

Special Working Council Meeting, November 14, 2005, of the Newtown Village Council was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Mayor John Hammon, who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

**Absent:** Councilmember Greg Thomas  
Solicitor Doug Miller

**Mayor:** John Hammon  
**Assistant to the Mayor:** David Krings  
**Fiscal Officer:** Keri Everett  
**Police Chief:**  
**Lieutenant:**

**John Hammon:** The reason for this special meeting is basically to discuss Health Insurance and the CRA. A couple of Resolutions have come about and we need to work on and pass tonight.

**Councilmember Debbie McCarthy:** John, Sue is here to review the website, can we go over this first? It will be short. We need to go over the email addresses because some are not working.

**Sue Veldkamp, MATCHA Design:** The second meeting I attended, I had passed around a slip of paper and it never made it back to me. I did get a phone call from a Becky that left me two email addresses on my voicemail. One was Tracy's and I'll tell you what she left me since I understand yours is one of the ones not working. Mark, it was my understanding that you wanted your own email set up and your email was just set up as it's own email address. I'll help you get that set up on your computer. I know the Mayor's should be working because that is a separate email outside of the Village. I know that Chief Zornes' email is working because that was an AOL account. Tracy, the email address I was given for you was ([thueber@cinci.rr.com](mailto:thueber@cinci.rr.com)).

**Mrs. McCarthy:** I am the one that gave that address for Tracy's email to Becky and she left Sue that message for me.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** I was told just to set up a ([thueber@villageofnewtown.com](mailto:thueber@villageofnewtown.com)) to redirect to that.

**Ms. Hueber:** I don't have a "thueber", it is ([tracyjo@cinci.rr.com](mailto:tracyjo@cinci.rr.com))

**Ms. Veldkamp:** That is why it has not been working because I was given ([thueber@cinci.rr.com](mailto:thueber@cinci.rr.com)). I do have a sheet of paper because my understanding is you wanted your own email address Ken. I have that here, I'll give that to you. If you need any help setting that up just let me know.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Yes.

**Ms. Hueber:** What is the difference?

**Ms. Veldkamp:** One, you can set up, it is just you get and respond with the Village of Newtown email address. Where as opposed to redirecting it, it would come to that but then you would reply that showing your personal email address if you responded back.

**Ms. Hueber:** Okay, it doesn't matter to me.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** If you want it forwarded to your personal email, I would just need to know your personal email address. If you want us to set up your own, like Ken.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Actually NO, I'd rather have it forwarded to my personal email.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** Okay, I need to know your personal email then.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** What about Doug Evans?

**Ms. Veldkamp:** Doug, I was told your email address was ([doug.evans@evanslandscaping.com](mailto:doug.evans@evanslandscaping.com))

**Mr. Evans:** No, it's ([d.evans@evanslandscaping.com](mailto:d.evans@evanslandscaping.com))

**Ms. Hueber:** What happened to that sheet we filled out?

**Ms. Veldkamp:** I have no idea.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Just write it down and give it to her right now. I have no idea what happened to it. Another issue was regarding the history of Newtown. Ken?

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Ken, there is some wording in there that is proper but not correct. It has in there that we separated from Anderson Township in the 1960's.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** Again, if there is any changes to text, the copy that I got on that original website up unto approved was from the original.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I will email you some better history that we can update that website. One of the other things we questioned was where does the Village Voice go to?

**Ms. Veldkamp:** Once again, once I have your email addresses, they'll be able to go to all of you. Right now, I have three. One was about how to get the meeting minutes. I called Keri and she was able to give me that information. One was about Crull Street that I mentioned to Debbie.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** You also have Evans listed as the "yard waste" dump site.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** If you give me the correct information, I will be glad to plug it in.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** If you go to Hamilton County's website, it will give you everything, but it is bzak and they have a satellite site at Turpin Farms.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** I had gotten Evans from the newsletter. I had given that to her.

