

Village of Gates Mills
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
December 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio was held at the Community House on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 5:43 p.m. with Mayor Siemborski presiding. The meeting was live-streamed to the internet.

1. Roll Call starts at 5:19

Councilmembers present: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner (arrived at 5:50 p.m.), Welsh.

Other Village officials present were Treasurer Morgan, Clerk DeCapite, Service Director Biggert, Police Chief Minichello, Fire Chief Majeski, Finance Administrator Mulh, Village Engineer Courtney, and Law Director Hunt.

2. Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 19, 2024 starts at 5:42

Clerk DeCapite received an email from Councilmember Turner indicating the last line of page one should read "student prodigy" not "prodigal student". An email was received from Councilmember Atton with four comments - 1) Page 2, second paragraph, second line from the bottom should read "censor" not "censure". 2) Page 7, fifth paragraph, final line should read "...and it was the consensus of the subcommittee members present to go with 3%" rather than "...and it was the consensus of the committee to go with 3%". 3) Page 11, second paragraph, eighth line should read "transfer" not "transport". 4) Page 5, last paragraph, eighth line should read "interjected" not "interrupted".

Councilmember Broome moved to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes as amended and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

3. Pay Ordinance # 1292 \$579,224.09 starts at 10:25

Councilmember Welsh moved to approve Pay Ordinance #1292. Councilmember Steinbrink seconded the motion.

Councilmember Atton questioned payments to Hall Public Safety for \$17,000 and Nicola, Gudbranson & Cooper. Finance Administrator Mulh responded the Hall payment was to upfit the cruiser and NGC is our prosecutor. The Mayor added Mike Cicero, our prosecutor, works for NGC. We will talk about his agreement later tonight.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

4. Mayor's Report starts at 12:11

Sidewalk and Lighting Project - Funded by County ARPA Grant money and other sources - starts at 12:47 - In 2022 we started to look at better connecting the downtown city center through sidewalks and improved lighting to the lower school lot. We received the majority of the Cuyahoga County ARPA funds requested for the project, and Council accepted that funding with the understanding that we would have to raise the balance if no additional funding was available. The Mayor contacted three organizations seeking contributions to cover the difference between what we needed and what we had in hand - all three sources came through and we are very thankful. The next order of business is to meet with the four or five neighbors along the pathway that are affected to inform and hear their views, and to meet with the Service Director and Village Engineer to review scope and cost and prepare to bring documentation to Council that allows us to go out for bid for both the concrete work and pedestrian bridge, probably in February.

Councilmember Atton asked if the School District was contributing. They are. Councilmember Atton asked for a description of the pedestrian bridge, and the Mayor responded it would be about four feet wide and run parallel to the car bridge crossing the creek at the end of the Community House driveway. Lead time is believed to be six months.

Councilmember Steinbrink commended the Mayor for his great job. The center of the village will be better for it.

Safety Fund - starts at 16:34 - After the August 6th storm the Mayor and the Fire Chief had identified publicly one of our wish list goals was to have a common set of radios that our fire and service departments could use and be on the same band. To our fortune, one of our residents picked up on that and offered to pay the entire cost of the equipment - close to \$30,000. We have received the check, deposited it in the Safety Fund, and placed the order for equipment that takes 60-90 days to receive.

Councilmember Broome wanted to be sure we properly thanked the resident. That's one of the reasons the village is such a great place.

Rumpke Recycling - starts at 18:56 - The recent delivery of recycling totes to resident driveways and the arrival of the bill with a 30% increase brought some attention from residents and calls/emails were received. Mayor Siemborski thought it would be helpful to recap what we did and why we find ourselves in this position.

