasuk: Could you explain the revision, I just want to make sure I understand it.
Catherine Fitzgerald, HCDC: Sure, you basically have drafted two resolutions. You have two CRA's proposed before you:

1) **Resolution #1:** The first one is the entire village, excluding the flood plain. The only real difference is it does not include new residential construction. Pretty much the terms and conditions you have seen before are the same. 100% for ten years for single family residential rehab, with a minimum of $2,500 and $100,000 maximum. The multi-family is within the same 100% ten-year, the only difference is the minimum of $5,000. Commercial rehab is 50% at ten years and the new commercial construction is also 50% for ten years.
2) **Resolution #2:** The flood plain area, essentially most of the parameters or conditions are the same other than new residential which is 50% for ten years. The housing survey should be done by the end of this week. The schoolboard will be notified this week. The Enabling Legislation has to be published in the Enquirer once a week for two consecutive weeks. There will be readings here and then we simply apply to the Ohio Department of Development on behalf of the Village of Newtown.

There aren't many variables that can be tweaked from the state's standpoint that's why we have come up with this to essentially accomplish the same thing. Initially, we had a minimum and we could not do that. The Mayor asked me to take a sample of the property values in the flood plain. I took roughly five properties per street and came up with the land value being at approximately $20,000 that would not be abatable. The improved value is approximately $56,000 for the structures. If you take that $56,000 and roughly new residents would probably be doubled that is what we're assuming so 50% abatement would accomplish generally the same thing.

Mr. Cosby: Say someone builds a house on a double lot, is it still just the 50%?
Ms. Fitzgerald: As long as it's one residence, one single family home. Yes. Because the property of the land would not be abatable anyway, what is already on the tax rolls.
Mr. Cosby: Does the flood plain end at the railroad tracks?
Mayor Hammon: The only thing you're talking about is empty land. There are only twenty parcels of empty land when we're looking at flood plain. These lots need improvements with additional costs to make it to where someone would go in there and be able to build. You have to look at the map and see how it winds through. No, across the railroad tracks at School Street is in the flood plain, or the park is but across the railroad track is not. Again, the only thing you're talking about is the empty land.
Ms. Hueber: What if they tear down the two houses across the street and build one really nice house. Is that improvement or new construction?
Mayor Hammon: That's an improvement
Mr. Pulskamp: I disagree with you John, if someone tears them down and the land sits vacant for a year and they sell that property to someone else and they build a new house, that's new construction.
Ms. Fitzgerald: We did call the county auditor. Somewhere along the line, if that property is vacated and the house is torn down and it sits for five years vacant, it's going to go back to that vacant piece of property valuation. The county auditor told us they would take the incremental difference between the property with the structure on it and the new construction. I'll get further clarification, particularly if it sits vacant for a year. I will contact them again to make absolutely sure.
Mr. Miller: Property is valuable as of January lst, of any particular year that it's valued. So, if you tear a building down, you have to wait until the following year to apply to have the value reduced. January 1 is always the tax listing date as far as valuation.
Mr. Evans: When people ask when this will go into affect, we have to have three readings first?
Mayor Hammon: We don't have too. I think this is the type of legislation where you could declare it an emergency and pass it with a thirty-day window afterwards. That would give everybody basically one month to review it.
Ms. Fitzgerald: Once we have the resolution passed, so three weeks from today is March 14, 2006. If you actually pass it by emergency on the Third Reading, with tonight being the First Reading, we can't submit it to the State of Ohio until we have that resolution passed. It only takes a couple of weeks at the State of Ohio. The Enabling Legislation does have to be printed in the Enquirer for two consecutive weeks, that will be two weeks, say three weeks at the State of Ohio and then you're set to go.
Mr. Pulskamp: So we're looking at probably late April.
Mr. Kobasuk: Have you talked to the state about this? Have they given you any tentative thoughts on it?
Ms. Fitzgerald: We've told the Mayor that the State of Ohio does leave a fair amount of lead to the local jurisdictions. We don't anticipate a delay. Ohio Department of Development approves will be the one to approve this.