**Ms. Hueber:** The newsletter said bzak.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** This was another one.

**Ms. Hueber:** Not one of ours because he hasn't done it for the year.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Alright, what else?

**Mr. Pulskamp:** You have Debra listed as the chairperson of the Planning Commission. John Russell is the chairperson.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** That has already been changed.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** We would like to see the order of Councilmembers in alphabetical order.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** That is not a problem.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Go-Zap-It didn't have it in order.

**Ms. Hueber:** Yes they did.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I saw where you had Council Committees updated. There was a picture of a business under "Calendar Events," that is not in the Village.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** That has been removed. There were a few business listings that were not in the Village.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Can we add the rest of the businesses on there and alphabetize them and maybe pull the churches together so they will be separate from the businesses? I will email you the ones we need to delete that not Newtown businesses.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** Absolutely.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Other than that, the website looks great.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** Sue, we now have a Property Maintenance Inspector that has been hired and we need to get him on the website.

**Ms. Veldkamp:** All you need to do is give it to me.

**Mayor Hammon:** Let me talk to him and see what he wants to put on there and we need his photo.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** We still need to get an updated photo of the Maintenance Department. Thank you Sue.

**Assistant to the Mayor, David Krings:**

1) **Healthplans:** At our last meeting, we took another look at the various plans offered by the Center for Local Government and the current plan through United Healthcare. I explained to you about the employee meeting that we had. I had said we were concentrating on the Emerald A plan for the Center for Local Government and a number of the employees expressed a preference for the higher level of benefits in the Diamond plan. They had explained they were open to regular small amounts of payment, but really did not want to get hit by any large losses; whereas, in the coverage in the Diamond plan was better than under the Emerald plan. You sent us back to see if there was a way of addressing the employee's concern while still negotiating significant savings for the Village. I discussed the matter with David Rinderle, he works on these insurance matters for the Center for Local Government and we provided each of you a comparison between the current UHC plan, the Diamond and the Emerald A with the following assumptions. That the Emerald A plan be fully paid by the Village and that the Diamond plan be offered as an alternative to the employees with \$15.00 per month payment for single coverage and \$45.00 for any of the coverage's involving dependants. You will see if we follow that, whereas under the Emerald A proposal, if it was strictly offered the Emerald A with full payment by the Village, there would be an 18.35% savings to the Village. Offering the Diamond, if everybody went to the Diamond plan, there would be a 15.14% savings to the Village. Under either scenario, the Village would be paying significantly less than under the current UHC plan. These are fairly conservative numbers being presented to you tonight. You are also given some material about the Center for Local Government. We haven't really discussed that much before, additional savings are in the back of the information you have that could be offered as far as life insurance and other types of insurance's for the Village and the employees. There are benefits such as the Pay and Benefit study that would be made available to the Village. This is a side benefit being part of the Center for Local Government, this would be a free thing. I would be happy to have Dave elaborate on the comparisons and take any questions you might have.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Dave, the employees choose between A and the Diamond plan?

**Mr. Krings:** Yes, originally we were talking about simply offering the Emerald A and the employees spoke pretty loudly that they would at least want the Diamond as an option. Tonight, we're saying an option for you to consider is to offer the Emerald A and then if the employees wish to upgrade from that, we suggested the \$15.00 and \$45.00 per month contributions for anyone who wanted to upgrade to the Diamond.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** David, on the two proposals you emailed us on the spreadsheet; there is a cost total at the bottom for the Diamond plan for \$98,193 and on this proposal, it has the cost as \$91,073. Which one are we?

**Mr. Rinderle:** The reason you have a discrepancy on the Emerald A is a difference between \$87,627 and \$89,527, that is that includes the Center for Local Government membership fee. The difference on the Diamond is that as well is adding in David's number on the spreadsheet. It is also "net" under the employee contributions on the Diamond plan. That is the cost of the Diamond plan, you can see there is a monthly total of \$8,024.44, which is the full-gross premium. Then we have a net number after the employee share of \$7,589.44, which essentially nets down to \$91,073.28. It was just to compare the worst case scenario.

