

BRATENAHL VILLAGE
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BRATENAHL, OHIO 44108
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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 2021
5:30 p.m.

MAYOR JOHN LICASTRO
JAMES PUFFENBERGER, CHAIR
JOYCE BURKE-JONES
TOM McDONALD

DAVID J. MATTY, ESQ.
NANCY L. MOLNAR, RPR, CLR

3

1 week in December.
2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: First week in
3 December. Okay. Any news relative to the audit?
4 Are things going well?

17:32:43 5 MS. COOKS: Things are going relatively
6 well. They're always going to find something
7 with best practices or something like that, but
8 nothing that anyone should be worried about.

17:32:56 9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. Just very
10 briefly, Diana and I did do our typical
11 pre-meeting meeting, did it today, a little bit
12 later than we normally do it. Our schedules
13 didn't allow it. In fact, it was an hour and a
14 half ago.

17:33:09 15 MS. COOKS: Yes.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: But just a couple of
17 things just for reference. Some of this is for
18 reference for next year. I bring this up only
19 because I'm not going to be here next year.

17:33:20 20 MAYOR LICASTRO: You're not going to
21 attend the meetings, Jim? We can save a place
22 for you.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It would just make
24 the meetings longer. (Laughter.)

17:33:28 25 MAYOR LICASTRO: The man is a truthful

2

1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So it is 5:30 or a
2 little bit past that. I'll call this Finance
3 meeting to order. This is a regular Finance
4 meeting for October. And the first order of
5 business will be approval, unless there are
6 amendments to it or changes to it, the minutes
7 from our 9/22 meeting.

8 Any changes necessary from the
9 committee?

10 MS. BURKE-JONES: No.

11 MR. McDONALD: No.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I'll entertain a
13 motion to approve.

14 MR. McDONALD: So move.

15 MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

17 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

18 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Very quickly

20 we will move to our esteemed Fiscal Officer's
21 report.

22 MS. COOKS: I don't have much.

23 Hopefully within the next week the audit will be
24 wrapping up and we can expect, according to the

25 auditor, an exit meeting in probably the first

4

1 man. (Laughter.) Thank you, Jim, for speaking
2 the truth.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I guarantee I will
4 show up occasionally and be a thorn in everyone's
5 shoe.

6 All right. There are a couple of things
7 Diana and I talked about. These are minor
8 things, but there are some accounts that we
9 haven't used in a very long time that over time

10 should be eliminated. And I tend to look at that
11 level of detail. And at some point next year I'm
12 sure Diana is going to be all over it, but

13 whoever is chairing Finance next year probably
14 needs to be on top of that just to neaten things

15 up over time. Talk about some of them as time
16 has passed. There are a couple of them that

17 Diana and I talked about today as we reviewed the
18 cash summary by fund. That's just something for

19 everyone to keep in mind for next year after I
20 ride off into the sunset.

21 And I think that's it based on the
22 reporting, unless anybody had any questions about
23 any of the reports. Diana, is there anything
24 that I missed that we talked about that was

25 necessary to talk about?

1 MS. COOKS: No, we only discussed those
2 few things.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. This is a
4 little bit out of order, but let's take pay
17:34:40 5 claims next just so we can get that out of the
6 way and pay our bills. This is Ordinance 4123 on
7 the agenda. I asked a few questions just
8 anticipating questions from the audience to speed
9 things up a little bit. I really don't like long
17:34:57 10 meetings and I try to speed them up as much as I
11 can.

12 Just a few questions that people may
13 have. Progressive Microtechnology is something
14 that we don't see on pay claims terribly often.
17:35:11 15 It's because it's an annual recurring charge.
16 And this is for our evidence tracker. It's under
17 the public safety issue.

18 We also have on our pay claims this
19 month is one line item repair for the 2019 Tahoe
17:35:31 20 that was damaged. Diana and I talked about that
21 as well today. We will or we do --

22 MS. COOKS: We have.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We have received
24 insurance reimbursement, of course, minus our
17:35:42 25 deductible for that vehicle.

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1 MR. TAYLOR: May I interrupt for a
2 second?

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: You may.