Ms. Hueber made a motion to have a First Reading of a Resolution IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN AND DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND CREATING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR AREA 1. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to have a First Reading of a Resolution IMPLENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE VILLAGE OF NEWTOWN AND DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND CREATING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL FOR AREA 2. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion.

Dave Lorei, Brandstetter Carroll: In front of you are the Project Status Report and bid tabulations for the Church Street Phase II projects
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- **SR32/Round Bottom Rd and River Hills:** The paving parking plan has been completed. Paving is complete by Jurgensen on River Hills Drive. We are reviewing that final pay request from Jurgensen. Dave Stenger met with Wagner Smith today and construction should start this week.
- **Church Street Phase II:** Listed is the funding resources available on the total construction cost of 1.4 million dollars. The bid tabulation summary is attached. We had a total of five bidders and the low bidder being R.A. Miller Construction. We are reviewing these bids as we speak. It has been forwarded to C.W.W. for their review and we will also forward to O.P.W.C. We would like to come back at next council meeting, after review and make a recommendation after that.
- **Traffic Signal Interconnect:** I don't think anything has changed since the previous meetings. Final plan revisions have been submitted to O.D.O.T. and construction is still scheduled for this summer.
- **Pavement Management Study:** This was presented a couple of meetings ago and we'd like to try and finalize this, does anyone have any questions or comments?

Mayor Hammon: Bruce has some changes he wants to make to it, we can talk about it when he comes back.

Mayor Hammon: We will now open the floor to audience participation.

Cheryl Boone, Resident: I own a condominium in Ivy Hills Reserves. I'm on the board of the Condo Association and we had a meeting last week and a homeowner asked us how we would go about becoming a "Neighborhood Watch" community.
Lt. Synan: We could set that up for you.

Police Chief Daryl Zornes: My committee chairperson has the report.

Dick Weber, Property Maintenance Inspector: (Tucker Property Update)

- I spoke with the brother in Louisville, the one who tends to be elusive and procrastinate and has seemed to be unable to come up with a number for his brother in Florida. I spoke with him regarding the length of time his property has been in probate and explained to him that we know he has had two to three offers. I told him we are aware of how he tends to procrastinate and that we are eager for him to make a decision and if needed that we will have to consider the alternative of taking the property by imminent domain, if he wants to sit on his hands. At that point, he did find a phone number for his brother in Florida. I called him And the picture he painted of his brother in Louisville was that he was a procrastinator and that they mix like oil and water. In summation, they know the village is not going to sit and wait for them to make a decision, that we're going to help them to make a decision. I'll continue to dialogue with the Tucker brothers as far as picking an offer they've been given and keeping this ball rolling. That seems to be the biggest property issue we have.
- There's a lady that has several items of junk in the backyard and needs help getting that cleaned up and local churches has stepped forward willing to help with that. I'm working on getting a dumpster for that property. Outside of that, other issues are typical day-to-day property maintenance issues that I've been addressing with the assistance of the Chief and Lt. Synan and now Sgt. McBreen.

Mr. Evans: I'd be willing to provide the dumpster and the trucking for free if you think that would be helpful to the residents to clean up some stuff.
Mr. Weber: That could be a viable solution.
Ms. Hueber: If we advertise Dick's number and then he can select who needs assistance.
Mr. Weber: Does Newtown participate in the Great American clean-up program in April?
Mayor Hammon: We've talked around it but never made a commitment to it.
Mr. Weber: That would be where we could park a dumpster somewhere and have everybody come and fill it, except for tires.
Ms. Hueber: If we get the newsletter the beginning of April, we could advertise it for the last two weeks.
Mr. Miller: There are pitfalls with that program. Another community I work with posts police and people have to prove they live in that community in order to get it. I'll give you the guys name and you can talk to him because they know all the right and wrong things to do.
Ms. Hueber: If you can put something together regarding "clean-up" for the next newsletter and they call you with questions or need contacts.

