

BRATENAHL VILLAGE
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SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 10, 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 given the fact we've had some pretty crappy
2 audits in the last few years, so we want to make
3 sure we appease them, so that's what that's all
4 about.

5 Please excuse me if I'm a little foggy
6 tonight. I am still feeling the effects of my
7 COVID booster. And if I doze off, somebody just
8 nudge me.

9 MAYOR LICASTRO: I'll take that, Jim.
10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. So we received
12 a good bit of information on Friday, and some
13 additional information just yesterday afternoon.
14 Some of that information we will review here this
15 evening. And some of the department heads are
16 here this evening, so what I would like to do is
17 first make a recommendation on how we do this
18 from this point further.

19 I've come to understand that other
20 communities do this and it seems to be a more
21 efficient method. Rather than having all of the
22 heads of departments here at the same time and
23 listening to what everybody else has to say,
24 unless you really want to, it seems to be more
25 efficient perhaps to have one at a time come to

2

1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. It is
2 5:30. We shall begin without the benefit of
3 having Nancy here. I will open this special
4 finance meeting here this evening. First of all,
5 I'd like to congratulate all the winners. I
6 think we have them all here.

7 MS. BURKE-JONES: Gina is not here yet.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Gina is not here, but
9 three of the four. Congratulations. Three
10 incumbents and one rookie. (Laughter.) We have
11 a little bit different format than what we've
12 done in previous years. Diana and I had a rather
13 lengthy conversation yesterday about that. We've
14 had a massive spreadsheet. I have an example of
15 that here, everybody's seen these before, that
16 we've been using for decades probably, however
17 long. That's a bit of an exaggeration I'm sure.

18 Anyway, this is very concentrated, ut it
19 is apparently not auditor friendly, so we're
20 using a little bit different format so that when
21 Diana submits to the auditor, it's in a format
22 that is right out of UAN, correct?

23 MS. COOKS: It is.

24 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It's right out of UAN
25 and will be appreciated by them a little bit more

4

1 present their budget. Most communities have
2 hearings in front of Council where each head
3 simply presents their budget to Council and
4 justifies what they want to do and gives its
5 Council an opportunity to ask questions. That's
6 what we'll do here this evening.

7 Just in deference to your time, if we do
8 that in the future, I'm not going to be here to
9 do it anyway, but just a recommendation for the
10 future so that you're not all sitting through
11 everybody else's stuff, because this is really
12 labor intensive and it's pretty tedious and takes
13 a while going line by line through these things.

14 So having said that, what I'd like to do
15 is -- we don't have Sue here tonight, do we?

16 MS. COOKS: Mr. Puffenberger, may I?

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Absolutely you may.

18 MS. COOKS: I have envisioned doing a
19 similar thing. And I had an order I have in mind
20 considering just those things that you said.

21 Considering the service director, who is usually
22 here at 6 a.m., I wanted to make him first. And
23 then Mr. Kozinski is here on behalf of Rec and
24 move in that order. The Chief has acquiesced
25 until that has happened, so then those people

1 will leave.

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I appreciate that.

3 That's exactly what I wanted to do. I was going

4 to take Rec first simply because it's by far the

5 smallest and quickest, but it makes no

6 difference. We'll get through this.

7 Okay. So why don't we do this. We have

8 what I believe to be the raw budgets as submitted

9 to you.

10 MS. COOKS: Yes.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: With probably some of

12 your recommendations. Are these purely raw

13 budgets as submitted by each individual?

14 MS. COOKS: It is a combination of both.

15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

16 MS. COOKS: It started with my

17 recommendation. Some the direct appropriations

18 are, in fact, fixed. They are salary and those

19 things that are associated with salary and they

20 are approved by ordinance. So I put those

21 numbers in. And then the other numbers, where it

22 says all other appropriations, which include

23 healthcare and some uniform allowances, those

24 types of things are all by ordinance or by those

25 who participate in those programs. And then the

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1 Mayor and I met with the service director, the

2 Chief, and other department heads for their

3 specific requests.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. We understand

5 some of the line items are formulaic, so it's not

6 something that we have control over anyway, so

7 that's fine.

8 All right. So we will then start with

9 two exceptions with service. The two exceptions

10 cross boundaries across all departments, the

11 first being compensation and recommendations for

12 that. Now, last year the recommendation from the

13 administration was that they're not via COLA.

14 Do these numbers include a COLA?

15 MS. COOKS: They do.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: And how is that COLA

17 determined?

18 MS. COOKS: It was determined by

19 legislation that was used to determine this

20 latest COLA of two and a half percent.

21 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. And so you use

22 what was in December of 2017, we passed ordinance

23 number 3947, and that's what really determines

24 how that works.

25 MS. COOKS: It was based on this most

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1 recent COLA --

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

3 MS. COOKS: -- this past June.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. One of the

5 stipulations in that ordinance was that maximum

6 COLA could not be greater than two and a half

7 percent.

8 MS. COOKS: That's correct.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So that is the

10 maximum we go to.

11 MS. COOKS: That's correct.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: But there are other

13 tests in there as well that we will discuss. We

14 won't do that tonight. So all of the salary

15 recommendations do include a two and a half

16 percent COLA?

17 MS. COOKS: Yes. So it is what has been

18 ordained by Council. For an example, service is

19 ordained seven full-time positions. That is

20 included in there. There is one open position

21 and that is budgeted at the lowest level of the

22 service department.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Thank you.

24 Yeah, as you know, I do every year, I look at the

25 Consumer Price Index, because that's what we base

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1 COLAs on. And the most recent one is

2 heartbreaking, frankly. Last 12 months, the CPI

3 in the Midwest, because they break this down

4 regionally, so I look at the Midwest, is up 5.7

5 percent over a rolling 12 months. 5.7 percent.

6 A good part of that is consumer goods and actual

7 gas service. And we'll discuss that, because we

8 have gas up in here. I'm not sure we've

9 appropriated enough. Year over year it's gone up

10 4.6 percent.

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: We put in what we

12 thought was accurate.

13 MS. COOKS: This is five.

14 MS. BURKE-JONES: I just read an article

15 in the Economist. And they're talking about that

16 consumer price interest. And they were talking

17 about that it is very heavy in, as you pointed

18 out, gas, cars, et cetera. So there are some

19 very heavy increased areas that are bringing

20 everything up. So it may not be quite as high if

21 you just look at not the top four priors.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Right. You're

23 absolutely right. Nobody is going to be able to

24 see this, but there are two curves that they

25 always show. One is with everything in it,

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1 everything that the consumer might buy. And the
2 other is minus food and gas. There's a pretty
3 significant delta between the two. You're right.
4 Okay. That being said, so you're recommending a
5 two and a half percent COLA and so that's across
6 the board.

7 All right. One other thing, just to set
8 the table, I did some quick noodling about what
9 the overall increases mean. And from the
10 information we received yesterday, it appears
11 that the recommendation for the general fund from
12 what we've received and the raw data represents a
13 5.4 percent year over year increase in general
14 fund expenditures.

15 MS. COOKS: That's correct.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. And I looked
17 at overall and that's a little skewed, because it
18 also considers our debt load, but it's the same
19 basically from year to year. That's an increase
20 of 10.4 percent, or somewhere around \$636,000
21 increase from last year.

22 MS. COOKS: I agree.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. Let's set
24 the table so we know where we're starting from.
25 So after all that, and because he goes to work at
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1 6:00 in the morning, Joe, is there anything in
2 particular in your raw data that we need to
3 understand while you're here?

4 MR. ZALAR: I think that actually my
5 part, we had a discussion on this. Pretty much
6 the budget is going to stay the same as it has
7 for the last couple of years. The only thing we
8 request is actually to replace our skid-steerer.
9 We had talked about that a couple, three years
10 ago, but because of things that have happened, it
11 kind of got on the back burner. And I asked them
12 again if we can replace the one we have now. It
13 was purchased back when Mr. Goddard was on
14 Council, so it's been a little while. It's
15 starting to show its age and as far as
16 functionality goes it's --

17 MR. McDONALD: Joe, I'm sorry, I didn't
18 understand. What piece of equipment?

19 MR. ZALAR: A skid-steerer, it's
20 basically a joystick driven machine. It replaces
21 the one that we have now. I know it's 20 some
22 years old.

23 MAYOR LICASTRO: Explain what a
24 skid-steerer is. Is it a bobcat?

25 MR. ZALAR: Basically everybody knows
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1 what a bobcat is or a four-wheel motor.
2 Basically it will turn on a dime. You can put
3 multiple attachments on it. No tracks. We don't
4 prefer tracks on pavement because you don't have
5 metal driving down the street.

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: Mr. Puffenberger, could
7 I?

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Go ahead. I'm Jim,
9 by the way.

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Jim, so really the
11 changes in his budget to the general fund are
12 pretty much nil. What we're looking at is the
13 restrictive fund. And the skid-steerer and the
14 Ford pickup, which we'll talk about in a second,
15 we're recommending if we do them we take them out
16 of 2071, which is a special revenue fund four and
17 a half percent. And then the other two items you
18 see under 2011, those are restricted as well. So
19 Joe's impact on the general fund is pretty much
20 what it was last year. These are special items
21 and we're recommending, if we can purchase them,
22 they come out of the special revenue fund.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah. And that's a
24 separate category here.

25 MAYOR LICASTRO: We have a sheet on
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1 that, but I wanted to make sure Council knows
2 those are not general fund expenses.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah. Is there any
4 value in the one we have? Is there any trade in?

5 MR. ZALAR: I think they're going to
6 give us like \$10,000 trade in.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Is this what we would
8 spend before or after trade in?

9 MR. ZALAR: This is net.

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: This is net.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. And then
12 2022 Ford F250, 4x4, that's also out of the 2071
13 fund.

14 MR. ZALAR: Pretty much we had the same
15 issues as the Police Department has had.

16 Actually, this would have been the year for a
17 dump truck or actually next year would have been
18 the year for another dump truck. They're not
19 going to be available until sometime in '23. And
20 I asked the lady we usually deal with purchase
21 and she said that probably the second quarter of
22 '23 is when we'll be looking at getting it.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Second quarter of
24 '23?

25 MR. ZALAR: '23. Right now they're just
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1 not releasing those. The pickup truck, that
2 would have been the year after, which actually
3 would have been a '23, so we're going to try to
4 flip flop it so we at least have a pickup truck.

5 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. That makes
6 sense.

7 MR. ZALAR: Actually, it will be for
8 next year's budget. It will actually be cheaper
9 because the dump truck is going to be the same
10 situation that we had the last dump truck where
11 we would take the stainless steel off of one and
12 transport it over, which is going to be the
13 second time for that truck. So that's another
14 30,000 that's we'll actually save because we're
15 not purchasing that.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That makes sense.

