

Neighborhood Improvement Program Meeting
City of Centerville
June 1, 2009

TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Bethany Lutheran Village – Village Center Grand Room Auditorium
Deputy-Mayor Doug Cline
Councilmembers: John Beals
Brooks Compton
Paul Gresham
Belinda Kenley
James Singer
Clerk of Council Debra James
City Manager Gregory Horn
Assistant to the City Manager Kristen Gopman
Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Wilder
Finance Director Steven Hinshaw
City Planner Steven Feverston
Public Works Director Robert James
City Engineer Doug Spitler
Crime Prevention Officer Matt Dunn
Deputy Fire Chief Jim Neidhard

Deputy Mayor Doug Cline explained that Mayor Kingseed's father passed away on Saturday, May 30, 2009, and that he would not be here for this meeting. He extended thanks to Graceworks for their hospitality in hosting this meeting.

Deputy Mayor Cline gave an overview of some of the projects City Council has been working on. He reported that the legal challenge of the litigation regarding the annexation issue is behind us. Council is optimistic that the Dille property will be developed in a high quality manner. As the economy improves we anticipate that the south parcel will be developed as medical office space and the north parcel of land as office and retail space.

Council is still working with the Washington Township Trustees following the November election that showed that the residents of the unincorporated part of the Township are not interested in studying consolidation of the two governments. Council is concerned with how the Township spends the \$446,000 in annual Centerville taxpayer dollars that goes into the Township's general fund. The Council is seeking answers and is desirous of having this money more directly benefit the incorporated residents. The Trustees do run for office in both the incorporated City and the unincorporated area of the Township. Council continues to work with the Trustees and is seeking to understand how Centerville taxpayers' dollars are being used with regard to the Fire Department and the Rec Center. Given that our citizens are affected by these services, Council would like to have more input in the budgeting process and other strategic decisions relating to the Fire Department and the Rec Center.

The City intends to promote the *Go Green* concept. An Environmental Committee has been formed and is focusing on ways for Centerville to take a leadership role in becoming a green community. The Committee wants to increase the amount of waste recycled

by citizens; it has planned several recycling program promotions and will work for ongoing public education. Mr. Cline, Mr. Beals and Mrs. Kenley are all members of this Committee.

Deputy Mayor Cline asked Council members to come forward to introduce themselves and give a brief overview of their background and interests.

Mr. Horn explained that the last Neighborhood Improvement Program Meeting was held four years ago. He noted that hard economic times are upon us. News of big companies such as General Motors and NCR is disconcerting. Mr. Horn gave a brief overview of the City's positive financial position and stated that the City would be able to continue to provide the current level of services without increasing property taxes or the income tax rate. Over the years, the City has been conservative in its expenditures and in its estimates of revenues, putting it in a solid financial position. The City has approximately 700 businesses; we have an excellent school, an award-winning library and a comprehensive park district. He stated that the City is in a good position to weather this economic storm.

Mr. James gave an overview of the new 40,000 square foot Public Works Center which is estimated to cost \$5.8 million. The building will be paid in full at completion as the City has been setting aside money for a number of years. The former Pyper Building which was located south of the current Public Works building has been demolished, and the new Public Works Center will be located at this site. It is to be an environmentally-friendly building. This new facility will have a fire suppression system, a 3,000 ton salt storage building, gasoline and fueling station and office space for the administrative staff. This building will better protect equipment from the outside elements and will provide a safer and more efficient work environment.

Mr. Spitler gave a timeline of the Millbank Ditch Project. The bid opening for the work is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2009. Construction should begin in July with September 25, 2009 as the targeted completion date. The budget is \$85,000.00. Mr. Spitler also stated that it has been determined that the Bigger Road resurfacing project is eligible to receive federal funding (Stimulus Funds). Bigger Road between Alex Bell Road and Hewitt Road will be repaved. He also reviewed the traffic Signal Interconnect Project.

Mr. Matt Dunn, Crime Prevention Officer, was introduced. He stated that the crime statistics are down but cautioned citizens to be aware of activities around them. He explained that the Police Department has 42 officers, Boris the canine drug dog and a motorcycle officer. The Police Department offers AARP driving courses and Mystery Night Out. Each year the Police Department sponsors the Bicycle Rodeo where they give away between 80 and 200 bicycle helmets to children. Officer Dunn suggested that residents check out the *Town Crier* or the City website at ci.centerville.oh.us for details of activities sponsored by the Police Department.

Deputy-Fire Chief Jim Neidhard reported concerning some of the activities that the Fire Department sponsors beyond their normal duties as firefighters and paramedics:

- Reflective address signage
- Lock boxes, devices resident can have put on their homes to allow the FD to use a code to release a key that gives access in an emergency

- Life Saver Program – for a loved one who has dementia – a transmitter is worn by the individual to help the FD to locate him or her
- CPR Training – the FD led the State in training for CPR.

Resident Q & A

Kevin Fenelon, 2555 Walford Drive, reported that, after the windstorm in September, his neighbor picked up limbs and put them in a truck that has not been moved. He asked if anything could be done. Mr. Horn noted that 90% of homeowners are good stewards of their property and asked Mr. Fenelon to stay after the meeting to talk to staff.

The improvements to the Village South Drainage Ditch are now complete, yet there remains significant pools of standing water. What does the City Plan to do to address this?

The Village South Ditch that runs through the plat had become filled with silt due to natural upstream erosion over time. The purpose of the work was to clear the ditch obstructions in order to maintain positive drainage. Mr. James stated that he had been out to the South Village ditch area and had assessed the functionality of the ditch; the pipes are wide open. The work that was done reshaped the ditch to establish side slopes. He explained that when you form a ditch you can't grade the slope to the degree of accuracy of a concrete swale. The City could regrade the ditches, but individual property owners need to help with keeping them cleared out as well.

What is the City doing to address the growing plight of graffiti around the City (i.e. sound retaining walls, over-passes, et al)?

Officer Matt Dunn mentioned that last summer the Police Department did arrest three individuals for damage done to the underpasses (the damage amount was between \$20,000-\$30,000). One individual was an adult and the other two were teenagers. The Police Department has a zero tolerance for graffiti. Mr. Horn explained that our Public Work crews go out and clean up the graffiti particularly along the sound barriers along State Route 48 and Wilmington Pike.

What proactive steps are the City (including Police and Fire) taking to advance technology within and around our community?

Some of the steps that are in place are the following:

- Operation Life Saver

- All police cruisers have mobile laptop computers

- The City employs a full-time IT Manager which is especially helpful for the Finance and Police Departments

- The City recently made an application to obtain Stimulus Funds for the digital upgrade of Police Department communications equipment

- The capability of live videos in our schools and in the police cars

What is the status of the EG Lewis property on Loop Road?


Mr. Horn explained that the Developer has had this property for sale for several years. Mr. Lewis passed away within the last 10-12 months. The property is currently in probate court and development is in a standstill mode at this time.

What is the status of the fence along I-675 in Centerville area by the Village South School and the Village South home area? The City has made several attempts to get this funded, including with stimulus funds.

LED Signage

Mr. Feverston gave a brief overview of the electronic sign ordinance passed in April 2008. The Ordinance defines such things as the size of signs, the length of cycles for message changes, color and light intensity. The City does not permit any kind of moving video. The Ordinance is restrictive but the City recognizes the need to regulate new technologies.

Mr. Cline adjourned the meeting at 8:30.


Debra A. James
Clerk of Council

Approved 
Douglas C. Cline, Deputy Mayor