

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS, OHIO HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MARCH 31, 2009 AT 7:30 A.M.

Mayor Kevin Gilmore called the special meeting of the Ottawa Hills Village Council to order at 7:32 a.m. on March 31, 2009. Roll was taken with Council members Norma King, Jeffrey Gibbs, Jim Walter, Robert Reichert and Jack Straub present. Also present were Mayor Kevin Gilmore, Clerk Treasurer Katherine O'Connell, Village Solicitor Sarah McHugh and Village Manager Marc Thompson. Council member Rex Decker was absent from the meeting but expected momentarily. Yarko Kuk, Sandy Brown and Nasrin Afjeh were also in the gallery.

Mayor Gilmore then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Gilmore introduced the topic for the meeting as a review of the turf project at the Ottawa Hills High School. He called on Mr. Thompson to review the information provided to the Council.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Council members had received a 2009 budget update addressing highlights of both revenue and expenditures. To date income tax revenues are ahead of projection and estate tax revenues total about \$486,000. The information also identified those capital items which were included in the budget as well as deferred capital items that were removed from the 2009 budget.

Also provided to the Council was Resolution 2008-12 and minutes from the previous meetings at which the school field project was discussed.

He reminded Council members that the 2009 budget included \$100,000 for the school project and that in February Council reviewed the proposal and confirmed their intention of providing \$100,000 of financial support for the project.

Mayor Gilmore then called on Mr. Walter to review the project status. Mr. Walter provided history of the effort commencing in 2008 with discussions of a project which would have involved some experimental applications in order to keep costs low.

Mr. Decker entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Walter continued stating that the Ottawa Hills Village Council was the first public body to pledge any money for the project, committing in 2008 to put \$100,000 towards the project which was then expected to be about \$400,000 to \$450,000. Additional review of options occurred and extensive investigation involving eleven meetings with various design and installation firms occurred in 2008 and early 2009.

Mr. Walter informed the Council that the Board of Education hired an architect for design purposes, specifications and inspection during construction. The architect reviewed various bids that had been recently received including the lowest bid from Mondo, Inc. Mr. Walter also handed out an information sheet that generally described project costs as well as fund raising status.

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Mr. Walter reported that he had recently visited Ferris State University which has an identical field installed. The Ferris State University representatives were very pleased with the Mondo product, the firm and the installation. They believe that it will reduce their maintenance costs substantially compared to work on grass turf.

Regarding the funding, Mr. Walter stated that the boosters have been re-contacting people who made pledges in 2008 to assure that those pledges are still valid. Additional fund raising has occurred and information has been distributed to the community through the Village Voice and a direct mailer. Information provided shows the costs of the lowest and best bidder at \$647,030. Mr. Walter then reviewed the add-ons to the base bid of \$628,530. Those add-ons include a logo at \$9900, wiring for game clocks at \$800, \$1500 for portable water supply and a third party warranty at \$6300, bringing the total to \$647,030. Contributions and pledges from various groups including the Village of Ottawa Hills, the School District, etc. amounted to \$288,500. Pledges and contributions from individual residents amount to approximately \$200,000 and new pledges are in the \$5000 to \$10,000 range. Total pledges are slightly less than \$500,000 which means the total project is about \$150,000 short of the necessary funds.

The Boosters have committed an additional \$50,000 and the Board of Education has increased their pledge from \$100,000 to \$150,000 in addition to pledges of \$15,000 for equipment, \$32,500 for a 5% contingency and \$34,425 for architectural services, soil samples and survey work. The total pledge from the school is \$231,925. Mr. Walter commented that the Board of Education eliminated the logo from the project in order to save \$9900.

Mr. Walter then asked that the Village contribute \$50,000 towards the project plus an additional \$10,000 to cover the cost of the logo plus an additional \$32,500 to match the contingency.

Mr. Walter stated that replacement of the field is estimated to be in the \$350,000 to \$400,000 range in eight to ten years.

Mr. Reichert asked about benefit to residents of the community if the Village increased its contribution on the field.

Mr. Walter stated that the bulk of the field hockey would move from Geresy Field to the new field as would much of the soccer, particularly on Sunday mornings. He also stated that lacrosse is technically a community activity since it is not a varsity sport, although it is expected to be a varsity sport in the near future.