Mayor Hammon: (Bridges) We're going to hire an engineering firm to do the bridges. The state is doing the county roads and we have four bridges that we couldn't get in those programs, so all of our bridges will have been inspected in the last six months or so.
Mr. Pulskamp: We have four bridges that are not done through the county. The new one at Ivy Hills Reserve, River Hills Drive, Drake Street and Ivy Hills Blvd, everything else the county takes care of, it's $200 per bridge for the inspection so it will be $800 for four bridges. The county does Church St. and everything on Round Bottom.
Mayor Hammon: The state actually does SR32.
Mr. Evans: How often do you have to inspect the bridges?
Mayor Hammon: I don't know if there's a standard. I think Drake Street is fifty or sixty years old, we're not sure what is underneath it, to be honest with you.
Mr. Pulskamp: Charlie and I talked about doing it in two years.
Mr. Siegel: If something were to happen, the first thing out of anyone's mouth would be, "when is the last time it was inspected?" We haven't had it inspected and now we can say we have.
Mr. Evans: What's the rule of thumb for everybody else? Once every five or ten years?
Mr. Siegel: With the state, it's every year.
Mayor Hammon: With the county, it's at least every two.
Mr. Siegel: There's a lot more traffic on state bridges then there would be on the side streets, so every two to three years would be reasonable.
Mr. Evans: Are you going to get the same guy that does the county bridges?
Mr. Siegel: Yes sir.
Mayor Hammon: Bruce thought this was very reasonable. Thanks Charlie.

Mayor Hammon:

- I need dates you have set for your committee meetings so they can be listed on the web.
- Town Hall will not be available May 1st and 2nd, Board of Elections will be here until the close of Election Night, May 2nd.

Councilmember Tracy Hueber:

- We were awarded a 1997 Plymouth Mini Van by the court and we need to declare it surplus. We'll take sealed bids on it.

Mr. Miller: I talked to the Chief and he said the value is probably $5,000 to $6,000. If it's over $1,000, you have to do it by ordinance.

Ms. Hueber made a motion to approve an amount, not to exceed $1,500 for an ad for law enforcement officers for the Village of Newtown for two weeks. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Ms. Hueber made a motion to pay Print Management, amount for $1,630 for ticket citations. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Councilmember Tracy Hueber: (continued)

- **Fire Levy:** We did pass the Resolution yesterday to take down town about the Levy that we'll be putting on. We'd like to see Council endorse this Levy of 7.25 mills. Do we need to meet with the Chief or the FireBoard to discuss any unresolved questions so Council can try to be at 100% endorsing this Levy.