In anticipation of the end of our 5-year contract with Rumpke (3-year contract with two annual renewals), last spring Council discussed specifications and approved the document to be sent out for bid. Our biggest and most costly requirement is pickup at home at the end of the driveway. We have a variety of driveways that require the contractor to use pickup trucks to gather the rubbish and then to consolidate it behind City Hall. Bidders indicated there was no assurance they would be able to secure the trucks if they did win the contract. Additionally, we have low recycling participation - 11% compared to the 25% state requirement/32% county achievement - resulting in more trash going to the landfill at an additional cost. We received one bid from Rumpke and three no bids. The Rumpke recycling option cost was the same as regular trash pickup. A test program using recycling totes at 50 village homes occurred last summer

and the overwhelming majority liked and found the totes increased their recycling. Calls to Rumpke executives for a price reduction failed. It was pointed out that residents could go from weekly to biweekly service and that would keep the cost at the 2024 rate. We moved forward with the recycling tote option at \$129 per quarter/\$520 per year.

At 24:49 resident Jim Long stated he has received calls regarding garbage collection, especially pricing. The Mayor confirmed that over the years payment for trash removal by residents directly or by the village for all has seesawed back and forth. The current obligation for the entire village amounts to 900 homes at \$520 per year - about \$500,000 and that would be a heck of an additional obligation for the village to take on. Not saying we won't one day, or that Council may think differently.

Resident Dorothy Shillman advised she called Rumpke with questions, and they were very dismissive of her. She doesn't know where to put the tote. The Mayor answered leave the tote where your garbage is picked up. Totes will be picked up by a second pickup truck. Mrs. Shillman doesn't think our new residents get enough information when they buy their house.

At 31:28 Councilmember Atton expressed frustration that Rumpke was the only bidder in 2019 and five years later we are in the same situation again where Rumpke has a monopoly in a sense. This expense is a problem for some people, and he does not recall Council addressing the problem in the five year intervening period. Council has no incentive to deal with this cost because people pay their own bills. Most municipalities include garbage pickup in their real estate taxes and we don't. We've got a lot of cash and we don't seem to be doing much with it except investing in treasuries. Hunting Valley has pickup at the house done by Waste Management.

Mayor Siemborski responded efforts to increase recycling over the next year or two and to manage those statistics to a degree will make us a little more attractive. It's important to give the bidders a year's notice so there's enough time to order and procure pickup trucks. Councilmember Atton finds we have three years to do that - in the meantime, it would be good if we were paying part of the bill. That would give us incentive to figure out an alternative.

At 34:34 Mrs. Shillman warned of fraudulent recycling claims. Councilmember Turner asked if recycling would occur every week or twice a month, and Service Director Biggert answered the same frequency as your garbage - weekly or biweekly. Councilmember Turner suggested that if you return your recycling tote, you can't use the blue bags - you put everything into the garbage and we have no way of getting credit for recycling from that household - the Service Director agreed.

Councilmember Press finds if we want to lower our garbage pickup cost, whoever is paying the bill, we're going to have to consider the willingness of residents to take their garbage out to the street. If we do that, we'll get a large number of bids. Service Director Biggert stated the competitors' large automatic trucks cannot go down some of our streets - Racebrook/some private drives/not safe on Brigham Road.

Councilmember Deacon referred to the large postcard with trash and recycling specifics mailed out by Rumpke to village residents and found it to be helpful.

5. Clerk's Report - None

6. Financial Report attached and on the website starts at 39:11

Mayor Siemborski reported our 11-month results are on track to achieve a good financial year for the village. For 2024 we budgeted \$7,100,000 of revenues and expenses and approach the year to operate under our breakeven model. We've had some positives in tax collections - mostly municipal income tax receipts. Those positive variances have enabled us to tackle both budgeted and unbudgeted expenses that we weren't expecting such as the \$323,000 Old Mill Road emergency repairs and some of the \$100,000 unreimbursed August 6 storm costs. We forecast the village will end the year with a small \$100,000 to \$200,000 surplus. The Mayor is pleased we were able to achieve this small surplus, and he appreciates the active management of the Chiefs, Service Director, and Finance Administrator to manage their departmental budgets.

The Mayor reported in December we will be distributing about \$500,000 of large payments from the Capital Improvement Fund to close out the 2024 road program - primarily County Line Road work started in the spring and the Old Mill Road emergency work done in September and October. The Capital Improvement Fund accordingly will be reduced to about \$250,000 - a balance that allows us to address unforeseen problems next year. We've maintained this level for the last couple years.

