

**December 13, 2011**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

New Richmond Village Council met in Council Chambers in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7pm. Present: Richard Hilt, Gary Skeene, Richard Mathews, Nicholas Wolf, Jack Conners and Vinnie Cochran - members; Ramona Carr, Mayor; Donna Hammons, Clerk; Randy Harvey, Police Chief and David Kennedy, Administrator.

Also attending:

Bob Beiser – 2740 St. Rt. 132

Bill Marsh – 2423 Country Place

Richard Feldkamp – 728 Washington Street

Paul Vanderbosch – 208 River Valley Boulevard

Kristin Bednarski – Clermont Sun

Noel Thacker – 302 Mill Street

John Thacker – 302 Mill Street

Ernie Smith – 2378 St. Rt. 132

Rick Hinson – 1042 Old Rt. 52

Minta Colvin – P.O. Box 36 New Richmond

Mayor Carr opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of November 22<sup>nd</sup> were presented for approval. Mathews motioned to approve. Seconded by Wolf.

Mr. Hilt: yes

Mr. Wolf: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Conners: yes

Mr. Mathews: yes

Mr. Cochran: yes

**David Kennedy, Village Administrator:**

Amendment is needed for the 2011 appropriations. Hilt motioned to suspend the three reading rule. Seconded by Cochran.

Mr. Hilt: yes

Mr. Wolf: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Conners: yes

Mr. Mathews: yes

Mr. Cochran: yes

Hilt motioned to adopt **ORDINANCE 2011-31 AMENDING THE 2011 APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Seconded by Mathews.

Mr. Hilt: yes	Mr. Wolf: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Conners: yes
Mr. Mathews: yes	Mr. Cochran: yes

For public safety a 200 ft. section of guardrail needs installed on River Valley Boulevard to protect cars from going over the hill into the senior apartment complex. The contractor is Mills Fence at a cost of \$5,050. Cochran motioned to approve. Seconded by Wolf.

Mr. Hilt: yes	Mr. Wolf: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Conners: yes
Mr. Mathews: yes	Mr. Cochran: yes

An ordinance was presented to amend the Fire/EMS Fee Schedule. Hilt motioned to suspend the three reading rule. Seconded by Mathews.

Mr. Hilt: yes	Mr. Wolf: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Conners: yes
Mr. Mathews: yes	Mr. Cochran: yes

Hilt motioned to adopt **ORDINANCE 2011-30 AMENDING FEES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE VILLAGE, RESCINDING ORDINANCE #2010-43 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Seconded by Mathews.

Mr. Hilt: yes	Mr. Wolf: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Conners: yes
Mr. Mathews: yes	Mr. Cochran: yes

The Village's Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependency Fund Board needs two appointees. Mathews motioned to re-appoint Ramona Carr and Richard Hilt. Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes	Mr. Wolf: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Conners: yes
Mr. Mathews: yes	Mr. Cochran: yes

The resignation of Mark Wolf, effective 1/1/12 as a volunteer fire fighter was presented. Hilt motioned to approve. Seconded by Cochran.

Mr. Hilt: yes	Mr. Wolf: yes
Mr. Skeene: yes	Mr. Conners: yes
Mr. Mathews: yes	Mr. Cochran: yes

On June 14, 2011 the owner of the future Green Kayak Market (204 Front Street) was awarded a Front Street Commercial Rehab grant for the installation of an awning. A six-month time frame to commence operations of the business was attached to the approval. Jim Comodeca has requested an additional six months to finalize the project and begin the business operation. Cochran motioned to approve. Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes                      Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes                 Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes               Mr. Cochran: yes

Mayor's Court fees need amended effective January 1, 2012, Traffic and Criminal at \$75 and Warrants at \$50. Hilt motioned to suspend the three reading rule. Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes                      Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes                 Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes               Mr. Cochran: yes

Mathews motioned to adopt **ORDINANCE 2011-33 AMENDING COSTS FOR MAYOR'S COURT**. Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes                      Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes                 Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes               Mr. Cochran: yes

**Richard Hilt, Finance/Personnel Committee:**

Chief Harvey has asked council to approve security cameras for the Police Department, Utility Office and hallways on the first floor. He has received two bids of \$4,200 and \$2,500. The \$2,500 bid from Cars/ten meets his requirements at a much lower price. This will be paid from the General Fund. Hilt motioned to approve. Seconded by Mathews.