17 MR. ZALAR: It's 15 to 20,000 to have it
18 transferred, but you're not purchasing the actual
19 equipment we already have.

20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. The vehicles
21 are hard to come by.

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: The ones we got for the
23 cops, we had to chase them. Where did we find
24 them?

25 CHIEF LOBELLO: Iowa.
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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I just got car for
2 Deb and we had to have it shipped in from
3 California because that's the only place we could
4 find what we wanted. Anyway, that's difficult.
5 You're driving something different, too, aren't
6 you?

7 MAYOR LICASTRO: Actually it's Janet's
8 car. We're down to one car.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: The rest of this, the
10 only thing that I would have concern about,
11 frankly, and it's the opposite direction that I
12 probably should be talking is gasoline given the
13 increased price. You feel that 25,000, I don't
14 remember what last year's was. I don't think I
15 have it in front of me.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: I've got it right here.

17 MS. COOKS: I did a 20 percent increase.

18 MR. PUFFENBERGER: 20?

19 MS. COOKS: Yes.

20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So this represents a
21 20 percent increase?

22 MS. COOKS: Yes.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. I'm not
24 going to quibble about that.

25 MS. COOKS: Let me see where we are
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1 year-to-date.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Jim, again, if I may.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Sure.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: So when you look under
5 Fund 2011, you'll this is restricted. There's
6 also dollars coming from the general fund for
7 street repair, but this is the majority of it
8 coming from the restricted fund, \$53,725.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Are there any
10 questions, any additional questions? This is
11 fairly straightforward, a lot of this.

12 Medical/dental, while we're at it, this is the
13 first opportunity to talk about medical/dental.

14 Do we have estimates from Bruce Murphy
15 yet?

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Off the cuff, he said
17 it's running about 9 percent. We put in a 10
18 percent increase.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I think last year he
20 estimated 8 percent and it turned out to be about
21 the same.

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: We told him we had done
23 10. He was comfortable with that. It's a little
24 early to tell. It's really in the spring, but we
25 put in 10 percent for all the departments.

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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. So that's
2 up 10 percent.

3 MR. BENJAMIN: Jim, 9 percent is about
4 average for cities in South Euclid and our
5 surrounding communities.

6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's what you're
7 seeing over there. Okay. Good enough. I have
8 no more questions for Joe. Does anybody else
9 have question from the committee? Anybody on
10 Council? I'm sorry, Joyce.

11 MS. BURKE-JONES: I'm talking about the
12 employees, you have seven full-time and one open
13 you're looking for that position.

14 MR. ZALAR: Which it's been very
15 difficult.

16 MS. BURKE-JONES: And you mentioned that
17 it was going to be a base service.

18 MS. COOKS: It is a base salary.

19 MS. BURKE-JONES: And I know that we've
20 seem to have been, especially in the Public
21 Improvements, we've been talking about our staff
22 do this or our staff do that, whether it's
23 painting or whatever, but we have discussed that
24 in the last meeting, well, does the staff even
25 have time to do that and whether they have the

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1 technical expertise to do the improvements on
2 buildings.

3 And my question would be if we are
4 hiring somebody, should we be hiring somebody
5 with, you know, technical expertise to help us
6 with that if we are asking our staff to take up
7 some of the Public Improvements maintenance.

8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Certainly that's our
9 preference, but right now we're trying to find
10 somebody. We've interviewed, looked through
11 dozens of resumes on Indeed. Joe has talked to
12 multiple people. The fact we're short-staffed.

13 MR. ZALAR: There are feelers out there.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: We're just looking to
15 somebody who has the basic skills. If we get
16 more than that, we're lucky, but what segment of
17 our society isn't short-staffed? We're no
18 different. That's our preference. We'll let you
19 know how it turns out.

20 MS. BURKE-JONES: Yeah. Again, I don't
21 believe we should -- if we're not spending the
22 money to hire consultants or contractors to do
23 work and we're somehow expecting our own staff to
24 do it, we need to fund them to do it.

25 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I've never seen more
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1 help wanted signs as we see now at all levels.
2 Well, that makes sense if they can be found.

3 All right. Anything else? Any other
4 questions? Concerns?

5 MS. HUFFMAN: Mayor, when you say you've
6 been looking through resumes and things like
7 that, is that something Clemans Nelson is helping
8 with?

9 MAYOR LICASTRO: We put it on Indeed,
10 which is the usual mechanism we use to hire. Joe
11 has been talking to people he knows as well.
12 It's just that finding someone willing to work
13 has become an uphill battle.

14 MR. ZALAR: We have two potential hires,
15 but unfortunately they were hired by another
16 municipality.

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: The competition for
18 employees is nothing like any of us has ever
19 seen. You've heard us talk about it with police.
20 It's no different with service. Probably the
21 best bet is Joe knows so many people, is
22 word-of-mouth, but stay tuned.

23 MS. HUFFMAN: So they don't help with
24 sourcing? It's not like something they are able
25 to help with?

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1 MAYOR LICASTRO: You mean have we gone
2 to them to see if they can help us hire? No, we
3 have not done that.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It's worth
5 investigating.

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: I can ask, sure.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It's worth
8 investigating. They may have other avenues.
9 Indeed seems to be a very popular thing people
10 are using at least in the private sector. I
11 don't know what connection they have with public,
12 but this wouldn't make any difference.

13 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's worked for us in
14 the past, but welcome to the new normal. It's
15 awful.

16 MR. ZALAR: Can't even find a
17 dishwasher.

18 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Even when you find
19 someone, there's a difference between hiring
20 someone and finding someone who's willing to
21 work.

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: He's not kidding.
23 Someone willing to work. If you're going to work
24 in Joe's department, believe me, you're going to
25 be working.

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1 MS. HUFFMAN: It's no different than any
2 other industry either. There's all different
3 kind of ways you have to do it. I mean, believe
4 you me, we have to pivot in very different ways
5 to connect with people who are interested in what
6 we are offering, so I'm sure the same is for
7 employment.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, it is. This is
9 an example here locally. There was a point this
10 past summer when Shoreby was down 19 people. And
11 some of the long-term employees were taking
12 advantage of the fact that they knew we needed
13 them. And so they weren't showing up on time and
14 all that kind of stuff for a little while just
15 because they knew they had to be there, because
16 we couldn't find anybody to replace them. So
17 that's what I mean by willing to work. Some
18 people are taking advantage of that opportunity,
19 but anyway, that's that.

20 Any other questions or concerns about
21 this? Anything else you want to add, Joe?

22 MR. ZALAR: No.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Everything good?

24 MR. ZALAR: Yes.

25 MR. BENJAMIN: The skid-steerer, that's

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1 state contract prices?
 2 MR. ZALAR: Yes. It's the same company
 3 that we purchased our M7060, which is our bigger
 4 tractor.
 5 MR. BENJAMIN: Okay. Great.
 6 MAYOR LICASTRO: We make certain we get
 7 prices that are less than --
 8 MR. ZALAR: Some of our suppliers and
 9 vendors that we go through, they match the price
 10 regardless. They don't actually have their name
 11 on the state program, but they'll give you that
 12 20 percent, 15, 20 percent off. Generally it
 13 usually shows up on the receipt, the invoice,
 14 proposal, whatever. That's the discount they're
 15 giving you even. They want the business,
 16 especially now.
 17 MR. BENJAMIN: Thank you.
 18 MR. PUFFENBERGER: If there aren't any
 19 additional questions or concerns, that's it, Joe,
 20 you can go home and sleep.
 21 MR. ZALAR: Appreciate it. Congrats,
 22 everyone.
 23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Let's move on
 24 to Recreation then. That is typically the
 25 simplest and by far the smallest. We have
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1 195,000 in the bank right now; is that correct?
 2 MS. COOKS: No. Actually, we have more
 3 than that, but the collections for next year will
 4 be around 195, so I think the fund balance is
 5 about 221,000 in Recreation at the moment.
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.
 7 MAYOR LICASTRO: And since you're
 8 probably going to ask, we haven't heard back from
 9 the tax administrator yet on the \$50,000 request.
 10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We haven't?
 11 MAYOR LICASTRO: No.
 12 MS. BURKE-JONES: You didn't really
 13 expect that quickly, did you?
 14 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Not really.
 15 MR. BENJAMIN: So their current balance
 16 is around 225 you said?
 17 MS. COOKS: Yeah. I can tell you
 18 exactly.
 19 MR. BENJAMIN: Around 225, and then
 20 we'll get another 195 next year from the levy?
 21 MS. COOKS: Correct. No, no, no, I'm
 22 sorry, let me amend that. We pull 125 from the
 23 levy. And I have taken the \$50,000 that we're
 24 hoping the tax administrator allows to be
 25 transferred, I've taken that out.
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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So that number
 2 reflects minus the \$50,000 transfer?
 3 MS. COOKS: Yes.
 4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Got it.
 5 MR. BENJAMIN: Thank you.
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We don't need to talk
 7 about salary, we understand that. Healthcare,
 8 medical, et cetera, we already understand that.
 9 Anything you want to tell us, Dave?
 10 MR. KOZINSKI: There's not much change
 11 as we never really have much change. We do do
 12 some increases. Like you can see with our wine
 13 tasting, it went up. So with some of these
 14 events, we go 10 percent. Other than that, the
 15 only real changes are with Halloween. You can
 16 see we went from 850 to 2,000. That primarily is
 17 because we're doing an adult party at night now,
 18 which has been very well received. So we intend
 19 to keep it.
 20 And then a buffer actually will be with
 21 our 4th of July, which is our largest event,
 22 which the budget is usually around 21,000, and
 23 then we do the 10 percent increase. This year we
 24 did Bratenahl Days. And I don't have the final
 25 number, but I can probably safely say that we
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1 came in around half of that, because, of course,
 2 the fireworks were 50 percent less.
 3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Sure.
 4 MR. KOZINSKI: Which is the biggest
 5 chunk of change we spend.
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: The fireworks were
 7 included in the Bratenahl Days total.
 8 MR. KOZINSKI: Correct. That was very
 9 well received as well. So we're intending we'll
 10 see how everyone's attitude is for the event, but
 11 I don't foresee us changing it. So I would see
 12 that buffer instead of spending it, we'll be
 13 saving it. So although our budget is here
 14 printed out, we'll be spending less.
 15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Hopefully the world
 16 will be healthier by Memorial Day so we can have
 17 a Memorial Day parade. All right. Everything
 18 else seems right down the line as you've said.
 19 I've compared that with last year. I have last
 20 year's numbers in front of me here. There really
 21 aren't a lot of differences from last year on any
 22 of these events. I don't see that you've added
 23 any events. There's a little bit. Well, there's
 24 about a \$500 increase in Village dance.
 25 MR. KOZINSKI: Well, you know, what we
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1 actually do with that is we have the Village
2 dance, but it wasn't very well received. So
3 we'll use that for another party. So although
4 the line item is staying the same, the budget is
5 staying the same, we're just using it for another
6 event.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Wine tasting,
8 as you said, went up by about \$500.