Mr. Reichert confirmed that the result of the general letter and the Village Voice articles was \$5000 to \$10,000 in additional funding. Mr. Walter agreed, stating that he thought the final amount would probably be somewhat greater.

Mr. Decker asked if commercial enterprises such as Buckeye Cablevision had been approached since they will be televising from the field frequently. Mr. Walter commented

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that they had not been approached but would be in the near future. Mr. Decker commented that he thought the Ottawa Hills Foundation would contribute between \$2000 and \$5000 toward the project.

Brief discussion followed regarding the contingency which relates to cost overruns and pledge shortages.

Mrs. O'Connell asked if the school board made their additional proposal contingent upon additional funding from the Village.

Mr. Reichert commented that Mr. Walter's request is approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Decker commented that to the extent that the Village completes the necessary funding there will be a chilling effect on additional fundraising from the community.

A brief review of estate tax revenues to date occurred with the recognition that \$500,000 was budgeted for estate tax and to date \$486,000 will be received in April.

Mr. Decker asked about grant money and Mr. Walter responded there was none that he was aware of. Mr. Decker commented that he wanted to assure that additional fund raising efforts would be undertaken.

Mrs. King asked if the Village pledges another \$100,000 what would happen if other pledges come in lower than expected. Mr. Walter said that he felt very comfortable with the \$200,000 number for pledges.

Mr. Straub stated that he had a strong problem with pledging funds for replacement of the turf in the future, particularly since that would be obligating future Councils towards funding assets that did not belong to the Village. He also commented that this is another instance where the Village is being asked to step up and contribute when there will not be Village use in an equivalent amount.

Mr. Walter confirmed that the vast majority of use will be by school students but also commented that an investment in the school is a good investment in the community.

Mrs. Afjeh commented that the Village continues to put money into sports at the school but does nothing in the area of academics. Mr. Gilmore stated that that was a good question. He noted that he only gets an opportunity to vote in case of a tie. Mrs. Afjeh commented that no one ever speaks against the school and that Mr. Walter says that this project is good for the community but she disagrees. Mr. Gilmore commented that there was a wide disparity of opinion in the Village about the project.

Mrs. King asked Mr. Decker where any additional funds would come from. He stated that estate tax has helped create a substantial balance and that it would either be from the estate tax funds or from the existing balance.

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Mr. Gilmore reminded everyone that the December income tax revenues were very bad and that therefore the entire year was below projection for income tax. Much of the higher income tax that was received in February really related to prior years.

Mr. Reichert asked if anyone had contacted State Representative Sears or State Senator Wagoner about additional funding. Sandy Brown stated that fundraising was still going on and they were calling leads and weren't intending to stop.

Mr. Decker asked if additional fundraising occurs and is successful, where would the money go? Sandy Brown stated that there is about \$45,000 in hand and a \$100,000 pledge from one person. Specific review occurred of Resolution 2008-12.

Mr. Straub made a motion to prepare legislation which would amend Resolution 2008-12 to increase the Village contribution to \$150,000 for the field and \$10,000 for the logo.

Mr. Reichert seconded the motion. Mr. Straub confirmed that this would bring the total contribution to an amount of \$160,000.

Mr. Gibbs stated that he was very concerned about the proposal stating that the field improvement is very worthwhile, but taking \$60,000 away from projects that were the obligation of the Village was troubling. He said many projects which would benefit more people had been put on the back burner. He was concerned that the community contribution to the project was not higher. Deferring many items such as paving and vehicle purchases for various departments, while putting \$60,000 to this project, was not good. He identified this project as a want, but not a need while other things are actual needs such as street improvement, police, etc.

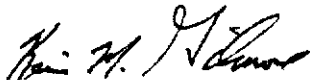
Mr. Walter thought that this project was a need.

Mr. Straub stated that he has the same concern that Mr. Gibbs does but recognized that children are part of the community. The year to date revenues have been very strong and he thought that we should participate further. Mrs. King stated that she thought the Village was taking action based on hope that the estate tax revenues continue to be very strong.

Mr. Gibbs stated he was very conflicted stating that this would be a very nice asset for the community, but did not think that this was the time to be making such an expenditure.

After additional discussion Mayor Gilmore asked Mrs. O'Connell to call the roll. Upon call of the roll Council members King, Straub, Gibbs, Reichert, Walter and Decker voted in favor of the motion.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.



Kevin Gilmore, Mayor