4 MR. TAYLOR: I see the new car is only
17:35:51 5 37,000 whatever a piece. Why would they spend
6 36,000 repairing a vehicle only worth 37?

7 MAYOR LICASTRO: We have no idea.

8 CHIEF LOBELLO: It's the insurance
9 company's decision.

17:36:01 10 MAYOR LICASTRO: We were shocked they
11 didn't total the car. Maybe that shows the value
12 of used vehicles, but the fact that they insisted
13 it be repaired caught us off guard and they paid
14 for it. So if you saw how damaged it was.

17:36:15 15 MR. TAYLOR: I saw it.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: It doesn't take much
17 for a car to be totaled, but they insisted it be
18 repaired, so it was repaired.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, I think it's a
17:36:22 20 very good question. Replacement parts cost more
21 than new parts. There is value in used cars.
22 People tend to be buying used cars in this
23 environment because you can't get new one
24 anywhere. We'll be discussing that in a pieces
17:36:35 25 of legislation, but it's kind of an interesting

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1 thing. Good question. But, anyway, they're
2 paying for it minus our deductible, so that's a
3 good thing.

4 All right. Under administration there
17:36:48 5 is an item called Ciro's Sewer Cleaning,
6 emergency manhole jetting. There is some
7 confusion in the way that they invoiced us, so
8 that particular line item will be removed and it
9 is covered under a separate line item under
17:37:04 10 service. You'll notice a line item that says
11 Liquid Environmental, former Ciro's Sewer. That
12 is actually incorporated into that 1,435. So
13 when we get to this, we will be amending this
14 particular piece of legislation minus \$720.

17:37:24 15 Did I get all that right, Diana?

16 MS. COOKS: You did.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Thank you.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Jim, if I may, we had a
19 problem with a blockage in the main between
17:37:33 20 Corning and Bratenahl Road and that's what this
21 was for.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Thank you. Let's
23 see, there's an item that appears to be a
24 duplicate from last month. And that is Seven
17:37:47 25 Brothers Distilling Company. It's a wine

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1 tasting. Not a wine tasting. A bourbon tasting.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Spirits.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Spirits tasting. And
4 it is not -- the event was cancelled last month
17:38:02 5 due to illness, so it's reappearing here this
6 month.

7 And let's see, the last item, very small
8 item, there's an item on here for road signs.
9 Probably everyone noticed the stop sign at the
17:38:17 10 corner of Lake Shore and Eddy because the traffic
11 light was out for a while.

12 MAYOR LICASTRO: Also the share the road
13 sign as well.

14 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Share the road sign
17:38:26 15 as well, that's correct. Okay. So those are all
16 the questions I had.

17 Does anyone else on the committee have
18 questions regarding pay claims?

19 MS. BURKE-JONES: No, I don't.

17:38:35 20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Anyone else on
21 Council?

22 MR. BENJAMIN: Yes, one question.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Sure.

24 MR. BENJAMIN: The Signal Service
17:38:43 25 Company repair to the control cabinet over on

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1 Eddy and Lake Shore, is that the final repair or
2 were these temporary repairs?

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: Temporary, because we
4 are replacing that unit.

17:38:54 5 MR. BENJAMIN: Right. Okay.

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: It takes six to eight
7 weeks to get it. They have to bench test it. We
8 did this to get the signal functioning again.

9 MR. BENJAMIN: Okay.

17:39:03 10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Jim, if I may, the 50
11 tons of road salt under service, Compass
12 Minerals, is the last of our allocation with our
13 agreement with ODOT this year. We already have
14 an agreement in place for next year, but this is
17:39:18 15 the last that we have to take up to 90 percent of
16 what you order. This is the last of it.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. And, of
18 course, we feel that's adequate? Is Joe here?
19 We feel that's adequate? There he is. We feel
17:39:28 20 that's accurate. Okay. Thanks, Joe.

21 All right. Are there any other
22 questions from Council? I saw your hand, Pat,
23 but you'll have an opportunity to ask questions
24 during the Council meeting where we actually
17:39:39 25 approve this. We're making recommendation now.

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1 If there are no other questions, I'll
2 entertain a motion to recommend Ordinance Number
3 4123 to Council for passage this evening.