9 MR. KOZINSKI: And that's three events.

10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah. Not a big
11 deal. All right. Gees, that's pretty simple.
12 Speaker series, who do you have in mind for
13 speakers? Do you have anybody in mind already?

14 MR. KOZINSKI: Sue knows. I don't know
15 for sure.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. It will be
17 interesting. Maybe we can make some
18 recommendations for that, too.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: That would be great.

20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. And,
21 frankly, I did the comparison this afternoon
22 after we received this stuff that we actually got
23 in yesterday afternoon and I really don't see any
24 major increases. I did mention the natural gas
25 cost. And that's actually exactly the same as
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1 what it was last year, 9,000 last year, 9,000
2 this year. And I am a little concerned that
3 that's isn't enough. What did we spend thus far
4 this year?

5 MS. COOKS: I am looking. Year-to-date
6 it's \$4,100, so we have to consider that we have
7 two more months. Who knows what the weather is
8 going to be like. So I left it at nine. This is
9 a half-year appropriation, because if you don't
10 need to appropriate it, I've learned from
11 auditors, don't. So it helps keep our available
12 resources higher. So I did not have to use that
13 other \$4,500.

14 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. That's
15 obviously beyond our control what we spend there.

16 MR. BENJAMIN: I am a little concerned
17 not just with Recreation, but with all of our
18 facilities. I think there was an article in the
19 Plain Dealer just a couple weeks ago that they're
20 expecting natural gas prices to go up as much as
21 30 percent over the course of the next year. So
22 I don't know if it's going to hit that, but it's
23 something that we should keep in mind as we go
24 through the budget that who knows, it may stay
25 the same, it may go up 10 percent.

1 MS. COOKS: So I would recommend,
2 though, that we would reappropriate if we need to
3 instead of budgeting for it right now.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I think that's
5 reasonable. I think I mentioned this earlier,
6 year over year, 12 rolling months, natural gas is
7 up 4.6 percent based on the Bureau of Labor
8 Statistics here, but it's likely to -- in my
9 opinion, likely to go up even more, but that's
10 probably adequate given our use thus far this
11 year.

12 MR. McDONALD: 4,100 you said this year
13 so far? Is that the increase?

14 MS. COOKS: This is through October.
15 No, it's actual.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Keep in mind the most
17 difficult task of the many Diana has is
18 predicting the revenue for next year. The county
19 let's us know what property tax is. We have to
20 work with RITA to come up with an estimate on
21 income tax, Mayor's court, other variables. So
22 when she approaches this, she wants to be as
23 frugal as possible so we don't exceed the
24 estimated resources.

25 Now, the advantage we have as the year
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1 progresses and we start to get actual revenue in,
2 we know what the monies are, it's easy to
3 reappropriate, if need be, if we see the
4 collections are ahead of what we anticipate. So
5 she's very frugal with this budget at the end of
6 the year for first -- for '22, because, again, to
7 estimate what we're going to bring in, I mean,
8 income tax can be anywhere from 1.4 million to
9 2.9 or 2.4 or 2.3. Those variables are huge. So
10 her philosophy, as she mentioned, is
11 reappropriate if needed.

12 MR. McDONALD: I wasn't --

13 MAYOR LICASTRO: We're not being
14 critical.

15 MR. McDONALD: I'm happy with her
16 conservatism.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: When I first started
18 talking to RITA to think about making that
19 conversion from CCA, one of the things they
20 talked to me about and one of the reasons I
21 pushed for them to make that transfer, which we
22 ultimately did, was they had a very good
23 methodology for projecting revenues on a
24 community by community basis. So they could, I
25 would assume, be very, very helpful in that

1 process.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: To that point.

3 MS. COOKS: And they are to that point.

4 I met with actually Brian Thunberg yesterday and

5 he is going to do just that. Also, actually tell

6 us -- so what we've collected so far this year,

7 which is almost staggering, is close to \$2.9

8 million in income tax. And that does not include

9 delinquencies, so we can quite easily be looking

10 at 3 million this year in collections. He does

11 not know if we will get the same thing next year.

12 He would be on the side of caution, but he's

13 going to get those numbers to me within the next

14 week or so.

15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's wonderful. He

16 was my first contact with those guys. That's one

17 of the things he told me about.

18 MS. COOKS: It will be timely, because

19 the county usually comes out early December with

20 both government and property tax.

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: What Brian offered to

22 do, he can look at everything, is it because one

23 taxpayer made a huge payment or is it more broad

24 based across the board that we can expect it to

25 continue, so they're involved. We never got any

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1 of that from CCA. So their involvement is really

2 helpful, because certainly we know it's the most

3 biggest source of revenue and the most volatile.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. The only other

5 thing that really jumps out here from the

6 Recreation standpoint, we have an explanation for

7 this, but I want to point it out if anyone has

8 questions is this is Fund 2041, R/M

9 building/land. And we budgeted last year \$60,000

10 or appropriated \$60,000 for a specific purpose.

11 There's nothing in that category for this year

12 that's been recommended.

13 MS. COOKS: That was not a

14 recommendation from anyone to me.

15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So depending on what

16 we do with the building, we may have to revisit

17 that, but I think it's appropriate not to put

18 that in there this year. I just want to point

19 that out. We know what that was for. Okay. I

20 don't have any other questions.

21 Joyce?

22 MS. BURKE-JONES: Little bit on that

23 point. I'm just adding up since the available

24 resources was 195, counting 50,000 transferred,

25 which would have been for that -- representing

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1 the 60,000 there, so we're actually spending --

2 some of this money is either coming from that

3 amount of money from the transfer or we're using

4 our general fund balance from previous years.

5 MS. COOKS: No. No. No, some of this

6 will be carry-over from this year.

7 MS. BURKE-JONES: That's what I mean,

8 using the carry-over.

9 MS. COOKS: Not the general fund.

10 MS. BURKE-JONES: Excuse me, not general

11 fund, I meant the Rec fund.

12 MS. COOKS: That's correct.

13 MS. BURKE-JONES: So we're going to

14 using it from the previous years. Okay. So

15 we're spending over our typical 125.

16 MS. COOKS: Yes, that is correct.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Now, what this

18 represents overall and what we talked about, if

19 no changes are made, is actually a 19 percent

20 decrease from prior year about almost \$40,000

21 decrease in Rec spending year over year. I like

22 that.

23 MS. BURKE-JONES: So we were over -- I'm

24 still confused about this. So prior use has been

25 spending over our allocated resources for Rec,

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1 the Rec fund?

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: No, no, that's

3 strictly appropriated, what we appropriated last

4 year versus what we appropriated this year, not

5 what we spend.

6 MS. BURKE-JONES: The available

7 resource -- excuse me, we generally get -- about

8 how much money do we get from the Rec fund?

9 MS. COOKS: 125.

10 MS. BURKE-JONES: 125. And our expenses

11 are 177. That means that 177 is more than the

12 typical 125 we get. So we're spending more than

13 we usually get in an annual.

14 MS. COOKS: In any one year.

15 MS. BURKE-JONES: Right, in any one

16 year. And it's just interesting that we're

17 spending more than we're getting basically is

18 what is going on.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: But we have a

20 carry-over that's significant.

21 MS. BURKE-JONES: I understand that.

22 I'm just saying it's still the issue of what's

23 going on. We have a carry-over.

24 MS. COOKS: So if we had no carry-over,

25 we would have to -- someone would have to reduce

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1 the expense.
 2 MS. BURKE-JONES: Right.
 3 MS. COOKS: That's correct.
 4 MS. BURKE-JONES: Just stating what's
 5 going on.
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Yeah. If we
 7 didn't have that sizeable, that's a pretty
 8 sizeable carry-over.
 9 MAYOR LICASTRO: I wish it was in the
 10 general fund.
 11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: No kidding.
 12 Especially because the entire budget for Rec is
 13 177,000. All right. On a percentage basis,
 14 that's quite a lot.
 15 Okay. Any other questions relative to
 16 Recreation budget? Any other concerns? Anything
 17 else anybody wants to add? Okay. I think I'm
 18 good.
 19 MR. KOZINSKI: Cool. We'll turn the
 20 heat off. (Laughter.)
 21 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Please do.
 22 MR. BENJAMIN: Thanks, Dave.
 23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. Why don't
 24 we turn to police next. We know the salary
 25 related issues. We know the medical/dental

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1 information. Are there any specific items that
 2 you want to address that we need to be concerned
 3 about or call our attention to?
 4 CHIEF LOBELLO: A lot of it is pretty
 5 standard with the uniform allowances and the
 6 jail. The jail is potentially less than last
 7 year in part because nobody was being arrested
 8 because of COVID. And it still hasn't rebounded.
 9 We're substantially less for our jail expenses.
 10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: The cost per day or
 11 whatever is exactly the same as last year?
 12 CHIEF LOBELLO: Exactly the same, yes.
 13 It's just the number it makes. We're still
 14 anticipating 2019 numbers. Gasoline we've
 15 already covered. Chagrin Valley Dispatch number,
 16 it's a flat 7 percent increase for all of our
 17 agencies. And we purchased two new cars out of
 18 2021. The 42,000 is to equipped those cars. We
 19 have the cars. The 42,000 is to turn them into
 20 police cars, the radios and cage and therefore.
 21 The training budget on here is pared
 22 down to the bare minimum. This is a rough. I
 23 wouldn't mind seeing that increased a little bit.
 24 But then you go down to special revenue funds,
 25 there's Chagrin Valley at 180, weapons at

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1 \$16,000. The current weapons that we carry, the
 2 Glock model 21 .45 caliber we have had for 10
 3 years now and Glock recommends 10 year shelf
 4 life.
 5 MR. PUFFENBERGER: You and I talked
 6 about that a couple months ago.
 7 CHIEF LOBELLO: Yeah. Then we're
 8 looking to switch from .45 caliber to .9
 9 millimeter, just a whole new weapons platform.
 10 The \$16,000 you see is net. It's trading in our
 11 current weapons and receiving new weapons in that
 12 caliber. Marksmanship incentive is an ordinance.
 13 Dash cams and Axon I have soon-to-be Sergeant
 14 O'Haire here to talk about it. Axon is a
 15 significant jump, but it is a significant
 16 increase in price, but even more significant in
 17 upgrade in service what we're going to get for
 18 it.
 19 The forty-two five is we're looking to
 20 enter a five-year deal. The first payment of
 21 which is due November of this year. So November
 22 of this year within the next couple weeks, first
 23 payment will be due for a five-year commitment.
 24 Because it's so late in the game, rather than do
 25 a five-year equal, they kept 2021's number equal

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1 to where we have been and the rest is prorated
 2 over four years, if that makes sense.
 3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It does.
 4 CHIEF LOBELLO: So that's why the
 5 forty-two five is substantially higher than what
 6 we have been paying. Other than that, I'll turn
 7 it over to soon-to-be Sergeant O'Haire to
 8 explain.
 9 MAYOR LICASTRO: Before we do that, let
 10 me make something clear. So we have Council
 11 members here. We have Councilperson elect. We
 12 have a sergeant elect. Tim has been chosen to
 13 fill the vacancy of sergeant. He'll be sworn in
 14 the day Council to make it formal, but he was one
 15 of four candidates and was the top scorer of the
 16 four. So he's Officer O'Haire only for another
 17 week and then it will be Sergeant O'Haire, so
 18 congratulations.
 19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Congratulations.
 20 (Applause.)
 21 Have you gotten used to calling him
 22 Chief yet?
 23 MR. O'HAIRE: Most of the time.
 24 CHIEF LOBELLO: I'm not used to
 25 answering to it. (Laughter.)