Mr. Kobasuk: I tend to agree with Tracy that they came here and they moved up the Levy by a year or two for our benefit. As I understand it, every other area is paying the 2.5 percent in the district wide.
Mr. Miller: As are we.
Mr. Kobasuk: We talked about the 7.25 and they are advancing it, so I think we should all support it and let the voters decide on that Levy. It helps to have Council behind it.
Ms. Hueber: The Council for both the other entities are 100% for it. It would be nice if we could be 100% for it too. Does the 7.25 seem a little high? As a Board, we went high so we wouldn't have to go back to the taxpayers every two years and this will take us to the year 2013. At the same time, we will have to resend, we have a 3.5 Levy that has one more year on it. If this passes, in January Council will need to have legal send a letter to retract that 3.5 mill Levy for that one year because we won't need to collect that.
Mayor Hammon: We discussed it after the meeting with them and our choice would be not to resend it, but not to collect it. We feel it's the safest way for the village to go forward, not to collect if it passes, but don't resend it just in case it doesn't pass.
Ms. Hueber: If it passes then we can send a letter saying, "do not collect." That's what I meant.
Mr. Evans: I don't feel good enough with the issue to answer a question if somebody comes to me. I think it would be a good idea for Chief Driggers to come here and give us his sales pitch, before I agree with something, I like to hear what I'm agreeing to.
Ms. Hueber: He can come here and meet with you.
Mr. Evans: It should be a public meeting because these voters sure didn't go for it last time and people are against any taxes whatsoever. The way it is written or whatever is said, people are afraid of new taxes period and they don't understand it. I think the faster and more information you can get to these voters, if you want the thing to pass, that's the only way you're going to have a chance to do it.
Darwin Brooks, Resident & FireBoard Member: Doug, for your benefit…with the understanding that we were at 8.0, then when that last increment didn't come on the ballot, that's when this took place. In reality, we were at 8.0, is that not right John?
Mayor Hammon: Yeah, but the thing that gets me about this is we are keeping our commitment to the fireboard for the contract, it's not because Newtown is not keeping their commitment. It's true, it's 8.0 is what was there originally and we're committed to the contract as it was written.
Mr. Miller: I think Darwin's point was that it's not like they're going from 2.5 to 7.5, they were already at 8.0. The fireboard or whoever is going to do that has to get that message out.
Mr. Brooks: That's coming with individual entities for each community.
Mr. Miller: With the certification from the county auditor on their sheet they give back to you, it says right on there that an owner of $100,000 house is paying now, here is what they would pay if this levy passes. The problem with that, that's only going to be at the 2.5 because that's the only levy that's on their for the fire district now. That may actually end up being deceptive because you're not seeing the other 4.5 that the village and the other communities have been putting in.
Mr. Brooks: With the estimate back from the auditor right now, it amounts to about $28.00 per mill, which represents about $210 per a $100,000 home.
Mr. Miller: What the fireboard is looking for is a commitment in the form a motion from Council, something they can have in writing, either in the minutes or a Resolution or whatever, that says if the levy passes, the Village of Newtown will not collect that other 3.5. They want to be able to tell people they will not have this 3.5 on that, but they don't want to do that without the commitment from the village. They want the same commitment from the other communities.
Mr. Evans: As a taxpayer, I want to see as much as I possibly can see, because this fire department in this village has caused a lot of riff for a number of years. I personally want to see exactly what is happening and what is going to happen with these levies, so I have a good understanding so I can give a thoughtful answer to people's questions. I don't want to just say, "well, it's not going to raise your taxes." Nobody wants their taxes raised on anything, people are tired of government, people are tired of wasting money and we as Council have to do what we possibly can to assure our voters and taxpayers that we're giving them the best service available for the lowest possible cost. That's what we're going to have to do to get this thing passed and that is going to be an uphill battle.
Ms. Hueber: Okay, but like Doug said, the thing as a Council, we have to make a choice. If this does pass, can we give our word as Council that we will send the letter to not collect that additional 3.5, that we actually can do. If I make a motion to do that, if this passes, then at least that can also go in the wording of the letter. I can have the Chief here next Council meeting if you want. I have my meeting tomorrow with them and will ask if we can have a cheat-sheet so each councilmember is aware of what they are saying and communicating to the public, which makes it a little bit easier than looking at the graphs.
Mr. Cosby: Cheat-sheet is a good idea, but you may want to incorporate the cheat-sheet to the public.
Mr. Evans: Exactly.
Mr. Miller: They're taking care of that. They want a commitment from Council that you will not collect the 3.5. They'll get all the literature out, I'm sure they'd appreciate the help.

Mayor Hammon: Our intentions are not to collect the 3.5
Ms. Hueber: They have requested if we can get a gathering of people together to go around in the community to help do this. They have enough people, but I don't want to write the letter because I'm not as knowledgeable and they have to scrunch the numbers and put the information together so it's legible. They and go door-to-door, they are going to have public meetings. They have to do it in three different communities and in every community it is different so it is going to take some fine-tuning.

Ms. Hueber made a motion for Council to have the intentions not to collect the 3.5 mill Levy for the one year, if in fact our new tax levy passes. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Kobasuk: The question I have is, at the meeting, how was the 7.25 arrived at, was there no possibility to go lower?
Ms. Hueber: We could have come in lower, they did the spreadsheet of the amount of money we'll have to carry over for every year and we actually got to the 7.25 because it took us to the year 2013. If we went less, we'd have to go back to the taxpayers a year and a half earlier. We'd have a $535,000 carryover for the unforeseen, which takes us to the year 2013.
Mr. Kobasuk: The board unanimously decided on the 7.25?
Ms. Hueber: Right and that went down to the auditor's office yesterday for approval. They'll scrunch numbers and then get them back to us.
Mr. Cosby: I would have them come to a meeting. The more information you can get out to the public, the quicker.
Ms. Hueber: We'll request for Chief Driggers to come and address Council.
Mr. Kobasuk: Mayor, do you have any thoughts on this 7.25? They did what we wanted them to do.
Mayor Hammon: Whether I like it or don't, it's irrelevant here. One thing, it's going to be hard to tell people that the mills are collecting less with the reduction of personal property. If you had a 10.0 mill levy out, you're going to collect 9.0 mills, equivalent of a 9.0 mill one year ago. You lose 25% of your personal property tax each year for the next four years and one point and time you lose it all. The auditor's letter pretty much said to be aware these factors will impact your tax collection. For $210,000, we are going to lose $20,000 of it which comes out to about $10,000 per mill. For an old levy, the state will rebate that money back to the fire district. Anything that passes this year on, you're going to lose part of it. Mark, I haven't seen the budget or any projections so I can't tell you if it's fair price.
Mr. Brooks: Did I hear a vote of confidence from the councilmembers?
Ms. Hueber: yes.
Mr. Miller: What you heard, was a vote from council saying that they would not collect the levy if the existing levy and this one passes. That's not necessarily an endorsement of the fire levy. That's just saying if it passes, they won't collect.
Ms. Hueber: Darwin, I think a meeting here with either Ted or the Chief to talk to council, then we can figure if council will endorse it 100%.