Councilmember Press finds it unusual that the Mills Building rental income is lower in 2024 than in 2023 as indicated in the financial narrative. Mayor Siemborski responded that one of the larger tenants sometimes pays a year in advance, so in 2023 we received two years' worth of rental payments and then none in 2024.

Councilmember Atton asked if Sara's Place rent will increase next year, and the Mayor believes mid-2025.

7. Police Department Report attached and starts at 42:51

The Police Chief reported we still have a full-time officer out on leave with a broken wrist and there's no timetable for her return, so there's quite a few extra shifts to fill this month. An increase in fraudulent scams prompted a special notification to residents last week. It seems necessary to arrange another seminar by the FBI fraudulent investigative unit - probably in February.

Councilmember Atton clarified that police dept report item 2 occurred at the Gates Mills Environmental Education Center. The traffic on Mayfield Road has dropped below 10,000 cars a day - three years ago it was over 20,000. It's amazing. Police Chief Minichello advised Gatso is currently looking into that to see if there's problems with the processes they have in place. Considering Old Mill was closed for six weeks, there could be something going on with the calculations. Councilmember Atton would like to see a column added for the number of citations issued by month.

At 46:09 - Regarding the person that caused an accident and fled (police dept item 3), the Police Chief reported one of our flock cameras was used to identify the vehicle of the person who had a severe medical issue and drove in the wrong lane on Mayfield Road. Kirtland Police assisted us with the follow up investigation at her home

and she was cited accordingly. Councilmember Welsh asked if other locations for flock cameras were being considered, and the Police Chief answered the target area for a sixth camera is Brigham Road after the first of the year. Chesterland is going to be contracting Flock Safety too. That could only benefit us. Councilmember Steinbrink asked if the village pursues the individual from Kirtland for the sign damage and grass replacement costs as part of the court case. Yes.

Councilmember Atton suggested a video covering the fraudulent scam material might be helpful to the senior residents who don't want to come out to get information.

8. Service Department Report attached and starts at 49:40

The Service Director has asked his staff to bring any of the recently delivered totes still at the curb up to the house.

9. Fire Department Report attached and starts at 50:41

Fire Chief Majeski added to the Mayor's Report on the radio acquisition. Not only does it allow for the fire and service departments to talk to one another, but it also gives us interoperability with a lot of the departments and mutual aid around us. Those five portables will not only be in the hands of the service dept employees, but they're also on the fire dept, so it enhances our communications even in our own fire dept.

Councilmember Broome thanked the Fire Chief for doing all the hydrants, and the Fire Chief replied he hopes to get them all painted next year. Councilmember Welsh asked where we stood with Cleveland Water replacing the hydrants no longer functional. The Fire Chief advised Cleveland Water usually does them in groups and we have had at least 13 replaced so far. Unfortunately, people keep running into our hydrants and it just keeps adding to the list. We cover the hydrants with red plastic to keep the corrosion down from the road salt.

10. Committee Reports starts at 53:20

a. Tree Canopy Committee (Councilmember Turner)

- Since Council approved the contract with Better Meadows & Woodlands last month to move forward with the pilot project, all documents have been signed. An approval was given by Metroparks for accessing their property.
- Work will begin in January at Feller Field following direct contact with neighbors of contiguous properties and installation of signs.
- A Tree Canopy Committee logo was designed by Jean Misch and approved.
- The Committee will have a landing page on the village website that can be found under "Community" at the beginning of the year when the whole village goes onto a new platform.
- The Committee is working with Judy Semroc of Naturespark Ohio who will come to two of the four properties (the GM Land Conservancy property and the village property north of Mayfield Road) and inventory birds, plants, animals and insects for the purpose of having pre- and post-project data. The Committee is also working with PlanIT Geo to do a GIS data analysis of the tree canopy for the purpose of having baseline data comparisons between

2013 and 2023 and a future date. Residents can see changes in their own properties and might be encouraged to improve their canopy.