Mr. Hilt: yes                      Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes                 Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes               Mr. Cochran: yes

Fiscal Officer Baird has presented temporary appropriations for 2012. Hilt motioned to suspend the three reading rule. Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes                      Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes                 Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes               Mr. Cochran: yes

Hilt motioned to adopt **ORDINANCE 2011-32 APPROVING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2012 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**.

Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes

Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Cochran: yes

Baird gave copies to Council of the last audit. We saved about \$23,000 by having a private auditing company perform our audit instead of the state.

Hilt motioned to pay bills #33879 to #33944 and electronic payments #344 to #386. Seconded by Cochran.

Mr. Hilt: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes

Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Cochran: yes

**Richard Mathews, Safety/Laws/Rules Committee:**

A discussion was held about restricted times for the flashing lights at the school complex on Bethel New Richmond Road. The school wants the lights to stay on continuously during school hours. Chief Harvey will discuss this with the school officials because of the possible conflicts with enforcing the 20 mph speed limits.

Conners asked Harvey to investigate the possible illegal use of a small access road from Old US 52 Spur near Little Indian Creek Road onto Rt. 52 where it reduces from four lanes to two lanes. The Chief will investigate if this is in the village or in Ohio Township.

**Vinnie Cochran, Public Works/Parks/Recreation Committee:**

The Issue Grant we received to reline sewer lines has a balance of \$30,000. Kennedy has contacted the state and we are allowed to use it. We will use it to reline more sewers.

The sewer tap on Watkins Hill for the Nelson family has been bid out. Nelson received a grant from the county and the village will receive the full amount for the sewer tap fee.

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2011-26 ESTABLISHING RENT TO BE PAID BY THE NEW RICHMOND UTILITIES DEPARTMENT (ENTERPRISE FUNDS) TO THE VILLAGE OF NEW RICHMOND (GENERAL FUND)**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 2011-27 AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE – SECTIONS 8, 9, 10 & 11**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE – SECTIONS 12 & 13**

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE – SECTIONS 14, 15 & 16**

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCE 2011-23 ESTABLISHING SALARY DISTRIBUTIONS.** Hilt motioned to adopt. Seconded by Cochran.

Mr. Hilt: yes

Mr. Wolf: yes

Mr. Skeene: yes

Mr. Conners: yes

Mr. Mathews: yes

Mr. Cochran: yes

**CALL OF MEMBERS:**

**Cochran** – About the guardrails: at the time River View Bluffs was developed the village did not have subdivision regulations. We have since then adopted those regulations and in the future the developer will be responsible for the installation of guardrails.

Extended thanks to Mark Wolf for his years of service to the Fire/EMS Department.

This is the last meeting for Gary Skeene and Jack Conners. He has enjoyed working them the past four years.

He is impressed with the Police Department remodel. The employees and volunteers have done a great job.

**Conners** – Thanked everyone for the past four years. It's been a pleasure working with everyone.

**Wolf** – Thanked Skeene and Conners for their service is looking forward to working with Vanderbosch and Feldkamp.

At the last meeting we spent an awful lot of time discussing a bonus pay. I don't like the idea of bringing something up that has been voted down. Once something is voted down the people have spoken. I don't like to see it come up again and again and again. In the last two weeks I've had one of our employees come into my office and thank me and the others who voted for the bonus check. Because he could have really used the extra money as well as other employees. Someone else mentioned that morale has gone down since the bonus check was voted down. I read the minutes and they are well written as to what everybody said. And I want you to say to those who voted no that I defend you totally. Because it is a very, very difficult decision. Especially when you know that people have voted no twice on a renewal levy and voted no on a street levy. But I come back to the idea that there is nothing more important than our employees and the morale of our employees. And I would like to make that same motion again tonight that we grant them \$1,000 for full time with a minimum of \$100 based on hours of work. Exactly the same as we did at the last meeting. I hope a couple of you have had time to think about it and may vote with us to give our employees a one-time bonus. There won't be a raise next year or the year after. Maybe for four or five years depending on the closure of Beckjord and the devaluation of Beckjord and what the state does. It's just to me a morale booster. It's bothered me since it went down. Like I said I don't like to bring things up a second time after they've been defeated. I just feel very strongly that this is an important issue. I would like to make the motion again that we give the employees a bonus - \$1,000 for full time with a minimum of \$100 for part-time based on number of hours worked. Seconded by Mathews.