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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I'm confused about
2 one number, excuse me for this, but this is the
3 department fund before -- I'm sorry to interrupt,
4 before I forget to do this. This is Fund 110
5 under dispatch services on the document that you
6 sent us just yesterday.

7 MS. COOKS: Yes.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: And the line item for
9 2021 is 116,351. For 2022, it's 60,151.

10 MS. COOKS: So what I did is I took the
11 annual number, divided it by 12 knowing that the
12 special revenue fund populates over the first
13 quarter of the year. So 60,000 of it is going to
14 come out of the general fund and then the rest
15 will come out of this.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I got it. I see it
17 down here in the special revenue fund. It didn't
18 jive.

19 MS. COOKS: There was a 6 percent
20 increase.

21 CHIEF LOBELLO: 7.

22 MS. COOKS: 7 percent increase. I think
23 I did it in similar fashion last year or maybe I
24 didn't realize until, you know, you're underway
25 that the fund hadn't been populated yet because

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1 we hadn't received it yet.

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Thank you.
3 That confused me. I'm easily confused.

4 CHIEF LOBELLO: If I may address the 7
5 percent increase of CVD. I attended the CVD
6 meeting last month. And that was obviously
7 sticker shock there, but it was explained and
8 justified quite easily that in the era of COVID
9 '20 into '21, there was little, if any, increase.
10 So CVD actually worked at a loss in '21. So
11 they're kicking up contributions 7 percent to
12 cover the loss.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Thank you. I know
14 I've asked this question a number of times over
15 the past couple years as we started using them.
16 But there was some discussion at one point as
17 they add additional communities, that either our
18 cost would come down or at some point we'll get a
19 rebate as they add additional communities and
20 their cost per community then comes down, their
21 fixed costs are covered.

22 Is that still something that's on the
23 table, still something we'll realize at some
24 point?

25 CHIEF LOBELLO: I don't know. I don't

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1 know the answer to that question, but I'll find
2 out.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Thank you. Anything
4 else regarding the police? Anything we need to
5 know about?

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: I think Tim was about
7 to speak.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I know. I just want
9 to make sure we're covering everything in the
10 report before the sergeant jumps in.

11 MR. O'HAIRE: So like Chief said, there
12 is a significant increase in price, but there's
13 even more significant increase of what we're
14 going to get out of there. Currently our dash
15 camera -- I'm sorry, body camera system, it is
16 just body cameras and some storage. With that
17 now we -- over the five years of the plan, they
18 give us a mid contract refresh of the cameras.
19 With the increase in the cameras, it doubled the
20 amount of storage we require. So currently we've
21 been operating at double our contracted storage
22 just because of the enhances of the different
23 cameras.

24 So the new plan will give us unlimited
25 storage. And then it also has a lot of ancillary

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1 functions that are going to be added in. It
2 includes an auto tagging system. So it will take
3 directly from our computer dispatching system and
4 tag the videos with not just date and time, but
5 also call number, call type, report number, make
6 it easier to search on the back end.

7 It also includes what they call Axon
8 Aware, which any time a video is recording, the
9 camera is recording, dispatch or supervisor or
10 even other officers can know the location of that
11 officer on the map. So if there's a foot pursuit
12 or something like that, both dispatch and other
13 officers will be able to find that officer if for
14 whatever reasons are unable to use their radio.
15 So it has a GPS tracking, a lot of other
16 functions. Eventually, live stream feed, too, so
17 in like a critical incident, supervisors or
18 command staff can have live view from officers
19 and not necessarily have to be in the way, so to
20 speak.

21 It also includes new Taser weapons.
22 Currently our tasers, the majority of them are
23 greater than five years of age. Tasers
24 recommendation is five years maximum. And if a
25 lawsuit were to happen involving them, they will

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1 not support you if your weapon is over that age.

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

3 MR. O'HAIRE: It also includes other
4 functions, unlimited training cartridges,
5 unlimited Taser cartridges. It also includes the
6 functions so that when you activate your lights,
7 it will automatically turn on your body cameras;
8 if you were to draw your weapon, it automatically
9 activates the body camera; or if you were to
10 activate a Taser, it automatically activates your
11 body camera.

12 So in a critical incident if for
13 whatever reason the officer didn't have time or
14 wherewithal because they're busy with a dangerous
15 situation to activate the camera, the technology
16 will activate it for them making sure that we
17 catch any kind of incident on camera.

18 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's very cool.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: It is cool.

20 MR. PUFFENBERGER: The word lawsuit
21 caught my attention.

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: Litigation. Litigation.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. Wonderful. Do
24 we need additional equipment to live stream
25 something from a body cam or is that something

1 we'll need to put in the building?

2 MR. O'HAIRE: Axon systems are cloud
3 based. So as long as you have an Axon or
4 Evans.com login, as a supervisor or the other
5 officers, they have the ability to do it. So any
6 computer or phone would have that ability.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's cool.

8 MR. BENJAMIN: There will be
9 opportunities. There are cops grants that are
10 available. One round just closed with Ohio
11 Department of Justice and another one should be
12 opening up sometime next year if we need to get
13 some funding to help fund some of these
14 purchases.

15 MR. O'HAIRE: There are grants that will
16 mitigate the costs.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Thank you. Any
18 questions for the new sergeant?

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: Tim, does this include
20 the dash cams as well? Is that also through
21 Axon?

22 MR. O'HAIRE: There's a second line item
23 on there. Axon does have a new system dash
24 cameras. And the nice thing about them is with
25 them being cloud based, you can access them from

1 anywhere. They integrate together and you can
2 actually do what's called a multi-view camera
3 where on playback you can select this dash
4 camera, this body camera, this body camera and
5 they will automatically sync and allow you to
6 playback using all views at the same time.

7 MAYOR LICASTRO: Wow, that's really
8 cool.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: How cool is that.
10 There's a line item here on 2071 for dash
11 cameras, \$14,000. \$16,000 for the weapons.
12 That's after trade you said. I just wanted to
13 verify that.

14 All right. The Tow Release Fund was
15 something that looked like it was a lot lower
16 than last year. Is there some reason why that
17 was the case?

18 MS. COOKS: This year we have -- Chief.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Sorry to catch you
20 off guard.

21 MS. COOKS: MDTs will come from tow
22 release?

23 CHIEF LOBELLO: Yes, this year.

24 MS. COOKS: This year. So far this
25 year -- I'm trying to get it.

1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: While you're looking
2 that up, another question about the equipment we
3 were just talking about.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: I think she has it.

5 MS. COOKS: I have it. So again, I was
6 to appropriate half year. If I didn't need it, I
7 didn't do the extra appropriations, so it was
8 appropriated at 5,000 this year. So far it's
9 \$3,600 has been spent from that account. But
10 knowing that the Chief wants to buy MDTs, which
11 is a permissible use from that fund, I upped it
12 to 10.

13 MR. TAYLOR: What's MDT?

14 MR. BENJAMIN: Mobile Data Terminals.

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's what they have in
16 the car, Rod. It's their access to what you see
17 on their laptops in the car. It's whatever is
18 needed for access.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Makes it look like a
20 Tesla screen.

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: The tow release, people
22 get their cars towed, they have to pay, and that
23 goes into a restricted fund and has a very narrow
24 use. One of the uses we can engage is for the
25 MDTs.

1 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.
2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: The equipment that
3 you were describing with the dash cams and the
4 trade ins for the guns, will this occur early in
5 the year, late in the year? When will this
6 occur?

7 MR. O'HAIRE: The Axon stuff will be
8 coming within the month.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Within the month?

10 CHIEF LOBELLO: With the understanding
11 of invoice paid after the first of the year.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Right. So it's
13 imminent. It's not something that's going to
14 happen. Okay. So that stuff is available. A
15 lot of things aren't available. That's why I
16 asked the question. We don't have to wait a year
17 get this stuff. Okay.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: There's one detail the
19 Chief wanted to broach regarding CVD and new
20 equipment. Now is the time, Chuck, of the buy in
21 for the new armored vehicle.

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: Yes, I'm sorry. Our
23 contractual obligation to EDGE is \$4,100, that's
24 all formulaic based on population and department
25 size. And at the last EDGE meeting, they were

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1 talking about how our carry-over, for a normal
2 carry-over it's healthy and sufficient, but the
3 two armored vehicles that they currently have,
4 one was owned by the City of Shaker, one is owned
5 by the City of Beachwood, are 17 and 18 years old
6 respectfully. And they're starting to have
7 mechanical issues and needing a lot of money to
8 repair.

9 So their squat team response commander
10 has asked for a new -- it's called a BearCat, the
11 armored vehicle. Asked for a new BearCat. While
12 I don't have the overall price off the top of my
13 head, they have asked if member agencies on top
14 of their contractual formulaic obligation could
15 throw some extra money their way.

16 So I was hoping, I was asking for an
17 extra \$4,000 to -- again, it's a over \$100,000
18 vehicle. And our contribution won't be as near
19 as high as Shaker or Beachwood or Cleveland
20 Heights, but I'm hoping that we can have another
21 \$4,000 to just contribute to throw on top of
22 their money to ease their burden.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I just got an e-mail
24 from Arlene Kemejak before I came here that the
25 understanding is that there's a check coming for

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1 a \$1,000 from them. She was wondering where it
2 was. I said I have no idea, but I wouldn't know.
3 Did we receive that?