- I've had numerous complaints about garbage cans, people leaving them out for three and four days afterwards. The police department is going to look at that a little bit more and maybe Mr. Weber can keep note also.

Mayor Hammon: They are supposed to be off the street by 6:00 p.m., Tuesday evening. I think they can be on the curb from 5:00 p.m. on Sunday and off the curb Tuesday by 6:00 p.m.

<u>Councilmember Ken Pulskamp</u>:

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve the Mayor's Monthly Statement for Court for September 2005 through December 2005, as presented. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to approve Council Minutes from November 22, 2005, as presented. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Abstain. Motion Carried.

Mr. Pulskamp: Keri is not here, John, Keri was giving us monthly statements on what the village was receiving from Hamilton County Health Department for taxes on the two landfills. I'd like to see what we're getting from those if she could let us know.

<u>Councilmember Doug Evans</u>: Has everyone seen the checklist dated 2/14/2006? John, I have a question regarding the Forest Hills School District, that's from Gardner Publications for the Enterprise Zone Agreement? This one to Sunesis for $523,000, we've all approved that and Bruce?
Mayor Hammon: That is actually two draws, there is still a significant amount of money is being held back. There is about ten to twelve open items yet. Bruce usually approves the draws and sends it onto Keri.
Mr. Kobasuk: I see tree removal from Main Street. Are those the trees that caused the interference with the trucks?
Mr. Evans: That's the one Wessling did.
Mayor Hammon: The state said they were going to help us, but they always had something else to do. We needed to take action sooner.
Mr. Evans: Do we have a chance to go back to the state to try and get that?
Mr. Siegel: It may be something you want to pursue. We gave the state ample time to get that done, but we were faced with it being a liability issue.
Mayor Hammon: We can make the request.
Mr. Evans: I'd love to pursue it, we pay our state taxes everyday, let's get our money's worth.

Mr. Pulskamp: Just to clarify, we get so much money every year from the State of Ohio to maintain SR32. That money comes into a fund that we can use only on Main Street. So, Mark, that money came out of the State Highway Fund.

Mr. Evans made a motion to accept the checklist, dated 2/14/2006. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Abstain, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes. Motion Carried.