COCHRAN – Nick, you are right. I lost sleep that night. Tossed it over and thought about it ever since you have. It has affected all of us the same way. But, after that meeting when the Financial Task Force met and Chief Harvey had a chance to lay out his department. Quite frankly our financial standing got worse. I don't know if you were there, but it has. Mr. Mathews was calling it a carry over and I guess that's what it is. And I don't think that means it's 'extra' and I don't think he meant that when he said it was extra. I certainly would never doubt any of our employees, just like I said before. But if we do have a carry over and it's extra then Chief Harvey has sharpened his pencil with his department and has managed to save \$10,000. I would be inclined in taking the same amount of money you are proposing, \$27,000 and adding that to the \$10,000 and buying a new police cruiser. I think that is more important to the village as a whole. Again, I wish we could do it all, but we can't.

CARR – Well, there is another thing. Looking at the temporary appropriations for 2012 there is a transfer of \$50,000 from the General Fund to the Police Department to get them through next year. And like Vinnie said the department needs a new cruiser but there is no money for a new cruiser in the Police Levy Fund.

COCHRAN – I just think a project like that would benefit certainly a greater number of people. Some of the same people. Sitting in this chair for the past 10 years this has been one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make.

CARR – In my four years as Mayor that was the first tie I've had to break. And did I lose sleep over it? Yes, I lost sleep over it. I think everybody that sits up here, it disturbed us all. Because we'd love to do something. I don't think, and I hate that the morale has gone down. But there is people out there in the world... I mean our own village employees haven't gotten a pay raise. There are people out there that are taking pay cuts. And a lot of people... this day and time right now people should be thankful they even have a job. That \$27,000 could go on a police cruiser or keep somebody employed. That's my 2 cents.

MATHEWS – I've looked over the appropriations for next year. I'm not an accountant or a CPA. It appears to me, and it's just my view, that although our budget will be tight next year I don't see any place where you're going to have to lay people off. I really believe, and especially next year, that we'll be okay. I think it's good to be frugal, but on the other hand, and this is just my personal opinion, it's much more important today to think about these employees than it is to think about how we are going to get by next year without \$27,000. I think maybe a way to solve this is by suggesting a lower amount. If anybody would be open to approving a lower amount I think that's something that Nick with his motion would consider amending. My suggestion would be lowering it 25% to \$750 for full time employees with a percentage minimum of \$75 for part time employees based on a 40 hour week and the average hours worked.

WOLF - I'm in favor of that if everybody will go along with it.

HILT – The problem I have with it is like I've said before. It's really not a matter of getting by next year, because starting in January we'll lose money we would have gotten from the levy. Our carry over will hopefully equalize that out. The real problem will be 2013. Right now we don't have a plan. It's possible a levy will pass between now and then, but we've got Beckjord slowly going down the tubes and that could dry up even sooner than we think. I just think in these times when you can actually see down the road that these numbers aren't adding up. These are numbers we are getting from the County

and from Beckjord. These aren't numbers we are sitting around making up. These are real numbers. And you have to go with real numbers. I echo what Vinnie said, you have to look down the road to see it. That's what we do. You can't wait until the last minute and say 'I wish we hadn't done that.' I agree I don't see any lay offs this year, but what about next year and the year after. For the amount of money we are talking I just don't think it's practical solution.

**MATHEWS** – I believe, and this will be the last thing I say, if our employees were making \$18, \$20 or \$22 an hour this probably wouldn't even have been brought up. If they would have had a raise within the last twelve or sixteen months it probably wouldn't have been brought up. But we've got people making \$9.50, \$9.75, \$10 and \$10.50 per hour. And that's why I brought it up. Because of the length in time since the last raise and the length in time until the next raise. And the amount of money our people are making. We hashed this before, and there is certainly good points on both sides. Along with being frugal we can still do this or something like it.

**WOLF** – I would like to amend my motion to a bonus of \$750 for full time employees with a minimum of \$75 for part time employees. That is based on an average number of hours and the percentage of a 40-hour week. Seconded by Mathews. This money will come from the General Fund.

Hilt: no  
Skeene: yes  
Mathews: yes

Wolf: yes  
Conners: yes  
Cochran: no

**Mathews** – Nothing to report.

**Skeene** – Thanked every council member and Donna for their help these past four years.

**Hilt** – Expressed his thanks to Jack and Gary. They have been nice men to work with.

Mayor Carr thanked Jack and Gary for their service to the village.

Wolf motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Skeene.

Mr. Hilt: yes  
Mr. Skeene: yes  
Mr. Mathews: yes

Mr. Wolf: yes  
Mr. Conners: yes  
Mr. Cochran: yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

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**Mayor**

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**Village Clerk**