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: We have not received
5 that check yet. It's from two residents who are
6 making a donation specifically for the police and
7 specifically for EDGE. And I'm thinking along
8 the same lines. Certainly I think we should
9 earmark that to help make up the 4,000 and see if
10 we can come up with additional funds as well.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: 4,000 to me seems
12 like a reasonable number given it's \$100,000
13 vehicle. How many communities are in EDGE now?

14 CHIEF LOBELLO: Seven.

15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So that's a very
16 small portion of the overall.

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: And we have used the
18 armored vehicle in Bratenahl with a warrant
19 arrest. It was pretty cool to see. It's like a
20 tank. So we've already utilized it. And I think
21 to contribute to purchasing a new one seems
22 reasonable.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Are we obligated
24 contractually to give an amount or this is
25 totally voluntary?

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1 CHIEF LOBELLO: We're obligated to
2 \$4,100, which is our annual prorated amount. And
3 it was just a discussion at the meeting between
4 chiefs and commanders of the various units about
5 it will be really nice if other communities, if
6 the communities could chip in a couple bucks on
7 top.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Do we know if other
9 communities have already committed funds?

10 CHIEF LOBELLO: They have.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: And it's going to be
12 adequate to get \$100,000?

13 MR. BENJAMIN: It's going to be
14 presented at our upcoming budget. It will be
15 good to have a more formalized process where EDGE
16 provides us with, you know, the type of vehicle,
17 the total cost of the vehicle and, you know, then
18 we can make a decision on what our share will be.

19 CHIEF LOBELLO: The last I heard on
20 that, Mr. Benjamin --

21 MR. BENJAMIN: Keith.

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: -- they're still working
23 through the various payment options. They're
24 looking at places of purchases. Putting \$200,000
25 down from a carry-over. They're looking at

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1 exactly what it's going to cost. So they haven't
2 figured out what the out-of-pocket expenses are
3 going to be exactly.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: We don't need to cut
5 that check today. Since we're talking budget, I
6 thought it was an appropriate time.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It is.

8 MR. BENJAMIN: I think it's important.
9 I've been in those vehicles, yeah.

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Really? Like in the
11 backseat?

12 MR. BENJAMIN: I've been in the
13 backseat.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Usually people in the
15 backseat are in handcuffs. (Laughter.)

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It sounds like
17 there's a good story here.

18 MR. BENJAMIN: There are educational
19 opportunities with EDGE as well where the EDGE
20 team would come out and bring out the equipment
21 and residents can come and see how it's used.

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: I'd love to do that. I
23 would love to have their command center out
24 there.

25 MR. BENJAMIN: Maybe that's something we
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1 could do.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Chuck felt that 4,000
3 was appropriate for the size of our community.
4 Other communities are donating a lot more.

5 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, they would have
6 to.

7 CHIEF LOBELLO: I don't think Chief Mays
8 has gotten his number yet, but I think Chief
9 DeMuth from Shaker Heights has volunteered and
10 Chief Stone in Beachwood have come up with their
11 numbers.

12 MR. BENJAMIN: We haven't even started
13 our budget process yet.

14 MS. BURKE-JONES: Are those the same
15 vehicles they show at the air show, the armored
16 vehicles? Because I know I was inside that.
17 They had one at the air show.

18 CHIEF LOBELLO: It's a smaller civilian
19 version. That's a military version.

20 MS. BURKE-JONES: It's smaller. Okay.
21 Cool.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Is that reflected in
23 any of these numbers here at all?

24 CHIEF LOBELLO: No.

25 MAYOR LICASTRO: I asked him to broach
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1 it as an aside.

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: Because the number
4 still isn't specific, but I thought now is a good
5 time to broach it.

6 MS. BURKE-JONES: May I ask, is there a
7 line item for EDGE here? I'm just not noticing
8 it.

9 MS. COOKS: No, there is not.

10 MS. BURKE-JONES: I was looking at in
11 the -- it's not showing up here either, so that's
12 an additional.

13 MS. COOKS: I did write it down and I
14 will add that.

15 MS. BURKE-JONES: All right. Thanks.

16 CHIEF LOBELLO: I think the problem is
17 we didn't initially have it in the 2020 budget.
18 We entered it midway through the year.

19 MS. BURKE-JONES: Sure.

20 MAYOR LICASTRO: We joined right before
21 Trump visited.

22 MS. BURKE-JONES: Right. I remember
23 that.

24 CHIEF LOBELLO: The day before.

25 MAYOR LICASTRO: Literally the day
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1 before. And they were there in full force. They
2 were a great response.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: They certainly were.
4 All right. Canine fund \$5,000. That's adequate?

5 MS. COOKS: It should be.

6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: What did we spend
7 year-to-date?

8 MS. COOKS: So far we've spent \$1,800,
9 but, Chief, isn't one of the cars going to be the
10 K-9 car?

11 CHIEF LOBELLO: Yes, ma'am.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: One of the newly
13 purchased cars?

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: No. The two new cars
15 are going into service as patrol cars. We're
16 taking one of the older cars and refitting it,
17 because it doesn't run as many miles as the other
18 cars.

19 MS. COOKS: Can the equipment be
20 transferred? So it would need to come out of the
21 funds.

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: Yes. I believe --
23 forgive me, I should have verified this. I
24 believe the new car is the \$42,000. I believe
25 that includes retrofitting one of the existing

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1 cars.
2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Officer Lisk told me
3 that directly. It does include what we need for
4 the K-9.

5 CHIEF LOBELLO: So it's \$42,000 here out
6 of the general budget. I assume it can be offset
7 by anything in the canine restricted.

8 MS. COOKS: Yes. It's coming out of the
9 general fund, yes. I can reallocate those funds
10 to the canine fund once I know what they are.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: And this document,
12 the raw data doesn't reflect a motorcycle fund,
13 but the expanded form does. We had a motorcycle
14 fund last year, \$1,227, not a big amount. This
15 is fund 2907. And there's nothing in there for
16 this year. Do we intend to split that out in
17 some way? I know there were expenses for the
18 motorcycle that didn't come out of the motorcycle
19 fund because it stayed the same for month after
20 month after month.

21 MS. COOKS: So Chief, what has happened
22 in the past is whatever those expenses have been,
23 Officer Lisk has taken them out of the general,
24 repair and maintenance. We've asked that he
25 segregate those.

1 CHIEF LOBELLO: He will.

2 MS. COOKS: He will.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: So you need to add that
4 as a special revenue fund?

5 MS. COOKS: No. I'll just appropriate
6 that.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That amount into that
8 for this year.

9 MS. COOKS: The whole amount.

10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: There's nothing in
11 there for this year at all.

12 MAYOR LICASTRO: The expenses on a
13 motorcycles are minimal.

14 MR. TAYLOR: How often do we use the
15 motorcycle?

16 CHIEF LOBELLO: We have manpower issues.
17 If we had the manpower, Patrolman Rodriguez would
18 ride it five days a week.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. That
20 exhausts all my questions for the Police
21 Department. Anyone else have any questions?

22 MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah, Chief, I'm
23 concerned that you don't have enough budgeted for
24 training. You know, officers are more than just
25 safety officers now. They're social workers as

1 well. And is there enough in there to train
2 every officer with deescalation strategies,
3 dealing with responding to mental health crisis,
4 cultural competency issues, things like that. Do
5 you need more money in your budget for training?

6 CHIEF LOBELLO: I share your concern.
7 I'm going to stop short of saying I need more
8 money. I would like to have more money. This is
9 going on an assumption, assumptions are bad, that
10 the state is going to provide a lot of free
11 training in those aspects.

12 The way it usually works is for hot
13 topics issues, such as what you just described,
14 rather than making the individual agencies find
15 the training to do it, they put it out because
16 they want the entire state to be certified. So
17 if those go according to plan, the State of Ohio
18 will offer those for free, but by that time it's
19 backed up at the last minute. So long story
20 short, yes, I'd be far more comfortable with a
21 higher training budget.

22 MR. BENJAMIN: I mean, do you feel like
23 -- I'm familiar the OPOTA the in-person training
24 and then the E-training. And it seems to me the
25 in-person training is so much better than sitting

1 in front of a computer.

2 CHIEF LOBELLO: Hands down.

3 MR. BENJAMIN: Okay. Well, certainly if
4 for any reason you need more money, there's one
5 Councilperson I'm going to --

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: We can always
7 reappropriate that.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Since there's 15,000
9 in there, what did we spend thus far this year?

10 Has the amount you spent in training this year
11 been altered because of the pandemic?

12 CHIEF LOBELLO: It's gone down.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: There's canceled
14 trainings and that kind of thing. That's what my
15 understanding is.

16 CHIEF LOBELLO: Caveat with training,
17 though, is that is how we purchase our ammunition
18 for the year every year. So whatever a leftover
19 from the training budget is what I buy my
20 ammunition with. So there are years when there's
21 very little money leftover, so we buy very little
22 ammunition. If there's a lot of money leftover,
23 we buy a lot of ammunition. That's how we
24 replenish our ammunition. We buy it from the
25 remnants of the training.

1 MAYOR LICASTRO: If I may, so we met
2 with the department heads, specifically police.
3 We looked at funds where they have been
4 under-spent, if you will, and we told Chuck to do
5 just that. I think we had money left in one of
6 the funds. I can't remember which one it was.
7 Since it hadn't been spent, it was a general fund
8 account, to use it to buy ammunition and not make
9 it an expense for 2022, but have an expense for
10 2021, because we had monies left in that
11 particular account, so we did that.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Got it. Go ahead.

13 MS. COOKS: So this year we appropriated
14 17,500. That is half of what Council intended
15 for this year. However, there was an
16 encumbrance, which means that we had enabled
17 money in 2020, that carried over, so our
18 year-to-date expenses were \$10,126. And to the
19 point that the Mayor made, 16,630 of that is now
20 going to be the remaining balance. It's going to
21 be used to buy ammunition.

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: And there are a couple
23 trainings still outstanding, but a vast majority
24 of it.

25 MS. COOKS: Yes. So in years past,
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1 training has been upwards of 25,000.

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. And will there
3 be additional training next year necessary simply
4 because a lot of the training this year had to be
5 cancelled or deferred?

6 CHIEF LOBELLO: I anticipate the doors
7 slamming open for trainings all along the gamut
8 as far as whether it be the societal issues,
9 social issues or firearms training, whatever it
10 may be, I anticipate a lot of training coming up.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I'll put a big circle
12 around that one and consider it. Thank you.

13 CHIEF LOBELLO: Thank you.

14 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's reasonable.
15 All right. I'll ask again any other questions?
16 Any other concerns? Any other input? Okay.
17 Thank you. I think we're done with that for now.