**Ms. Hueber:** That is going with the whole employee group.

**Mr. Rinderle:** Yes that is the worst case scenario.

**Mr. Krings:** There would be an increased Village contribution for anybody that took the Diamond, it would cost the Village more for anybody that took the Diamond plan than the Emerald.

**Mr. Evans:** At the same time, the employees have to pay a little bit more too.

**Mr. Krings:** That is right.

**Ms. Hueber:** It's just that we're offering this Emerald A totally free and if somebody wants to upgrade, then they can choose to go with the Diamond plan for the best coverage.

**Mr. Krings:** That is right. If they wanted a good quality basic plan, which I think is still comparable to what they have now, they would go with Emerald. If they are more concerned about having better coverage, then they would go with Diamond. It's entirely their decision.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** So, if you look at all three of them, the Diamond plan is actually better than what we have currently.

**Lieutenant Synan:** Not exactly.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** The office visit co-payments are less, the emergency room co-payment is less, prescriptions are less.

**Lieutenant Synan:** For surgery, we pay nothing now, it is a small fee of \$100.00, we basically pay nothing, but it is a good plan.

**Mr. Rinderle:** The Diamond plan pays in-full at 100%.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Am I correct in saying that most of our cost is also in the prescription part of the plan?

**Mr. Rinderle:** Statistically, you are looking at about 25-30% for prescription.

**Ms. Hueber:** The insurance company I worked for offered a kick-back to the employees if the employee chose to go with their spouse's insurance. They got money back for not taking the insurance.

**Mr. Rinderle:** That is actually not an insurance company issue, it is more of an employer's decision. There are a lot of different ways to set that up. What you are referring to would be a subsidy or an incentive to the employee to cause them to waive off the plan for their spouse. Some employers demand it actually.

**Mr. Krings:** We could do that at anytime, but that is not included what we are talking about here.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** What about life insurance for the employees?

**Mr. Rinderle:** Assuming my information is correct, you are currently paying .48 per \$1,000 for your life insurance, .04 for your ADMD and assuming you currently have \$15,000 as a life insurance amount. I didn't have information on your reduction schedule, but based on that the Center for Local Government program Mutual of Omaha, there is .15 for life .03 for ADMD, you would be saving almost \$500 additional there as well.

**Lieutenant Synan:** I personally think both plans are great, what do the employees think?

**Mayor Hammon:** I'll speak for them since I am the one that got the abuse. I would say most are concerned about the lump sum they would have to put out at one time, they felt they could not handle that. The cost of MRI's was a concern to three employees. That is when we started at the Diamond plan as being more attractive. Emerald A would be free and the Diamond plan would be an upgrade.

**Lieutenant Synan:** We understand healthcare is going up and we wanted to make sure we are the ones that initiated the payments. Council didn't come to us and tell us they wanted us to make a certain amount of the payment. We said that we understand we need to contribute a little bit, here is what we are willing to do. Talking to John, he thought that \$30.00 for everyone would be fair also. We have no problem contributing, my concern is that later down the road I would not be contributing over and over again, i.e. we gave up raises for a reason. I want to make sure that we get something next year, I have no problem with eating \$30.00 a month for the better plan. I have never had to pay for insurance here. We realize the cost keeps going up and days are over for the employers paying all of the insurance. Personally, I think there are other places the Village could save. As an employee, I think you have been fair. Sitting here and just listening is more than any Council has ever done before. Usually it is a Councilperson thinking they know what we want and they going out and just doing it. To be honest, I appreciate you allowing us to talk. Thirty dollars a month, I thought was fair all around the board. I would rather see the \$30.00, and you are still saving a huge amount of money. Was it 15% right off the bat if you don't contribute?

**Mr. Krings:** The 15% would be as if it was a \$15.00 and \$45.00 contribution. Fifteen dollars for single and \$45.00 for anything beyond that, so that is 15%.