4 MS. BURKE-JONES: I so move.

17:39:52 5 MR. McDONALD: Second.

6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

7 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

8 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. I'll get rid

17:39:59 10 of all these old ones. Next we'll move on to
11 Resolution 1237. And I'll ask for input from our
12 new Lieutenant and our new Chief sitting in the
13 room.

14 My understanding is that the initial
17:40:14 15 item that we received, initial Exhibit A that we
16 received, was at a higher level than what we
17 actually are going to be doing, that they have
18 not increased our per day fee essentially for
19 using their facility. I'm assuming it's because
17:40:33 20 you did some outstanding negotiation.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: Fair assumption. We'll
23 go with that. (Laughter.)

24 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. We'll go with
17:40:45 25 that. All right. No other explanation

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1 necessary. So there is no increase. That's good
2 news. The original Exhibit A showed a \$55 per
3 day increase. This shows no increase. So are
4 there any questions concerning Resoluton Number
17:41:01 5 1237? No? Okay. I'll entertain a motion to
6 recommend Council approve this resolution this
7 evening.

8 MR. McDONALD: So move.

9 MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

17:41:13 10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

11 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

12 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: This also involves
14 the Police Department. I'm not going to comment
17:41:19 15 on this because I don't have a full understanding
16 of this. Diana and I discussed this, but I don't
17 have a complete understanding of it any what way.

18 We are repealing Resoluton Number 1162.

19 And this authorizes the purchase of two Chevy
17:41:34 20 Tahoes. I understand that through some real due
21 diligence from Dave Lisk that we were able to
22 find two Tahoes. It's kind of in reference to
23 what we were talking about earlier, but is that
24 basically the case, we simply were able to find
17:41:49 25 what we didn't think we were going to be able to

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1 find?

2 LT. SORIC: Pretty much, yeah.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: They're sitting in a
4 dealership in Iowa. But initially we were told
17:42:02 5 we could not only couldn't receive them, we
6 couldn't even order them. So the fact that
7 Officer Lisk found them is miraculous.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: More outstanding
9 negotiation from the Police Department. Any
17:42:17 10 questions? Any concerns concerning this? Okay.

11 Then real quickly we'll just entertain a motion
12 to recommend to Council approval of Resoluton
13 Number 1238.

14 MS. BURKE-JONES: I so move.

17:42:30 15 MR. McDONALD: Second.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

17 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

18 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: Jim, if I may, so this
17:42:35 20 is for the purchase. We will put the outfitting
21 of the vehicles in '22.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Thank you.

23 MR. TAYLOR: It's about 10,000 a car?

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: Well, we're going to be
17:42:44 25 using some of the existing equipment on the K-9

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1 cars. I'm not sure what the estimate is. Do you
2 know, Chief.
3 CHIEF LOBELLO: I'm not sure. Rather
4 than give a wrong number, I'd rather not hazard a
5 guess right now.

17:42:58

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: This all happened in
7 the last few days where we acted quickly because
8 if we don't, we'll lose the vehicles. I think
9 it's around there, Rod.

17:43:08

10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: For those of you
11 looking at the agenda, this is a last minute
12 addition. We just received this resolution
13 yesterday, I believe, yesterday afternoon. So
14 it's not on the agenda and that's why there was

17:43:20

15 some question about it. But this was a newly
16 added one for today, but it is recommended for
17 passage.

18 Okay. Then lastly, but in terms of
19 legislation, we have Ordinance Number 4122. And
20 this is an ordinance that approves our contract
21 with Matty and his team, Mr. Matty and his team.
22 Mr. Matty, from everything I gather, has been
23 gracious in not increasing his fees from the
24 prior contract. That's correct, isn't it, Dave?

17:43:40

25 MR. MATTY: Yes, that's correct.

17:43:56

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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. So the fees
2 are identical to our prior contract.
3 Are there any questions, concerns, from
4 committee? From any member of Council? Okay,
5 this is easy then. I'll entertain a motion to
6 recommend Ordinance Number 4122 be passed by
7 Council this evening.