18 We will at some point, since we just got
19 these yesterday, drill down to a fund by fund
20 level. Obviously we're not going to do that
21 tonight, but we wanted the opportunity for each
22 department head to be able to give their input
23 this evening and then we can drill down to that
24 level when we meet again, but this is all very
25 valuable input. Thank you.

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1 MS. BURKE-JONES: Thank you.

2 MR. PUFFENBERGER: What do we have left?

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: Admin.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I guess that's all we
5 have left. We already covered everything, I
6 think, that's in the 2071 fund from other areas.

7 MR. BENJAMIN: Jim, if we're doing
8 admin, can we do Shade Tree first so she doesn't
9 have to sit here?

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Admin will include
11 Shade Tree and it will include Mayor's court and
12 other aspects as well.

13 MR. BENJAMIN: I was thinking if we went
14 first.

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: Absolutely. Jeanne.

16 MR. BENJAMIN: So she doesn't have to
17 sit through everything else.

18 MS. LYONS: I'd like to start by saying
19 that I've been doing this for over a decade. And
20 I have been blessed that no one has been hurt by
21 a falling limb. No car has been crushed. No
22 resident has had a hanger fall on them, and
23 that's because we maintain.

24 That being said, Jason Knowles and I and
25 Dr. Leslie, who is the new person on Shade Tree,
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1 did a level one risk assessment. That means that
2 we looked and identified every tree on the public
3 right-of-way in the whole Village. Because of
4 our aging canopy, we need to take 11 trees that
5 are compromised and have them removed.

6 So when you look at my budget, I have a
7 line item, the necessary tree removals from level
8 one risk assessment, \$9,000. That's not going to
9 touch these removals. I just had a 42-inch
10 Silver Maple removed and the cost for one tree
11 was 4,800, so this is very limiting for me. But
12 I want you to understand that it is because of
13 the liability issues in the Village that we had
14 to do this level one risk assessment.

15 There is an identified list of all of
16 the trees that are compromised. And that is on
17 file, so if there's any issues, we have it in
18 place. Labor costs continue to escalate. And
19 most of these line items that you're looking at,
20 except the trees, the trees are locked in, the
21 cost of the trees are locked in, but most of the
22 line items are guesstimates.

23 You have before you the 30 slender
24 silhouette Sweetgums I would like to plant. I
25 still have to apply for my permit from ODOT, but

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1 we did have a meeting with ODOT and it went quite
2 well. There's going to be three extra Sweetgums,
3 three extra crab apples planted by the service
4 garage, because there will be a tree that will be
5 hit. Trust me. It happens almost every two
6 years somebody jumps, jumps the median. So 52
7 trees sounds like a lot of trees, but there are
8 six that will be planted over by the service
9 garage.

10 I broke the budget down into no grant
11 funding and grant match, 50/50 match funding.
12 Jason and I applied for a canopy grant again
13 through the Ohio Department of Transportation.
14 And it is 22,519 if we receive the funding. And,
15 of course, that has to be matched, a 50/50 match.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: That's ODNR.

17 MS. LYONS: I'm sorry, ODNR. The Shade
18 Tree restricted fund has been -- its inception
19 was probably five years ago. It is monies that
20 was given to Shade Tree by residents to support
21 the Shade Tree Commission. So I'm going to have
22 to tap that this year, which I really didn't want
23 to do, because I cannot use any of the funding
24 from the grant match for taking care of trees,
25 maintaining trees. It has to be strictly

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1 planting new trees.

2 So this is really bare bones for me this
3 year because of the risk assessment, but I want
4 to get the median done. I'm tired of the
5 complaints. And I want to get as many trees
6 removed from this assessment as possible. Any
7 questions?

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, we know that
9 ODOT at one point in the past wouldn't allow us
10 to put trees like that. What changed their mind
11 about this?

12 MS. LYONS: John, I'm going to defer to
13 you on that.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you. We have a
15 great rapport with ODOT. We actually set up a
16 conference call with five or six members of ODOT.
17 Jeanne was on the call. Diana as well. And told
18 them the need we had. The fact we're getting
19 such negative feedback on how now it's
20 configured, the median. We made certain they
21 knew the type of tree, how tall the trees were,
22 the fact they're salt resistant, how far they are
23 from the intersections. We were on the call for
24 just about an hour.

25 There's a permitting process that we're

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1 now working through, but they gave pending that
2 we address all those points, which we will, they
3 gave us approval for those type of trees to be
4 planted in the median.

5 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's wonderful.

6 MS. LYONS: I'd love to get some kind of
7 statement from them that they can't change their
8 mind again.

9 MAYOR LICASTRO: So the permit will be
10 definitive, but they gave us a clear path to
11 obtain the fund.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Wonderful. And
13 that's what it will look like. That looks very
14 nice.

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: They are Columnar and
16 Habit, so they're very slender.

17 MS. LYONS: They're planted on 10 foot
18 centers. They don't get much wider than eight
19 feet. They will grow to about 40 feet. They
20 will have to be staked the first year, because
21 that whole corridor is a wind tunnel coming from
22 the lake, so it will all have to be staked, but I
23 think with the crab apples on the ends and the
24 Sweetgums in the middle, I think it will be a
25 really nice mix of stately trees and flowering

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1 trees. And it creates texture, variety interest,
2 and I think it will be a beautiful Eddy Road
3 median when we're done.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: And these Sweetgums
5 trees do not produce the -- we used to call them
6 monkey balls when we were a kid. If you threw
7 them hard enough, they would actually stick in
8 someone's skin. It was wild on Coit Road when I
9 was a kid, but these do not produce those. They
10 can be really trashy trees, the Sweetgum. These
11 do not produce the monkey ball.

12 MS. BURKE-JONES: Let me ask you a
13 question. What about protecting those trees,
14 because you know how often we've had cars leaping
15 over the median and we want to protect these
16 trees. What can we do?

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: Well, what Jeanne did,
18 she put in three additional trees of each variety
19 we can keep at Village park to replace the ones
20 when they're hit, because they're going to be
21 hit, but if we start putting up fencing and
22 guardrails, it's going to really ruin the look.

23 MS. BURKE-JONES: I realize. It is
24 beyond belief how they actually cannot even know
25 there's a median and just go right over it.

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1 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's more than
 2 unbelievable.
 3 MS. LYONS: My cost per tree is around
 4 \$360 because it's wholesale.
 5 MS. BURKE-JONES: The plan will be if
 6 indeed a car -- we would just replace the trees
 7 as cars would mutilate them.
 8 MS. LYONS: Yes.
 9 MAYOR LICASTRO: And the trees we have
 10 will be on the same growth cycle, if you will,
 11 because we're buying them all at the same time.
 12 We're not going to have one tree small while the
 13 others are a certain height.
 14 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Well, it should
 15 certainly be more apparent there's a median there
 16 when there's a tree versus a short plant.
 17 MS. BURKE-JONES: Of course, in the
 18 winter in the evening who knows.
 19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, I suppose
 20 that's true. Is the alteration to the irrigation
 21 system specifically for these trees or are there
 22 other issues there?
 23 MS. LYONS: Correct. Regular is the
 24 most efficient. Regular irrigation is the most
 25 efficient and cost effective.

1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So we don't have any
 2 other issues with the irrigation system. It's
 3 just to take care of the trees.
 4 MR. TAYLOR: They're salt resistant you
 5 said?
 6 MS. LYONS: Yes.
 7 MAYOR LICASTRO: The biggest offender is
 8 when ODOT comes off the freeway when they're
 9 salting, they come down Eddy, make a U-turn and
 10 the salt spreader is going full bore, they just
 11 blast that area with salt. It saves us money on
 12 salt, but ODOT would only approve it if we made
 13 sure we use salt resistant trees.
 14 MS. MEADE: Jeanne, what are you going
 15 to use as a ground cover, mulch or just grass?
 16 MS. LYONS: Just this year. Next year
 17 will be mulch, something simple. Then we're
 18 going to add something of interest.
 19 MAYOR LICASTRO: We plugged in 30,000
 20 for Shade Tree before we got this level of
 21 detail. So just so you understand when you look
 22 at admin, you'll see that number under Shade
 23 Tree. Knowing Jeanne was making a presentation,
 24 we deferred to that.

1 ballpark.
 2 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's close. I did
 3 speak to ODNR. They want to be generous with
 4 these grants, so hopefully they'll come through
 5 with us.
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: What are the grants
 7 valued at this time around?
 8 MAYOR LICASTRO: Twenty-two five.
 9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Twenty-two five.
 10 MS. LYONS: Keith, do you know when
 11 funding will be available in '22?
 12 MR. BENJAMIN: It should be in the next
 13 -- by the end of the year, I would hope.
 14 MS. LYONS: And funding would be
 15 available, right, in 2022?
 16 MR. BENJAMIN: And then they would do
 17 another round, yeah. It should be soon.
 18 Cuyahoga County may also have a round for tree
 19 canopy as well next year, so there will be
 20 additional opportunities.
 21 MS. HUFFMAN: Jeanne, in the lifecycle
 22 of the tree for the median, how tall do they get?
 23 MS. LYONS: It's anywhere from 40 to 50
 24 feet. That would be max.
 25 MS. HUFFMAN: Over like, what, 10, 15

1 years?
 2 MS. LYONS: Yeah, probably 20 years.
 3 MR. TAYLOR: Diameter of the trunk at
 4 full growth will be?
 5 MS. LYONS: Probably six inches.
 6 MAYOR LICASTRO: The tree gets no more
 7 than eight feet in dynamometer, so they're very
 8 slender, which will suit the median well.
 9 MS. HUFFMAN: I heard you say that you
 10 have identified level one risk trees that need to
 11 come down. If we know of a tree or feel like
 12 there's a tree that needs to be on that list, can
 13 we let you know?
 14 MS. LYONS: Absolutely.
 15 MAYOR LICASTRO: Gina, we're taking them
 16 down. We took one down last week. We're not
 17 waiting for new monies to do it. If it's a
 18 safety issue, it's coming down.
 19 MS. HUFFMAN: Please come to Foster.
 20 (Laughter.)
 21 MS. BURKE-JONES: Carefully come to
 22 Foster. (Laughter.)
 23 MAYOR LICASTRO: We've done a survey,
 24 but if anyone is aware of a tree that's
 25 compromised, I think there was one on Foster we

1 look at that was not compromised. But if you're
2 aware of a tree that's compromised, let us know.
3 Jeanne is familiar with pretty much every tree in
4 the entire Village. God bless her.

5 MS. LYONS: I have an intimate
6 relationship with every tree in this Village.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Have you named them
8 all? Do you call them by name as you go by?
9 (Laughter.) Thank you, Jeanne.

10 MS. LYONS: Thank you.

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: So can I run with this?