**Mr. Evans:** It is going to pretty much be the same no matter how you do it. We're not talking about big dollars, it's only a dollar a day. If they want it, fine if they don't. Personally, I think you David did a good job in doing this.

**Mr. Krings:** Personally, I don't have strong feelings whether it is \$30.00 for everybody or \$15.00 or \$45.00. The reason we came up with the \$15.00 and \$45.00 was to try and get the single cost relative to the actual incremental cost to the Village, which is lower. Of course dealing with a single coverage is much less expensive than with any kind of family or dependent coverage. If everybody is fine with the \$30.00, that's fine.

**Mr. Evans:** They do a great job for us and we want to do something back to them as long as it is fair on everybody's behalf.

**Lieutenant Synan:** Well, John was right. I can't take a \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000 hit, whether it's a \$1,000 out-of-pocket or not, I can't that at once. But, I can afford thirty bucks a month. You guys gave us the option of having a choice and thanks for the choice and I'll pay you thirty bucks a month for a better plan.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I just don't think it is fair for a single person would have to pay \$30.00 if that is what employees married would pay.

**Ms. Everett:** If a single person looks at this sheet, they would come back you and ask why they would have to pay \$30.00, if they look at this sheet.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Is there a consensus on paying \$30.00? Did you talk to the employees?

**Mayor Hammon:** I can tell you that probably five employees would say they didn't want to pay anything and they want the Diamond plan. There is going to be unhappy employees with what we propose to them. But, this is middle of the road and it balances out. I won't say consensus, but the majority said this is they way they want to go.

**Lieutenant Synan:** We appreciate the options and thanks for listening.

**Ms. Hueber:** What is the final outcome, let's go with it. With us going with the large group, our rates wouldn't be jacked up as great as they would if we stand on our own?

**Mr. Krings:** That's true.

**Ms. Everett:** What is the fee for joining the Center for Local Government?

**Mr. Krings:** It is \$1,900, something like that. It's included in the spreadsheet.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Keri, for the Emerald A, it is roughly \$1,900.

**Mr. Krings:** It is \$1,900 per year in either case.

**Ms. Hueber:** I think it is best to go with the Center and stick with the big group for the long haul.

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion for the Village of Newtown to join the Center for Local Government, not to exceed \$2,000.00. Ms. Hueber seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion Carried.**

**Mr. Pulskamp made a motion to accept the Center for Local Government's Health Insurance Plan, the Emerald A for the Village of Newtown with the option of the employees**

being to buy up. For a single person, the cost would be \$15.00 per month and \$30.00 per month for married or with a family. Mrs. McCarthy seconded the motion.

**Mayor Hammon:** Any discussion?

**Mr. Kobasuk:** David, could you roughly calculate what the savings would be if we went with the 15 and 30, if you had ten employees.

**Mayor Hammon:** It is about \$12,000.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** You'll save \$12,000?

**Ms. Hueber:** That is right now and then in March, 20% will be added onto that one so it will even be more.

**Ms. Everett:** Is that August of 2006, the rates?

**Mr. Pulskamp:** It will be up for review.

**Mr. Krings:** That is right.

**Ms. Hueber:** What is the history for the rate increase?

**Mr. Rinderle:** It's fairly new to the cooperative. What we did last year, August of 2004 was the first year for the cooperative. Essentially, generally all of the groups who came in at that particular point and time save anywhere from 25 to 30 percent coming into the cooperative. A few saved less and some saved more. Frankly, what happened was Anthem priced a little bit too cheap. This last renewal, we ended up with about an average of 18 percent increase in the first year and that was mainly because it was really priced low. Some groups had as much as 25 and some had less. The reason was because of the plans they chose. We can't guarantee what type of increase we will get. I'd say probably under what you've been quoted by UHC.