17:44:12

8 MR. McDONALD: So move.

9 MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

17:44:23

10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

11 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

12 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. There are a
14 couple of e-mails that went back and forth today

17:44:29

15 concerning -- I'm going a little bit out of
16 order. And one of those was between the Mayor
17 and I just actually an hour or so ago regarding
18 Clemans Nelson's HR proposals. We have two in
19 front of us. And the Mayor reminded me that the
20 first one regards something a little bit

17:44:46

21 different than the other one, but they're two
22 different proposals.

23 The second one is involving personnel
24 policy manual. And that is in the amount of
25 about \$6,000. And that I don't believe in my

17:45:05

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1 recollection we've discussed at all --

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: No.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: -- by Council.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: The one we had

17:45:13

5 discussed was the employee job description.

6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Right.

7 MAYOR LICASTRO: And that is in process.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That is in process.

9 I'm understanding that employees all have

17:45:20

10 received their long, I guess, surveys that
11 they're required to complete.

12 Do we have a timeline of when this will
13 be completed?

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: We've given almost all

17:45:34

15 of them to Robin Bell from Clemans Nelson. There
16 are a couple more we have to scan and send to her
17 before the end of the week. Robin is on
18 vacation. I know they want to move with all due
19 haste.

20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. I should think

17:45:48

21 the same thing will be true of the personnel
22 policy manual, that we have one proposal for
23 \$6,000. And so I bring this up only because in
24 the next couple of weeks we will be having our

17:46:01

25 first budget meeting likely on the 9th of

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1 November. And this can or should be included, in
2 my view, should be included. Again, this is for
3 personnel policy manual updates and possibly
4 rewrite, we'll see.

17:46:20

5 How would Council like to proceed with
6 this? Mr. Matty, do we need legislation to pass
7 this given that it is over a \$5,000 amount?

8 MR. MATTY: Yes.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We do. Okay. So we

17:46:33

10 don't have legislation this evening, but I would

11 suggest that we have legislation for our next
12 meeting so that we can thumbs up or thumbs down
13 this particular piece of legislation.

14 MR. McDONALD: Was this proposal
15 negotiated or it was presented to us?

17:46:47

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It was simply
17 presented to us. That's one of the reasons I
18 wanted to bring this up this evening so that we
19 could get this done fairly quickly. Should we
20 entertain proposals from other vendors as well?

17:46:59

21 MR. BENJAMIN: In my opinion, it doesn't
22 hurt to get two or three different proposals.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

24 MR. BENJAMIN: And see when we get and
25 compare costs.

17:47:12

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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We've been using
 2 Clemans Nelson as our consultant, but that
 3 doesn't mean we have to go with them for
 4 everything we do. There may be some advantages,
 5 because they're doing our job description as we
 6 were just talking about. I should think that
 7 within the next month perhaps we could get some
 8 additional proposals so that we can put this on
 9 the agenda for our November meeting.

10 MR. BENJAMIN: Yes. I think Clemans
 11 Nelson has, from my understanding, done a nice
 12 job so far, so I'm not concerned about them as a
 13 company, but it would be nice to get a couple
 14 quotes to compare apples to apples.

15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. I think it's
 16 reasonable to do that.

17 MR. McDONALD: We might be found to be
 18 lack if we don't.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah.

20 MS. HUFFMAN: Let us not forget that we
 21 had vigorous discussion in 2020, about a request
 22 for proposal being put out to vendors who may
 23 want to take us on, our needs for the Village.
 24 So I think it's a sound decision.

25 I would even ask that we may think about
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1 that with a Committee of the Whole and talking
 2 about resurrecting that proposal, because we did
 3 talk about making sure that moved forward in
 4 2021.

5 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, we're kind of
 6 doing this piecemeal, one item at a time. We did
 7 talk about a more all-encompassing program from
 8 one HR firm. It's something certainly to
 9 consider. I think we thought that these two
 10 items were of utmost importance, so we moved
 11 ahead to those at least initially and then do a
 12 more all-encompassing program perhaps when
 13 there's time to do formal bids and such over the
 14 next year. But I still think it's worthwhile
 15 getting this done. This is an important item.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: We'll reach out to
 17 other companies, but Clemans Nelson has been
 18 great with their retainer. We've had questions
 19 about personnel issues here and there and she's
 20 very responsive. It's worked to our benefit to
 21 have her on staff, if you will, although that's a
 22 bit of a stretch. We'll get some other quotes on
 23 this particular \$6,000 and see what we come up
 24 with.