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Sure. A couple
13 things jumped out at me. I just wanted to do
14 that real quick. Number one is the first item
15 that really jumped out we haven't discussed yet
16 was HR related costs. There's 5,000 in here.
17 It's double last year, but I don't know if that's
18 enough. We have one thing we're considering just
19 the employee manual alone was estimated to be
20 \$6,000 by itself.

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: I agree. I have yet to
22 get other quotes on that. I'm still working on
23 that. But, again, it was a placeholder. I think
24 that should be indeed more than that, so we just
25 started with that number.

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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. So that's
2 something we need to consider looking at. Do we
3 have a legislation available or is legislation
4 being prepared relative to that particular
5 quotation yet?

6 MAYOR LICASTRO: No, because I haven't
7 gotten the other bids yet.

8 MR. PUFFENBERGER: You won't have them
9 by next week?

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: No, I won't have them
11 by next week, but I hope to have them by
12 December.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. So we may want
14 to put something a little higher in there as a
15 placeholder just so we have a better idea where
16 we need to be. And it could be as high as
17 \$10,000.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: So may I proceed?

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Go right ahead.

20 MAYOR LICASTRO: So I'm going to come
21 back to direct appropriations and salary related
22 costs. There's some detail there, but let's go
23 down to under operating. By the way, the
24 healthcare reflects the 10 percent increase as we
25 discussed. Under operations/utilities,

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1 electricity, natural gas, we increased that by
2 the same percentage.

3 MS. COOKS: 10 percent.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: Water and sewer.
5 Telephone, we have a telephone system that's well
6 over 15 years old. It is antiquated and
7 difficult to use. We have a new system that
8 Diana has been researching. And this number
9 reflects the cost of that new system; is that
10 correct?

11 MS. COOKS: It does. And also, it
12 includes an annual cost. These phones are
13 considered Pack 'n Play, so to speak. So last
14 year when we experienced COVID and many people
15 were at home, we did not have the luxury of using
16 our phones at home. So this system will allow
17 you to pick them up and go wherever is necessary.
18 They are cloud based. And you can use them in
19 those types of situations where you're home. Ms.
20 Kreiner can speak more to the system, the
21 telephone system.

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: We're talking about the
23 new phone system. Do you want to give us some
24 detail on that, please, the capabilities.

25 MS. KREINER: Yeah. The capabilities,
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1 first of all, is that it's VPN, so we're not
2 stuck being -- as we experienced with COVID, we
3 couldn't forward our phones to anything but
4 phones inside the building. We're still running
5 on a server system, so it would have that
6 portability. It had new phones. We haven't had
7 new phones in 20 years. Quality, the quality of
8 our audio on the phones has deteriorated pretty
9 -- voicemails are kind of a joke, too.

10 So I think what he was looking at, and I
11 wasn't in on the initial meeting, but it had a
12 lot of capabilities that we were looking for.
13 Most importantly, portability, the ability to --
14 if we moved to another building, all we do is
15 unplug our phone and it follows us wherever we
16 go. We can use it from home. It's headset
17 capability. You know, a lot of us don't have
18 that. Our phones right now don't have that
19 ability to add those.

20 And I think it also kind of tied into, I
21 think Roy said, we have some issues with a couple
22 cameras inside the buildings right now. And this
23 system would allow us to expand that a little
24 bit. It's kind of all-encompassing. So I'm not
25 quite sure where that falls into the telephone

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1 system. And the capability of it would allow us
2 when we add additional people, it's much easier
3 to get voicemails assigned and things like that,
4 which right now it's a little draconian as to
5 what we have to do. We have to put somebody out
6 to put somebody in. So that's basically what it
7 is. It would tie all of the departments
8 together, so whether it's Sue here --

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That cost would cover
10 administration, police.

11 MS. KREINER: I believe so. It would
12 cover all the buildings and put them all, no
13 matter who is where or what, because it would be
14 over the Internet and not opposed to just a
15 server sitting in the basement with a phone line
16 coming in.

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: This is a cost
18 estimate. We have yet to get a formal quote. We
19 are in the process of doing that. This is
20 approximately what it will cost. And again, a
21 20-year-old system, it's time to be replaced.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Diana, you mentioned
23 there's an annual cost. I assume that's related
24 to the cloud?

25 MS. COOKS: It is. Our contract with
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1 Easton Telephone is ending. So this will be the
2 opportune time to make that transition.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Do we have an
4 estimate on the annual cost?

5 MS. COOKS: So Easton is like 12,000 a
6 year.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Right.

8 MS. COOKS: So there is a decrease of
9 about 50 percent on our monthly charges, so
10 around 500. So around \$10,000 a year will be for
11 phone service that is cloud based.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

13 MS. KREINER: I think, though, we have
14 to take into account the equipment, so we have a
15 one time equipment purchase for our phones, for
16 our actual equipment.

17 CHIEF LOBELLO: Does it go down if the
18 Internet goes down?

19 MS. COOKS: No, that's the great thing,
20 because we've had a couple situations over the
21 past couple years where that box goes down.

22 MS. KREINER: Well, the server, yes,
23 when the battery pack, when the generator --

24 MS. COOKS: We didn't have phones for a
25 week.

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1 MR. BENJAMIN: Well, what happens if the
2 Internet goes? These are voiceover protocols. I
3 guess the issue with you're kind of trading one
4 potential issue for another potential issue.

5 MS. KREINER: If we didn't have
6 electricity, it would be the same problem.

7 MR. BENJAMIN: I like the idea these are
8 truly Pack 'n Play, depending on what we all
9 decide as a community on the future of these
10 buildings and where they go, to be able to take
11 the phone system and plug it right back in.

12 MAYOR LICASTRO: Exactly right.

13 MS. KREINER: Also, we don't have the
14 ability to forward our actual phones. I'm just
15 taking COVID, for example. So in the two weeks
16 when we were closed, I had no way to forwarding
17 my actual phone to my cellphone or to anywhere
18 else, where these you could do that. So I had to
19 kind of look at that and say if we were web based
20 it would be so much easier, you know, Internet
21 based we could do so much more.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I should think
23 there's some sort of a backup. In the security
24 system on the house that's Internet based, when
25 it goes it goes to the cell tower.

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1 MR. BENJAMIN: Yeah, it switches to the
2 cell.

3 MS. KREINER: Jim, I believe that caveat
4 is in there. There is some sort of where -- he
5 has some sort of -- I was not at the secondary
6 meeting. I researched them prior to this, too.
7 And he said there is always a backup for you if
8 the Internet goes down, that they would pick it
9 up and send it somewhere else.

10 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I would think that's
11 pretty standard.

12 MR. TAYLOR: Especially for the Police
13 Department, the backup.

14 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Absolutely.

15 MS. BURKE-JONES: Can they save
16 electricity, save power?

17 MS. KREINER: Well, it could. He said
18 it would save whatever it takes to run that
19 little server we have downstairs and the battery
20 backup.

21 MS. BURKE-JONES: I was just thinking we
22 do have grant funds if we're saving energy, but
23 it would have to be a lot more than that. I'm
24 just asking. I'm just asking.

25 MAYOR LICASTRO: Okay. If I can
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1 continue, under IT related 33,000 includes TAP,
 2 which is our computer support company.
 3 CivicPlus, which is our website, there's a major
 4 upgrade on that. And the Spectrum Internet
 5 access, which is \$589 a month, which, of course,
 6 has everything we do is Internet based.
 7 \$54,000 for rubbish is straightforward.
 8 Operating, et cetera, repair buildings and land.
 9 That's sort of a placeholder. We put that much
 10 in every year. The court computer fund, 3,000 of
 11 that goes to Ms. Kreiner as our court computer
 12 administrator. And we try to buy as much as we
 13 can from this restrictive fund. It's generated,
 14 I think \$5 from every ticket goes into this fund
 15 and we try to use it aggressively for things that
 16 relate to the court computers.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: What goes into other
 18 qualified items? Can you give examples of what
 19 would be in there?

20 MS. COOKS: Ms. Kreiner.

21 MS. KREINER: Okay. Replacing printers,
 22 replacing computers. We purchased two external
 23 hard drives, you know, things like that. I do
 24 that. And we also for prosecutors, because in
 25 Cleveland, we purchased some things for the
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1 police computers to, you know, DVDs. They have
 2 to burn a DVD for an OVI to put in the case file.

3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. That's enough.
 4 I was curious what kind of items.

5 MAYOR LICASTRO: As much as we legally
 6 can. The 215,000 is an estimate we discussed
 7 with Mr. Matty. We thought that would be
 8 sufficient.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's identical to
 10 last year.

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: It is. Hopefully we
 12 don't have as much litigation.

13 MR. PUFFENBERGER: One can only hope.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: Other contractual
 15 services includes CT Consultants. That is our
 16 Village planner, Kris Hopkins.

17 MS. BURKE-JONES: How much do you have
 18 identified for that?

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: About 18,000. It
 20 includes the extra engineering cost we have from
 21 Mr. Bierut and then.

22 MS. BURKE-JONES: How much is that?

23 MAYOR LICASTRO: She's looking it up.
 24 Then our court reporter also comes out of this
 25 particular fund, out of the 95,000. While she's

1 looking it up, let me continue.

2 The magistrate includes the magistrates
 3 themselves, they make \$200 an hour, plus
 4 training. We all have to be trained, upgraded on
 5 a yearly basis. We now have a new magistrate. I
 6 would ask Council to strongly consider making
 7 Chuck Bauernschmidt our administrative judge. He
 8 was great as we went through a transition in
 9 magistrates. He does most of the courts. He is
 10 just very efficient, does a lot of scheduling for
 11 us of the magistrates. I'd ask this body to
 12 increase his stipend from 200 to 250 an hour,
 13 which would be about a \$1,300 a year increase.
 14 Hardly overwhelming. And Chuck is well deserved.
 15 I know he's spoken to you some of you personally
 16 on how he thinks he should have an increase.

17 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I have an interesting
 18 letter from him.

19 MAYOR LICASTRO: It hasn't changed. You
 20 didn't do it last year.

21 MS. BURKE-JONES: It has been a number
 22 of years since we've increased. I was going to
 23 mention it also just as it related to another --
 24 for the housing.

25 MAYOR LICASTRO: And if you saw the
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1 wardrobes he wore to court, that alone would
 2 mandate an increase in salary. He gets
 3 everything on Ebay. I'll be there wearing my
 4 best suit. Nobody notices what I wear. They'll
 5 say, "Judge, I love that suit." It will be pink.
 6 It will be purple with ascots. I'm serious. It
 7 is something to behold. We often thought we
 8 could do a calendar and have Chuck's outfits on
 9 January, February, sell it and make a lot of
 10 money. He's been magistrate for 25 years and
 11 does a great job.