**All Aye. Motion Carried.**

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

**Ms. Hueber made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 23-2005 A RESOLUTION RECONCILING BUDGETS AND AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005 DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

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

**Mr. Evans made a motion to adopt RESOLUTION 24-2005 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION & AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR DISPENSING WITH THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Pulskamp seconded the motion. Ms. Hueber-Yes, Mr. Pulskamp-Yes, Mr. Evans-Yes, Mr. Kobasuk-Yes, Mrs. McCarthy-Yes. Motion Carried.**

**Councilmember Ken Pulskamp:** A few weeks ago we discussed the CRA. I believe if we are going to do it, we should include the entire Village. The houses up in Ivy Hills are ten to fifteen years old and some of those people are getting ready to remodel or put additions on. If we can keep that in the Village instead of making them want to leave the Village.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I totally agree with Ken. If you are going to do half of the Village, I think you need to do the entire Village.

**Ms. Hueber:** We can always change the years. We can loose a few taxes on residential because we don't go up to fifteen years.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** We're not really losing the taxes, it is taxes that we are not collecting now but we will gain from it later. It all goes back to our property maintenance. If we can do anything to encourage everybody to start improving their properties and anything we can do to help will pay off all the way around.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** As I recall, Greg with HCDC indicated that the city of Cincinnati had the entire city eligible for CRA's.

**Mayor Hammon:** That was the previous law. As Greg said, you have to go and justify including Ivy Hills. Chances are it will probably get kicked back because the school district will get involved, the state has to give approval.

**Ms. Hueber:** If anybody is going to reject it, it's because the school board is now needing more money. I think we should initially go in requesting the whole thing. If we try first to appease everybody and we're rejected, I think it is better than rejecting people without trying.

**Mr. Evans:** John, what about taking some of the major places where there are businesses that have no residential area and pull those out to start with, does it make any difference?

**Mayor Hammon:** Not really. Large commercial industrial areas will follow under the Enterprise Zone. Then you have like the feed store, Mike Arnold's strip of businesses where they could improve their value.

**Ms. Hueber:** Marcum and all those properties down there could all be dressed up. We can restrict it by saying for ten years. Ten years would not kill us and then everybody pay their taxes again. It's an incentive to get things moving.

**Mrs. McCarthy:** So is it "yes" to the whole village?

**Mr. Evans:** John, do you really want to do that?

**Mayor Hammon:** Well, we have a tremendous amount of land that is not developed. We'll have to sit down with Doug because he thought there wasn't any residential TIF's. Right now, like Burger Farms is residential and we can't get any money off of that. But, this is a program that you can do something like that. I'm not sure until Doug Miller comes back with his research.

**Mr. Evans:** Then if we don't have any research, I say try and do the whole thing.

**Ms. Hueber:** Boundaries, entire village. Types of use, should it be CRA abatement available to commercial and residential buildings? I think both.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I agree.

**Ms. Hueber:** Terms, what percent should be abated available, 50, 75 or 100 and how many years? Now we decide if we want to do residential one and commercial another for percentage and years.

**Mayor Hammon:** You have four options.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I asked Greg if we could do it on a sliding scale also, \$10,000 up to \$50,000 you get so many years and \$50,000 and above takes you up. The city did it on a cap.

**Mayor Hammon:** You can only go 50% of the property value, one half of the village can't do that or FEMA will get involved. It's very limited, anything from Church Street to the west is basically maybe \$50,000 improvements would be all they could get before FEMA would come in so most people would not do that. If you cap it at 50%, that would exclude most of everybody but Ivy Hills, improvement wise.

**Mr. Evans:** My question to Greg would be if we did set a limit, would it help to get whole thing through since we made it available to the entire village.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** That is a good point.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** That way one could have abatement up to \$100,000. Residents remodeling could only go up to ten years and school board approval is needed on that.

**Ms. Hueber:** Term wise, what do we want to pick? How many years do we want to go? I think ten is good, I don't want to go above ten.