25 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, Robin is great.
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1 I didn't know Robin 10 years ago, but I think I
 2 mentioned this in a couple of e-mails I used
 3 Clemans Nelson for a couple start-up tech
 4 companies I was involved in. They don't
 5 typically do things outside of the public realm
 6 and private companies. They did some work and
 7 they were outstanding, absolutely outstanding.

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: The best thing about it
 9 is she responds like that (indicating.)

10 Sometimes given our limited availability in time,
 11 getting something that quickly is a huge, huge
 12 benefit. So I certainly agree we should get
 13 multiple proposals on that. And, Gina, if you
 14 want to have a conversation about going forward,
 15 we certainly can entertain that as well.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. So these two
 17 items we will do as individual items. And we'll
 18 do more encompassing as time goes on. I think
 19 that's probably the proper way to go. Okay. Is
 20 everybody in agreement? Anybody have any issues
 21 with that?

22 All right. Last item on the agenda,
 23 believe it or not, is utilization of Village
 24 marketing funds and marketing process. I put
 25 this on here again because we're going to be in
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1 budget process. And we need to understand what
 2 we're going to be doing for a marketing process.

3 Anybody that sat in on the candidates
 4 night, I believe all five, at least four out of
 5 five of the candidates mentioned marketing as
 6 being important in their speeches and in their
 7 answering of questions. It's certainly
 8 important. I think one of the things we need to
 9 understand is where we are now.

10 Back in November of last year, I had to
 11 look the e-mails up, I believe, Mayor, you
 12 mentioned that you had assigned certain things to
 13 certain staff. And it would be important for us
 14 to know, you asked for my help and I will
 15 certainly continue to help if anybody wants me to
 16 even after December because that's kind of my
 17 thing, but it would be important for us to
 18 understand who's doing what, what progress they
 19 made and where we stand from this point on in
 20 implementing the marketing process.