Mr. Evans: I tried to contact a few other villages on this tax thing where we get payroll tax or income tax and if someone lives in the village and doesn't work here and say they work in the city or somewhere else, they pay no village income taxes. These other places charge a small thing no matter where the people work because they're still providing the services. How do you feel about that John?
Mayor Hammon: A recent conversation I had is it is a real negative. I forget her name, but Ryan Homes felt they lost two sales because that's the rumor floating out there on the street that we're going to do that. I can go either way, people work at Meridian that don't live here, they are here eight hours and pay the same as those that live here. I just don't see that right now I need to do that. I'll use Mark as an example, he works for the city, he would wind up paying 3.5% Municipal Income Tax, is that fair to Mark?
Mr. Evans: What if you had a lower rate or a half credit or something?
Mayor Hammon: That may not be so hard for people to take.
Mr. Cosby: We looked at that a few years ago and there's a lot of opposition to that. I don't how the climate is today, but as came out of your mouth earlier, "people are fed up with taxes."
Mr. Evans: I agree with that, but I think what's fair is fair. In Indian Hill, I know we're not Indian Hill, but it's a .001 or .002 or .003 and everybody has to pay. At least it picks up their garbage and all the village services that they do no matter where they work. I can already see us having a budget short-fall and I'm trying to look ahead and say, "what can we do without raising taxes?" Just to get people to pay and Mark, I'd like to hear how you view the whole thing. "Pay your fair share." That's how I look at it. Mark, I know you don't want to be taxed twice.
Mr. Kobasuk: No, I sure don't. It all kind of evens out, I can talk about the Meridian people that are working here right now and they pay the tax. I pay my tax to Cincinnati, I have other income and I have to pay a tax to the Newtown folks, 1% of my earning upside of Cincinnati. You just have to be careful when you start going down that road. You don't want negative publicity that is going to come out and cause people not to want to relocate here after we have this great CRA, Community Reinvestment Area idea that we're going to advance. I just don't want to pay anymore taxes, I pay taxes in Cincinnati so, I'm paying them, and it's just not in Newtown. If you want to investigate, I'll be happy to help you look into it.
Mr. Evans: I'd just like to…for a simple reason if you vote here, there's plenty of people that could legitimately could be voting here and getting free garbage pickup and free everything and not pay a dime of any tax whatsoever, except the property tax.
Mr. Cosby: What John and Mark stated, you have people from Meridian Diagnostics who pay here and don't live here and don't enjoy any services and don't have a vote here, so you do have the opposite affect.
Mayor Hammon: The state had a proposal going through the legislative body that didn't pass, that would basically you would pay your taxes where you live. If that would have passed, we have lost about 25-30% of our income, it would have gone from roughly $900,000 down to about $600,00-$700,000, that was their estimated, a $300,000 loss. Meridian brings in more than our residential does. That information is five or six years old.
Mr. Kobasuk: That's a startling fact. I never would have thought that.
Mr. Evans: I wouldn't have thought that either. I'll look into it a little bit more Mark.
Mr. Pulskamp: I agree with you Doug, if you look at Anderson Township that has no income tax whatsoever, those people pay every single month for their garbage pick up and everything like that. Here, where we do have our income tax, we're not charging the residents for all the additional services that we offer. I agree that we eventually need to look at a half credit or say even 75%, they pay a ¼ of 1.0%. We're collecting 1.0% now.
Mayor Hammon: It's hard for me to hear you say we're going to collect more taxes for residents, but we're going to everybody in the village their property tax back to them. To me that doesn't balance as Council how you can say that same statement a half an hour apart. You have to come up with what you really want to achieve and stick to that goal, how do we get there. I'm just saying that feels very uncomfortable to me. We say we're going to give people rebates here, but yet we're going to collect more over here.
Mr. Pulskamp: We're already giving them a 50% rebate.
Mayor Hammon: It still could be significant for them.
Mr. Evans: We ought to start somewhere.
Mr. Kobasuk: We ought to work on getting collections from people that are not paying us right now.
Mayor Hammon: I suggest you talk to Keri and let Keri go to R.I.T.A., they could probably give you some information of who does what. I know we are the lowest income tax around.

<u>Councilmember Mark Kobasuk</u>:

- My committee is going to meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. I hope that is okay Doug, I talked to Curt and you are on that committee too.

<u>Councilmember Curt Cosby</u>:

- I did state previously that my committee meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, so add that back to the record.
- I have done a little homework on the Anderson Township Little League, they are interested in renting the field again at Short Park. Ken, you had requested the number of residents from Newtown that participate in ATLL, we have seventeen from Newtown. That is last years figures.

- I have a map of what Little League encompasses, Newtown, Pierce Township, Mount Washington, Oakley, Withamsville, California and a small part in City of Cincinnati, so the map is fairly large.
- I talked with Damien Shipley, of ODNR Nature Works and explained the rental scenario as we have it, that they rent the field one and a half hours every evening Monday through Friday and games on Saturday. The rest of the time, the field is open and any other time it is not being reserved, it is open for public use. He said that would not affect grants in anyway. The only way something would affect the grants, just so you know in the future, is if they had exclusive rights to those fields. In other words, when they weren't on them, no one could go play on those fields, only they would play on those fields. So, there is the difference between what we have done in the past with Little League and what could be construed as a loss of the ability to apply for grants.