**Mr. Evans:** I think ten.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Ten or less.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** That is why I was talking about that sliding scale, if you go up to \$25,000 it would be five years. If you go break \$25,000 then you go to ten years. That is something Greg said we can do. It would increase people to invest a little more in their home.

**Mayor Hammon:** I think you say ten years, make it as generic as you can. We as a village have to administrate this. We'll have to name some employee to take this task on and administrate this.

**Ms. Hueber:** I say ten years and hopefully people will put as much as they can afford into it. Residential automatically gets ten years at 100%. Commercial has to come to council, isn't that what Greg said? For commercial we could negotiate 50, 75 or 100 percent according to what they are proposing to do. I think we should go 100% for residential for new construction and rehab and maybe start with 50% on commercial but be flexible to go 50, 75 or 100%.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** Is Greg going to come back and talk to us?

**Mr. Evans:** Yes, he wanted us to do this first.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** We need Greg to define commercial more and what we need to do.

**Ms. Hueber:** Then we have school approved, which is not a choice. They just have to be able to prove it. They actually have to approve this whole concept.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Only for a commercial, if we abate anything more than 50%. The school board has no say whatsoever on anything residential what we do, up to 100%. The only say they have is if we go 50% or higher on commercial.

**Mr. Evans:** It was explained to me that they seldom argue with the residential because those people vote. They argue more with the business ones because they don't vote.

**Ms. Hueber:** Then our minimum on commercial would be 50%, anything more would have to be approved. At what point should the multi-family housing be considered commercial property?

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I would say anything higher than forty units.

**Mayor Hammon:** I think it is greater than two by the zoning code. I would have to look it up.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Then let's say our zoning code defines it.

**Ms. Hueber:** Should the village collect a small fee to process applications for the abatements? Should an annual review be done? I think we should.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I think so, we need to cover the time.

**Mayor Hammon:** Define how much.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Maybe Greg with HCDC can give us suggestions and ideas on what everybody else are doing. We can get guidelines from Greg. We need more definition from Greg on what this person needs to do.

**Mr. Evans:** I'd say \$100.00.

**Ms. Hueber:** I would say \$100.00 at least on residential, that would be \$50.00 an hour and I'm sure it would take somebody more than two hours. We'll get the answers we need from Greg and go from there.

**Councilmember Ken Pulskamp:** We need to discuss what we want to do about the levy. Do we want to do a special elections and wait until May? I don't think we can wait until May.

**Ms. Hueber:** Can we reword it? That is the reason I disagreed with it, I didn't think it would pass due to "Operating" and can we change it back to "Fire" Levy? I think that is what threw people off, they saw that it was an Operating, instead of Fire and that we were going to be collecting the money and spending it. I think the money is to be used to cover Fire and Safety.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** John, do you agree that was the reason it failed, that it was "Operating" and not designated as "Fire?"

**Mayor Hammon:** Looking back, there are a lot of things that were wrong. Operating Levy may have been a somewhat generic. Some of the other levies were a little more detailed with what the money would have been used for. Our levy was very generic and probably did have an impact on it. We didn't really have anyone going door to door, other than just talking about it and trying to sell it. Also, people may not have understood the information. We made every attempt to get the information out.

**Ms. Hueber:** People just really thought they were being taxed more and they weren't.

**Mayor Hammon:** The levy is dropped, we can open the contract back up with the Fire Department. There's a ton of things we can do. If you put it in a fire levy, your hands are tied. The idea was to give us flexibility if the district-wide fire levy was turned down. The 2.5mil will expire the end of this year.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** It made a lot of sense when we did it. Maybe we'll get it passed in May.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Unless we do a special election in February.

**Ms. Hueber:** I have a meeting with the district on Wednesday and part of the business to discuss is the effects regarding the failure of levy.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** John, you're saying we could re-negotiate with them.

**Mayor Hammon:** That's one of the possibilities. There will be a re-negotiation between us, not only dollars but what the staffing is.