- Next meeting is Tuesday January 14 at Village Hall - all are invited

Councilmember Atton added there's been a resignation by Lucy Chamberlain, due to out of town commitments, that needs to be replaced. Our sister subcommittees, Wildlife and Waterways, don't exist yet.

Councilmember Deacon finds Judy Semroc's inventory of plant material to be very interesting and hopes it will be available on or linked to the Tree Canopy Committee's page on the village website.

b. Fiber Optic/Broadband Committee (Chairperson Deacon) starts at 59:35

- The Committee has been working diligently to negotiate terms and reach agreement with Ohio Gig. We prepared a draft agreement with our legal counsel, Taft's Greg Dunn, and we've gotten comments from Committee members. We met last week with Greg and CV Gig to go through and discuss open items, additional information we requested, and we had some additional questions. We are now working to continue to negotiate some of the key terms and also do financial diligence. Getting it right and getting the detail right is important.
- Ohio Gig does have capital allocated to our project as well as Hunting Valley and Kirtland.

Councilmember Atton thinks, as a bystander in this process, what would be very valuable would be a summary of the terms that we expect to finish up with compared to those that Hunting Valley already achieved. He thinks the commercial terms could be way different. We know Hunting Valley did not put any capital into the program - they did their contribution through in kind contribution. We don't have the same in-kind possibility, so we're going to be putting cash into the equation. We need to know what we're actually buying with that cash in order to assess whether that's a good investment or not. We need to understand the credit worthiness of the Gigs altogether in the short and long run. Councilmember Deacon responded we started out with the term sheet that was essentially the Hunting Valley agreement. We are still negotiating the in-kind side. Putting cash in is to be determined and it may not be necessary but again being negotiated. Councilmember Atton stated in the budget we're about to approve, \$500,000 is penciled in for this project. Councilmember Deacon answered that's a placeholder and whether or not it will be to that level is to be determined. We are different from Hunting Valley and trying to get the best arrangement that we can overall for our residents.

At 1:04:01 Councilmember Atton revealed his Spectrum bill is over \$300 of which only about \$90 is for internet. So when we talk about a rate of \$75-80, we are comparing to \$90, not \$300. He is concerned about his ability to buy the same services from Gig that currently is available from Spectrum - TV, telephone, channels. He wants to understand what the total bill is, not just the internet portion. Councilmember Deacon agreed and expects, as soon as we reach agreement, Ohio Gig to come in and meet with residents at Town Halls to explain how to lower your bill using streaming and other things.

Councilmember Press stressed that residents still have the option of buying from whoever they buy from today - Spectrum, AT&T, etc. You don't have to sign up for this service if you don't wish to. Councilmember Atton asked if you will have an ongoing right to sign up down the road, if you don't sign up immediately. You will.

11. **Resolution No. 2024-49 (First Reading)** starts at 1:06:35

"A Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Wichert Insurance Services, Inc. to Furnish and Provide Liability and Property Insurance Coverages for the Village of Gates Mills, its Officials and Employees and Declaring an Emergency" was read by Mayor Siemborski. The Insurance Committee considered the rate increase of 4-1/2% received about 10 days ago to be fair and reasonable in the marketplace and recommended approval. Councilmember Steinbrink asked if there was any consideration given to taking some of the deductibles from \$1000 to \$10,000 or \$50,000 for significant premium savings. No.

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-49 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion. Councilmember Welsh asked the reason for the urgency. The Mayor answered this goes into effect January 1, and the Finance Administrator added "emergency" in the resolution means it goes into effect immediately instead of 30 days.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-49 and Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

12. **Resolution No. 2024-50 (First Reading)** starts at 1:10:28

"A Resolution Authorizing Reappointment of Michael E. Cicero to Village Prosecutor as of January 1, 2025, and Approving His Compensation" was read by Mayor Siemborski. Mr. Cicero's last increase in compensation was ten years ago. His current rate of \$125 per hour will be \$175 per hour going forward. He is compensated in two ways - a retainer of \$15,000 per year for legal services and an hourly rate of \$175 for specific work that's documented in a monthly invoice. His workload has increased over the last couple years largely due to traffic enforcement cases.