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: So I can give you
 22 feedback on three particular topics. One of
 23 which is the website upgrade, which we're in the
 24 process of doing, with Angela Fernandes, our
 25 de facto IT expert, leading the charge in a
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1 couple meetings with CivicPlus. We're not there
 2 yet, but we do want to incorporate marketing -- a
 3 portion of the website to marketing. And once we
 4 have a draft of that, we will share it with
 17:51:55 5 Council to see if we have a buy-in that meets our
 6 needs. Keith and I discussed briefly a couple
 7 other things we have pending. I know he's been
 8 talking to Dave Matty about the social media
 9 policy.
 17:52:09 10 MR. MATTY: He hasn't talked to me,
 11 Mayor.
 12 MAYOR LICASTRO: Okay.
 13 MR. BENJAMIN: We will be talking about
 14 that.
 17:52:14 15 MAYOR LICASTRO: You will be talking
 16 about that. What did you say about vendors on
 17 monument signs?
 18 MR. BENJAMIN: Oh, so for the monument
 19 signs, I'm getting two or three informal quotes
 17:52:25 20 from design firms so we can consider the design
 21 of the monument signs to get estimates of how
 22 much they would cost. What signs would work
 23 where in terms of, you know, what entrances need
 24 to be pole signs, what entrances can be monument
 17:52:46 25 signs. So I anticipate I'll have those by the
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1 middle of next month if not before the first
 2 budget meeting in November.
 3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, it's going to
 4 be important for us to understand where we are
 17:52:57 5 and what we're going to need to spend, so that's
 6 why I bring it up. If you would, just let us
 7 know who is working on what and where they are in
 8 the process based on your e-mail from last
 9 November.
 17:53:06 10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Okay.
 11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That would be very
 12 helpful.
 13 MAYOR LICASTRO: That's the update I
 14 have today, but I'll flesh it out.
 17:53:13 15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I would expect that
 16 today.
 17 MR. BENJAMIN: At this point, all the
 18 vehicles have the new branding.
 19 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yeah.
 17:53:19 20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah. There are some
 21 really, really simple -- and I hate to harp on
 22 this again. There's really, really simple things
 23 that have impact in your report. And one is
 24 simply adding a photo to signature on e-mail.
 17:53:32 25 All members of Council, all elected officials,
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1 all employees should do that. It takes 40
 2 seconds, cut, paste, you're done. It's really,
 3 really simple. So I would again encourage
 4 everybody to do that and do that very quickly.
 17:53:49 5 Repetition is really important in
 6 branding. The more people see it, the more
 7 they'll identify that as being our great Village
 8 of Bratenahl. And it seems like kind of pie in
 9 the sky stuff, but it really isn't. It's
 17:54:04 10 important stuff. So everybody should do that at
 11 their earliest convenience. Okay. Any other
 12 comments concerning marketing? We'll talk about
 13 that more probably November the 9th will be the
 14 likely date, which is a Monday.
 17:54:19 15 Okay. That completes my agenda. I do
 16 have one question. This is for Diana though.
 17 Last month -- and I forgot to ask you this when
 18 we were talking a couple hours ago. Last month
 19 we approved a transfer request. Is that going
 17:54:34 20 through the State Treasurer's office?
 21 MS. COOKS: I sent it.
 22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We haven't heard any
 23 feedback on that yet?
 24 MS. COOKS: No.
 17:54:44 25 MAYOR LICASTRO: Tax administrator.
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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I'm sorry, tax
 2 administrator.
 3 MS. COOKS: The last time it took about
 4 four weeks, but that's because we posted Friday.
 17:54:55 5 So I would expect it would probably take the same
 6 length of time.
 7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's fine. I
 8 wanted to know where we are on that. There isn't
 9 a hurry to that.
 17:55:05 10 MS. COOKS: I've sent it.
 11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Because it was done
 12 as an if necessary sort of thing.
 13 MS. HUFFMAN: So in the agenda, is it
 14 utilization of Village marketing funds? Did that
 17:55:21 15 mean that there are some funds still left?
 16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: No. I can see how
 17 that could be misinterpreted. What I intend is
 18 how we're going to use or utilize marketing funds
 19 in the coming year. So what projects are
 17:55:35 20 necessary. What we're going to need to
 21 essentially appropriate for 2022. That's what I
 22 meant by that. And we're not going to decide
 23 that this evening, but we will have that
 24 discussion in a few weeks, so I wanted to be
 17:55:48 25 prepared for that. Anything else?
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1 MS. COOKS: Yes. The 9th and the 10th
2 are on a Tuesday and Wednesday.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I'm sorry, Tuesday.
4 So it's Tuesday.

17:56:03 5 MS. COOKS: Not Monday.

6 MS. BURKE-JONES: So it's going to be
7 Tuesday then?

8 MS. COOKS: The 9th is on a Tuesday and
9 the 10th is on Wednesday.

17:56:15 10 MAYOR LICASTRO: For perspective, it's a
11 week after the election.

12 MS. BURKE-JONES: It's okay.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Either one is okay?

14 MS. BURKE-JONES: Yeah.

17:56:26 15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So yeah, I apologize.
16 For some reason I thought it was Monday and
17 Tuesday. We'll likely have it on the 9th, but
18 I'll get an e-mail out to everybody to confirm
19 that that's okay for everyone.

17:56:39 20 MAYOR LICASTRO: We have meetings with
21 department heads doing our homework, so we'll be
22 prepared if the auditors leave us alone.
23 Sometimes they come there in a group of three.

17:56:56 24 How this woman does that and everything else is
25 really remarkable.

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1 heard that I think Keith, Jim, Tom and Gina had
2 some agreement on trying to get two to three bids
3 on getting a personnel policy manuals, some other
4 quotes. I was wondering if the same process

17:58:14 5 should not be used for the legal fees services,
6 professional legal fees, because our current
7 Village Solicitor has had a contract for 10

8 years. It's never been put out to bid. And
9 essentially the firm gets paid 200 grand a year
10 with all the fees wrapped up. So if you're
11 willing to do it for 6,000, you would think it
12 might be time to do it for legal services.

13 MAYOR LICASTRO: The money we pay Dave
14 Matty and his team is worth every penny. We've
15 had great representation from Mr. Matty and his
16 team. If we were looking for another firm, we do
17 that. I believe Council is going to retain Mr.
18 Matty and I wholeheartedly agree with that
19 decision.