**Ms. Hueber:** We knew that there was a re-negotiating clause if we didn't get the levy passed.

**Mr. Evans:** Is there any area we can cut back on until May?

**Ms. Hueber:** We've put off hiring people for the last year. The fire district is very tight.

**Mr. Hammon:** There is one less truck over there, they must have sold it for some amount of money. The big concern is will the insurance rate go down? That argument was presented three to five years ago.

**Mr. Evans:** Tracy, can you tell the fire district that a few people on council are concerned about the insurance rate going down if we only have one engine over there?

**Ms. Hueber:** Okay

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Keri, is there a good time you can meet with the finance committee and sit down and look at numbers with us?

**Ms. Keri:** I will need to put it off until December to give me time to work on it. You have to keep in mind that the residents and council are of the understanding that our current garbage service is being paid for through taxes. However, for the past four years we have continued to pay for this service even though the Operating Levy failed in 1999. The cost of this service continues to go up. We are paying roughly \$95,000 per year and as more of these units are being developed, the cost will increase as well. We also need to realize that this council committed to basically doubling the police force, I guess I look at it like you have your priorities. You already have a commitment for fire that may be able to be negotiated down, we'll have to see. You're already committed to the police department and that is going to bring a dollar amount and you'll just have to go from there. I would keep in mind that some of these services are not being paid by taxes like people think.

**Mr. Evans:** I think we need to work at getting more taxes that are owed to us. We can call R.I.T.A. and see how they did, they were fair to me. There are others who need to be subpoenaed, there are people work here on construction jobs

**Ms. Everett:** Our next step with R.I.T.A. would be to see if they still have a list of people who did not show and our next step would be cite these people to Mayor's court.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** How do people get followed up on, like the guy who rents space on the corner at the Creamy Whip to sell Christmas trees?

**Ms. Everett:** I turn them all in.

**Mayor Hammon:** That is R.I.T.A.'s job. If a company comes in Doug and has a plumbing permit, this is a key part of the building permits, if someone doesn't do a building permit we don't go about the village. We can't go to their employees. That's a key piece and why we really should try picking that up and with Dick Weber coming on board hopefully will see things and give Mike information. R.I.T.A. has no rights in Ohio or the United States to be able to do cross-comparison with the IRS. That's how you catch people.

**Mr. Evans:** How many units can they put in over there by Wendy's? I say close to 150 units. I think the residents there need to be looked into.

**Ms. Hueber:** Can't we send letters out like Fair Fax?

**Mayor Hammon:** The only way you are going to catch them is either do a comparison or a door-to-door.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I think we ought to try and get these taxes, but that is not going to solve the problem. Should we talk about appointing a committee outside of council that would really actively work on strategy. Should we try and get some concerned citizens help us?

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I agree with you Mark and once the finance committee sits down with Keri and get some real numbers and Tracy talk with the Board of Trustees on the Fire Department.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** I'm just saying try and get them in early and involved.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** Last time the Levy passed, the Fire Department went door-to-door and really pushed it. I agree with Tracy, it probably should have been a Fire or Fire and Safety Levy. The wording on the ballot was very confusing.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** It looked like a tax increase. If I were not sitting here, I would have voted against it.

**Ms. Hueber:** That's what people walked out this door saying, "I'm not going to vote for any more taxes."

**Mr. Pulskamp:** That is partially our fault, we could have done the language differently.

**Mayor Hammon:** I'll talk to Ted since he is president of the board.

**Ms. Hueber:** Wednesday night, I'll tell the board that you will be talking to them soon.

**Mr. Kobasuk:** John, let me know if I can help you with anything.

**Ms. Hueber:** Could we consider having a designated day for "Bow Hunting"? Residents with small children are more afraid of the deer than having an open day for hunting.

**Mr. Pulskamp:** I have information from Indian Hill and will give it to Doug Miller.

**Mayor Hammon:** Doug had suggested talking with the Anderson Park District.

**Ms. Hueber made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Evans seconded the motion.**