Councilmember Atton moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-50 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Press seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Turner moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-50 and Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

13. **Ordinance No. 2024-51 (First Reading)** starts at 1:13:37

“An Ordinance Setting Forth the Rate of Compensation for Engineering Services for the Village; and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Siemborski. These rates would go into effect on January 1 for new work. Work that currently is being completed will be completed under the existing rates. Three years ago, we competitively bid all engineering work and went through somewhat of a beauty pageant of other providers. The conclusion at the time was that Village Engineer Courtney and his firm have substantial knowledge gained through his and his predecessor father’s knowledge of village infrastructure/buildings/etc. The Mayor finds this rate increase to be reasonable in the marketplace and he supports this resolution - it’s a multiyear rate card so we don’t have to revisit this every year. Councilmember Press asked why it is an emergency. The Mayor responded January 1 is the desired start date for new projects/end date for old projects. Councilmember Press asked if they were unable to conclude what their increase was going to be until the last minute, and the Mayor replied no, the Village Engineer gave me his rate card 4-6 weeks ago. I have been evaluating and felt now is a good time to bring it before Council.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2024-51 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: Press
Motion carried.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-51 and Councilmember Broome seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: Press
Motion carried.

14. Moved to Agenda Item No. 15. **Ordinance No. 2024-53 (First Reading)** - starts at 1:17:16

“An Ordinance to Amend the Annual Appropriation Ordinance No. 2023-49 to Increase Certain Appropriations and Other Expenditures of the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024” was read by the Mayor. We need more money appropriated for items not anticipated in the 2024 budget - primarily storm related overtime and the Old Mill repair. Specifically, Police Dept Salaries and Wages (\$20,000), Service Dept Salaries and Wages and Benefits (\$20,000 and \$7,000), and the Capital Improvement Fund (\$230,000).

Councilmember Press moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2024-53 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Atton seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Broome moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-53 and Councilmember Deacon seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

15. Moved to Agenda Item No. 14. **Ordinance No. 2024-52 (First Reading)** - starts at 1:19:36

“An Ordinance Providing Appropriations for Expenditures for the Village of Gates Mills, Ohio, for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025, Repealing Certain Ordinances and Declaring an Emergency” was read by Mayor Siemborski. This is Council’s approval to spend the amount of money in our 2025 budget. We previously reported our 2025 budget shows revenue of \$7,696,000 and general fund expenses of \$7,683,024. This ordinance also indicates expenditures planned from the various special or restricted funds that we have - total expenditures from all funds is \$10,138,680. Our practice the last several years has been to ask for approval at the amount of the budget rather than putting in any kind of cushion. That means that we will come back to Council periodically and ask for more appropriation because the events that happen aren’t exactly what we had budgeted.

Councilmember Turner moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Ordinance No. 2024-52 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

At 1:22:28 Councilmember Atton explained his interpretation of the appropriation process and admitted it’s something he would like to understand better.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Press moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-52 and Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Councilmember Deacon thinks we have a good Finance Committee who's prepared the budget and she has a lot of confidence in this as it's based on the budget.

16. **Resolution No. 2024-54 (First Reading)** starts at 1:26:04

"A Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 2 to the Contract with Cole Burton Contractors, LLC for the Village's 2024 Road Maintenance Program; and Declaring an Emergency" was read by Mayor Siemborski. The Mayor recalled the Old Mill Road emergency repair was handled as a change order to the contract for the 2024 road maintenance program with Cole Burton to capture the competitive rate and administrative ease. We are declaring an emergency because we need to have this paid out by the end of the year. The quicker we get our paperwork in and pay the bill, the quicker we can ask for reimbursement from the county (\$100,000) and the city (\$20,000).

Councilmember Broome moved that the rules requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and that Resolution No. 2024-54 be placed on its final passage. Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion to suspend the rules.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councilmember Steinbrink moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-45 and Councilmember Welsh seconded the motion.