17:58:56 20 MS. MEADE: With respect, he was fired
21 in 2013 by Council for bad advice. He's cost the
22 Village in taxpayers dollars by lawsuits, you
23 know, upwards of --

17:59:07 24 MAYOR LICASTRO: Hold on. Mr. Matty
25 does not cost the Village dollars in lawsuits.

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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That has to be
2 incredibly intimidating to have three
3 administrators sitting across from you.

17:57:04 4 MAYOR LICASTRO: And Jim, every five
5 minutes it's Diana? Diana? Diana? Diana?

6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We do that, too.
7 (Laughter.)

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Not to this level.
9 They're actually very pleasant people. They're
10 very accommodating, but it's a lot of work.

17:57:15 11 MR. McDONALD: Don't you believe it.
12 (Laughter.)

17:57:29 13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, I think there's
14 probably something going on under the surface
15 that they don't want us to know.

16 All right. So that concludes the
17 agenda. Are there any questions from anyone on
18 committee or anything else to bring up? Anything
19 else from councilmembers? Anything from the
20 audience? Pat.

17:57:41 21 MS. MEADE: Under pay claims, are the
22 magistrates for Mayor's court paid on a flat fee
23 per session or an hourly rate?

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's an hourly rate.

17:57:55 25 MS. MEADE: And just based on what I
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1 Legal dollars are spent defending the Village.
2 That's what Mr. Matty does. And even though he
3 was fired ridiculously in December of that year,
4 he was hired back immediately in January.

17:59:23 5 MS. MEADE: Without question, which
6 raised more questions.

7 MAYOR LICASTRO: Again, thank you for
8 your opinion.

9 MS. MEADE: Let me finish, please.
10 Maybe I didn't phrase it in the best way, but
11 legal fees have been paid for lawsuits. Lawsuits
12 are increasing. Taxpayers dollars are over a
13 half a million dollars in these type of legal
14 fees with another four lawsuits pending. You
15 know, residents are questioning why more
16 lawsuits. Again, whether it's defending, win or
17 lost, there's still money being expended. And
18 residents just want to see some better
19 responsibility, accountability how they can curb
20 these kinds of things from happening and the
21 people aren't hearing any solutions.

17:59:30 22 MAYOR LICASTRO: So when residents ask
23 you that question, do you mention that a couple
24 of those lawsuits were things you pursued?