Mr. Pulskamp: So, they need to reword their contract, because their contract says "exclusive" use of the field. It doesn't have time periods, so we need to put in there Monday through Friday.
Mr. Cosby: It actually did have 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., it has the length of time and it has time periods.
Mr. Pulskamp: I don't remember it having actual time period.
Mr. Cosby: I know that it does.
Mayor Hammon: I don't think the original ones did Ken, I think we did require that later on.

- I also spoke with Charlie about the lower part of Short Park. He said that area does not affect that field whatsoever, that the work to be done was up closer to the gravel parking lot so it is not in that area at all.
- I know ATLL has a shortage of fields, they are very interested in getting that field back and I told her I would present the information to Council this evening and hopefully try to move forward with it.

Ms. Hueber: Are they going to take care of the infield like they did the one down there?
Mr. Cosby: They are very interested in doing that.
Mayor Hammon: Have you talked to Miami Valley Christian? They wanted rights to this too. Mark, you talked to them at one time. I think we need to balance their need with the Little League's to make sure they come together.
Mr. Kobasuk: The issue was trying to balance these two competing entities that both wanted it, Little League and the Miami Valley Christian. I'll get with them tomorrow.
Ms. Hueber: I think that's why we had thought about keeping one of the newer fields, this field because it was right in town, kind of open. Because I used to lease it, when I was on the committee, they had both fields, but then it does eliminate if somebody wants to have a party and it happens to be during the Little League season. It was for the convenience of our community, we leased one field out and kept one field vacant for the community. I said, "when we redo this field, we might not lease it again," because there are so many community things that could go on that we didn't want to restrict that. It's a choice we just have to make, do we really need the $750?
Mr. Cosby: No. 1, this is the first I've heard of the school even having an interest in it. I thought I was being diligent in answering everybody's questions. To be fair to Little League, they need some prep time, they do do a lot to the field. Maybe there is a medium where you could rent it to Miami Valley, as well as to Little League, without speaking to them I don't know what that is. I do know a month from now, we have baseball season coming up. I don't think it's in anybody's best interest to leave that field vacant.
Mayor Hammon: Here is where I stand, Miami Valley Christian School is paying income tax to us and we should honor their request and negotiate.
Mr. Cosby: I'll talk to them and then bring it back to the table next meeting.

Solicitor Doug Miller:

- I have word that I think they solved the problems on the Zicka property. I think they will have the paperwork and deeds ready for transfer prior to the next Council meeting. Is it okay for me to take care of that? Hopefully by next Council meeting it will be done.
- On the surplus of this 1997 Plymouth Voyager, I have an ordinance here, do you want to put a minimum bid on it? Chief said he looked it up, Kelly Bluebook, months ago it was $5,000 to $6,000. Do you want to just wait and have whatever bids we get come back to Council and you can decide then.

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

Ms. Hueber made a motion to adopt ORDINANCE 4-2006 AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A 1997 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER, SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING A SALE DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cosby seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mr. Cosby-Yes. Motion Carried.

Ms. Hueber made a motion to approve an amount to advertise the 1997 Plymouth Voyager, the amount not to exceed $500. Mr. Kobasuk seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.

Assistant to the Mayor, David Krings:

- **E-Check:** The Mayor, Doug and I met with Green Township and Milford and we have agreed to delegate to Doug the ability to negotiate on the behalf of all three localities. That is in process.
- **Grant Meeting:** CMAC, a grant program to reduce congested arteries, as in roads. We have more than one, so I think there is a reasonable chance to get some money there. I will be getting with Bruce Brandstetter to follow-up on that.
- **Free Consulting:** Is still available, but I need to hear back soon from the Chief and Keri if we want to follow-up on that.
- **Personnel Policies:** No progress. I will get started on that. If there are any particular policies you want to get a move on first, let me know and I will.
- **Committees:** Debbie is now on Human Resources, so I will now be dealing with her. If you want me to attend any other committees, just let me know and I'll be there.

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kobasuk.

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