Ayes: Atton, Broome, Deacon, Press, Steinbrink, Turner, Welsh.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Mayor asked the Village Engineer to comment on the cost increase and what conditions were found once the pavement was removed. Village Engineer Courtney provided that the initial estimate for the emergency repairs of Old Mill after the water dept repaired the break was \$207,250. After laying out the elevations of the new pavement, we found we needed to go up the hill another 50 feet so there wouldn't be a big bump. Additionally, when we started to remove the outside lane pavement, we found the old road underneath, four feet thick from the hill movement/pave over cycle, undermined from the water main break, and requiring removal, haul away, and filling the void with 304 limestone. Those two things increased the cost to \$323,000.

Councilmember Steinbrink added that's still an active hill slide and we will continue to have issues. The Village Engineer agreed, but we now have full depth concrete pavement that's been overlaid with asphalt which will bridge over any small movements. It also gives us the ability to pressure grout underneath the pavement to fill any voids if they develop - we can find those with ground penetrating radar. Then the hillside stabilization can take place without having to remove and replace the roadway. We should just be able to put a sheet pile wall in along the low side.

Village Engineer Courtney reported the County Line Road project numbers had been finalized. Of the \$700,000 that Council had budgeted, it came in about \$60,000 under that.

The Mayor and Village Engineer updated our progress with the pavement management program that started six years ago wherein all village roads were identified as excellent/poor/failed. When we complete Hillcreek and Andrews next year, that will remove all the failed pavements from our inventory of roads and will bring our overall pavement condition index to 70 out of 100 - the low end of good.

The Mayor advised two reports - one covering guardrail damage (expect low six figures) and one covering village building maintenance assessments/costs - should be available mid-January.

17. Council Matters starts at 1:33:52

Councilmember Turner announced the Pink Sheet celebrates 77 years of publication. Since 1947 it's been the official newsletter of the village, vital to the social fabric and vibrancy of the community, and an excellent example of our volunteerism. Congratulations to the current leadership - Cathy DiVincenzo, Gail Palmer, Sue Roby, Becky Burrington, Jennifer Pinto, and Meghan Perez.

At 1:35:17 Councilmember Press stated we agreed at the last meeting in November that we needed to do more as far as doing a post audit and a look back at 640 River Road to see where our process has let us down that left us in the situation we find ourself. The November minutes were vague and he was hoping for more clarity, accountability, and actually do something. The Mayor asked if there was desire to resurrect that. Councilmember Deacon suggested we talk to ARB or historic about what it would look like if we do move forward. Councilmember Press thinks Celeste McClung was the somebody who would go look at the procedures, whether they were followed, look for any holes in the rules, and come back with a conclusion, while Councilmember Deacon thinks Celeste was looking at the historic district in a more general bigger picture exercise. The Mayor believes he has a person that could do that.

At 1:38:21 Councilmember Press stated the Mayor apologized in November for not having done anything with the charter amendment survey. Not hearing it mentioned this evening, can we clarify who is going to do what to make it happen. The Mayor replied he and the staff will provide Town Hall dates, prepare the survey, and send to Council as a draft by the next meeting.

At 1:39:12 Councilmember Press mentioned Pepper Pike appointed a charter commission of citizens about a year ago. They are concluding their deliberations Thursday night and will be making a recommendation to the Pepper Pike Council. He volunteered to follow that and report back when there's something to report. Councilmember Atton agreed to go along as well.

At 1:40:17 Councilmember Atton asked where we stand on the sewage integration project with the Chagrin Valley Hunt Club, in particular on changing our own sewage rates. The Mayor believes we should hear by Friday where the grant and loan funding application approvals stand. As to the rate adjustments, we have gathered some data and would look to make those effective midyear allowing time for review and for notice to tenants.

At 1:42:15 Councilmember Broome thanked all departments and employees for all their work over the year. The village looks awesome. Thank you everyone at the table and everyone that contributed and volunteered in other ways.

18. Business from the Audience - None

19. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was moved by Councilmember Atton, seconded by Councilmember Broome, and unanimously carried, that the council meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Beth DeCapite, Clerk

Approved:



Steven L. Siemborski, Mayor