18:00:01 25 MS. MEADE: Yes. And one was you

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1 started retaliation against myself.
 2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Stop.
 3 MS. MEADE: That's true and you know it.
 4 MAYOR LICASTRO: Stop.
 18:00:17 5 MS. MEADE: You raised the question, so
 6 let me answer. Under the Ohio Supreme Court
 7 case, Council, the Mayor and the Village
 8 Solicitor was given many opportunities to simply
 9 tally your votes openly and there was a zero cost
 18:00:33 10 solution. Litigation could have been avoided for
 11 zero cost. For whatever reason, that pathway was
 12 not chosen. So the only way to try to get an
 13 objective opinion was to seek an objective
 14 opinion which was through the court system.
 18:00:47 15 MAYOR LICASTRO: Was to pursue a
 16 lawsuit.
 17 MS. MEADE: That the only way.
 18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Was to pursue a
 19 lawsuit.
 18:00:51 20 MS. MEADE: Because you would not take
 21 the zero cost solution.
 22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: This is still my
 23 meeting, so let's cut off this. It's not
 24 intended to be a debate.
 18:01:03 25 MS. MEADE: Apologies, Jim.
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1 MS. HUFFMAN: May I make a comment, Jim?
 2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: You may.
 3 MS. HUFFMAN: Pat, you indicated that
 4 residents aren't feeling like they're getting
 18:01:15 5 results or solutions. You also indicated that
 6 amongst us we're in agreement about some human
 7 resources contracts that could be helpful.
 8 That's a solution.
 9 MS. MEADE: Getting multiple bids.
 18:01:29 10 MS. HUFFMAN: That's a solution to that
 11 problem --
 12 MS. MEADE: Correct. Agreed.
 13 MS. HUFFMAN: -- that people are
 14 interested in finding out. I think right now
 18:01:38 15 we're happy with the services we're getting from
 16 legal, so that's not a fire we have to fight.
 17 And I think that if human resources is something
 18 that can help our administration, I, for one,
 19 advocate for it. And I think that a lot of the
 18:01:54 20 councilmembers feel the same way. So that's why
 21 we're pursuing it that way, to get multiple bids
 22 so we can get a firm or keep a firm that gives us
 23 the maximum output for what is needed to help our
 24 administration and our community.
 18:02:10 25 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah. That in my
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1 view, is the primary driving force in bolstering
 2 our HR presence, is to avoid future lawsuits and
 3 potential for those kind of lawsuits, as well as
 4 just tighten up policies. So yeah, I fully agree
 18:02:25 5 with that. So that's what we're pursuing to try
 6 to alleviate that issue in the future, because it
 7 has been expensive.
 8 MR. BENJAMIN: I will just add in my 29
 9 years working for cities, I've worked with a lot
 18:02:40 10 law directors and a lot of law firms. Mr. Matty
 11 provides great service to the community. I think
 12 that overall he represents us very well. And his
 13 costs are certainly very in line with what others
 14 would be charging, if not less, than what others
 18:02:59 15 are charging these days.
 16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We have done some due
 17 diligence in the past and look at what is being
 18 charged at other facilities, so you are correct
 19 in that. We appreciate the fact Mr. Matty has
 18:03:10 20 not increased his services over the past two
 21 years. That's meaningful to me sitting here in
 22 the finance chair, certainly meaningful to me.
 23 Okay. Anything else from anyone?
 24 MR. ZALAR: Just a quick question. You
 18:03:27 25 were talking about Ciro's Sewer Cleaning. Why
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1 was that pulled off the pay claims?
 2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It was duplicated in
 3 the other line item under service. So the item
 4 that was --
 18:03:40 5 MR. ZALAR: So it was in twice?
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, that \$720 was
 7 actually included twice. So when we approve
 8 this, we'll do it amended without that \$720.
 9 That's \$720 I guess said simply, was already
 18:03:52 10 included in what's under your category of
 11 service.
 12 MS. COOKS: If I can add further
 13 clarity. So Ciro's changed its name to Liquid
 14 Environmental something.
 18:04:06 15 MR. ZALAR: Pretty much they own the
 16 company and they do the business.
 17 MS. COOKS: Right. But they billed us
 18 under both and I didn't notice that until we were
 19 having our discussion earlier today.
 18:04:16 20 MR. ZALAR: We will be getting two more.
 21 We have another one that we just did recently and
 22 then Monday we have another major cleaning going
 23 on in that same section.
 24 MR. BIERUT: We have residents on the
 18:04:32 25 south side, I'm sorry for jumping in here,
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1 residents on the south side of Lake Shore, east
2 of Bratenahl Road, a thousand feet. We've had
3 some backups in basement, including one gentleman
4 I think it's two or three times.

18:04:50 5 MAYOR LICASTRO: Calling a company
6 Liquid Environmental Services doesn't really
7 resonate for sewer for me. That doesn't seem
8 like a good name. (Laughter.)

18:05:09 9 MS. BURKE-JONES: Let's move on.
10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Sorry. All right.
12 Anybody else? Anyone else? That being the case,
13 I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

14 MS. BURKE-JONES: I so move.

18:05:24 15 MR. McDONALD: Second.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

17 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

18 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Finance is adjourned.

18:05:29 20 Thank you, everyone.

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: Very prompt.

22 (Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.)

23 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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1 CERTIFICATE

2

3

4 I, Nancy L. Molnar, do hereby certify that
5 as such Reporter I took down in Stenotypy all of
6 the proceedings had in the foregoing transcript;
7 that I have transcribed my said Stenotype notes
8 into typewritten form as appears in the foregoing
9 transcript; that said transcript is the complete
10 form of the proceedings had in said cause and
11 constitutes a true and correct transcript therein.

12

13

14

15 Nancy L. Molnar

16 Nancy L. Molnar, Notary Public

17 within and for the State of Ohio

18

19 My commission expires July 15, 2023.

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22

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