12 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Do we have a
 13 normalized position on the books as
 14 administrative judge?

15 MAYOR LICASTRO: No, we do not.

16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So we have to
 17 establish that.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Again, we're making
 19 recommendations.

20 MR. TAYLOR: We have no administrative
 21 just at this point?

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: That's correct. We
 23 have magistrates. I'd like to designate one
 24 individual as administrative judge and that would
 25 obviously be Mr. Bauernschmidt.

1 MS. COOKS: Magistrate.
 2 MAYOR LICASTRO: What did I say?
 3 Magistrate, I'm sorry.
 4 MS. COOKS: 50,000 is allocated per
 5 year. Same number for Chagrin Valley
 6 Engineering. Molnar Reporting is 11,400. And
 7 then 18,000 for CT Consultants.
 8 MS. BURKE-JONES: What about our Village
 9 architect, because on the line item two years
 10 ago, where we originally put it, we had put it on
 11 the same line item as Chagrin Valley Engineering.
 12 You had not attended the meetings, you know, the
 13 budget meeting and not known that we had
 14 identified that number for the engineer and
 15 architect, so where is our --
 16 MAYOR LICASTRO: I don't think those
 17 numbers, if you add them, total 95. I think we
 18 have room in there to include Van Auken Akins.
 19 MS. BURKE-JONES: I just remember that
 20 we had identified the number long ago Chagrin
 21 Valley Engineering 50, and that was going to be
 22 including both the architect and engineer in
 23 that. And it will be nice to look at the numbers
 24 what we have spent, because at that time, you
 25 know, we said we don't know how much it's going
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1 to be, how much have we spent for the Village
 2 architect. So it might be a nice time to relook
 3 at that category.
 4 MAYOR LICASTRO: Sure. We'll see if we
 5 can fit it here or somewhere else. Keeping Van
 6 Auken Akins as a member of our staff, if you
 7 will, has been very helpful.
 8 So moving to professional salaries, this
 9 includes Scott Packard, our building inspector,
 10 our prosecutors for Mayor's Court, and Mr.
 11 Bierut's retainer. A portion of what we pay Don
 12 comes out of a out of retainer that's included in
 13 the 101,000.
 14 Casualty insurance, that's hopeful given
 15 our cost runs.
 16 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's a concern.
 17 MAYOR LICASTRO: I cannot predict. In
 18 talking to Custis, we came up with this number,
 19 but it's really a guesstimate. We won't know
 20 until it's bid. Last year, as you know, we only
 21 had one company that bid. There was discussion
 22 of our joining our communities. Other
 23 communities don't want us because we would really
 24 bring --
 25 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Last year there was
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1 an increase of something like 40 percent.
 2 MAYOR LICASTRO: That's right.
 3 MR. PUFFENBERGER: This is taking into
 4 account what kind of an increase?
 5 MAYOR LICASTRO: It's a number we just
 6 came up with Custis. I don't know until we
 7 actually bid it.
 8 MS. COOKS: We went from 60 to 70, so
 9 it's a 15 percent increase.
 10 MR. McDONALD: Why are we so
 11 unattractive?
 12 MAYOR LICASTRO: Because insurance
 13 companies look at cost runs. How much did we
 14 actually cost them? So they like the cost of
 15 what they pay out to be less than 80 percent of
 16 the premium.
 17 MR. McDONALD: I understand. What
 18 causes us to be more expensive?
 19 MAYOR LICASTRO: Litigation. Some of it
 20 is traffic accidents. The major portion is
 21 litigation. And whether you think it's frivolous
 22 or not, it still costs us money. We have four
 23 working lawsuits now, as you're aware. And how
 24 those are adjudicated will determine by and large
 25 the quotes. Really, I'm hopeful that someone
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1 quotes. Last year only one company did. I hope
 2 we don't reach a point where no one quotes.
 3 So, Jim, you're right, 15 percent might
 4 not be enough. We thought the discussion with
 5 Custis is a good place to start.
 6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay. So we have
 7 time to discuss that.
 8 MAYOR LICASTRO: We do. That doesn't
 9 come up until April.
 10 MS. COOKS: April or May.
 11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right.
 12 MAYOR LICASTRO: Two other items we
 13 mentioned HR related. Now, not on this sheet,
 14 but in the spreadsheet we put in 5,000 for
 15 marketing. That's not enough. Keith has been
 16 very helpful. He's already talking about getting
 17 quotes.
 18 MR. BENJAMIN: I can speak a little to
 19 that if you'd like.
 20 MAYOR LICASTRO: Go ahead.
 21 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Feel free.
 22 MR. BENJAMIN: I have handouts. Again,
 23 we don't have to come to any decisions tonight,
 24 but we can just have a discussion. You can look
 25 it over and then have a discussion about how we
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1 want to move forward and what we want to budget
2 for in the next year.

3 So the first thing I'm handing out is
4 from our branding plan that we did back in 2019.
5 Anyone else want a copy? One for me. I believe
6 it's on our website, too. This is just the part
7 that deals with the signs. But you'll see that
8 when we went through the marketing branding
9 process, guides and wayfinding, Guide Studio
10 recommended four strategic locations to put
11 potential new signs. Some would be monument
12 signs, some would be smaller entry pole signs
13 where they could fit. I wanted to make sure that
14 you had a copy of that.

15 And so in the last couple weeks I went
16 back and I asked Guide Studio to give us a quote
17 on what the cost would be for design development
18 and to put a bid package together for us. So
19 just quickly going through this, again, it's
20 design development, putting together the bid
21 package. It includes some public meetings,
22 kick-off meetings, presentation to Council and
23 residents. And then the bid specs, so we could
24 go out to bid for these. So their consulting
25 costs total \$5,400. So my recommendation would
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1 be at minimum that we budget for this process in
2 2022, if not actual implementation of the sign
3 clarification and installation.

4 MS. BURKE-JONES: Can I ask, is this
5 based on a projected cost for this? Because
6 sometimes it is.

7 MR. BENJAMIN: No. That's their design
8 fee.

9 MS. BURKE-JONES: No matter what it is.

10 MR. BENJAMIN: Right.

11 MR. TAYLOR: What will the signage
12 actually cost?

13 MR. BENJAMIN: That's what I'm handing
14 out next. This is just an estimate from Guide
15 Studio. They do monument signs and pole signs
16 all over Northeast Ohio, so all over Ohio.

17 MR. TAYLOR: South Euclid?

18 MR. BENJAMIN: South Euclid included,
19 Colorado, several cities in Colorado as well.

20 Again, we don't have to -- if Council wants to go
21 out and do an RFQ for other consultants, we can
22 do that as well. I just asked for some estimates
23 on what it would cost for signage. And so a pole
24 sign, a gateway pole sign is about -- they're
25 about \$5,000. You'll see she's referring back,

1 Kathy is referring back to this page where you
2 have a pole sign as an entry sign, so those are
3 around \$5,000. The large masonry gateway signs
4 are about \$25,000 each. And the smaller ones are
5 about \$15,000. And those include the stone
6 veneer. So if we were going to budget, obviously
7 we could go out to bid for the actual
8 construction of the signs, but it would probably
9 be around \$70,000.

10 MAYOR LICASTRO: Keith, may I recommend
11 -- by the way, thank you for this legwork. I
12 think we should include the Architectural Review
13 Board and get an opinion and maybe the Planning
14 Commission as far as what type of sign is
15 preferred.

16 MR. BENJAMIN: Of course.

17 MAYOR LICASTRO: And then once we get
18 input, recommendations from them, leave it up to
19 Council to decide, either agree with the
20 recommendation or take a different path.

21 MS. MEADE: Does ODOT have any grants
22 for signage?

23 MR. BENJAMIN: Does what?

24 MS. MEADE: Does ODOT provide grants for
25 signage?

1 MR. BENJAMIN: Not really, no, not that
2 I've seen.

3 MAYOR LICASTRO: ODOT does not have
4 jurisdiction on our streets. This is the
5 boulevard.

6 MR. BENJAMIN: Now, we're pretty much on
7 our own if you want to do gateway entrance signs.
8 If you want to do something unique and do a sign
9 that lit up or was powered by solar, some of
10 those, for example we can creatively use some of
11 those NOPEC funds.

12 MS. MEADE: Lake Shore is part of the
13 scenic byway. So I didn't know if ODOT does work
14 on scenic byways projects since they actually
15 improve scenic byways.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Their signs indicate
17 it's a scenic byway. This is over and above
18 that.

19 MS. MEADE: Right.

20 MR. BENJAMIN: So again, we don't have
21 to -- tonight has gone long. We can take it,
22 think about it and we can discuss what we want to
23 do at the next or next Finance Committee meeting.

24 MR. PUFFENBERGER: What was your
25 recommendation in terms of timing?

1 MR. BENJAMIN: Well, minimally I think
2 we should budget for the design and the bid
3 specs.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That would only add
5 \$400 to what's here?

6 MR. BENJAMIN: So that's 5,400. It
7 would be great to be able to -- I mean,
8 personally I'd love to see four new signs up at
9 our entrances by next fall if we have the funds
10 in our general fund to pay for it.

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: So knowing we had an
12 unexpected influx of income tax for this year, if
13 Council is in agreement, let's put the Guide
14 quote to do the process for 5,400 on the agenda
15 for December so we can get that ball rolling and
16 have it happen sooner than later. We have the
17 funds this year, we know we do. It doesn't put a
18 burden on '22. Does anyone think that's a bad
19 idea?

20 MR. BENJAMIN: Use 2021 funds for this?

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: Yes, for the \$5,400
22 amount. That's what I would suggest.

23 MR. BENJAMIN: I don't have a problem
24 with that.

25 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I'm perfectly
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1 comfortable with that.

2 MS. BURKE-JONES: Obviously you've
3 worked with this firm before?

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: Oh, yes, they're great.

5 MS. BURKE-JONES: That's all.

6 MR. BENJAMIN: They do lot of work in
7 Northeast Ohio, University Circle, Tremont, I
8 think Ohio City.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All right. So we do
10 not have this appropriated for this year, so we
11 need to make a motion to do so. So I'd like to
12 move that we -- we have enough people. So I'd
13 like to move that we recommend that we spend
14 \$5,400 this year and create the legislation
15 necessary for their next meeting.

16 MS. BURKE-JONES: I so move.

17 MR. McDONALD: So move.

18 MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor?

20 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

21 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: We're getting close to
23 done. Can I go for a minute? We want to be out
24 of here by 7:30.

25 There were some nuances that I need to
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1 specify under direct appropriation, salary
2 related. So we did put in \$15,000 for our legal
3 intern. And, Gina, that's worked out great. It
4 is just a fabulous young man. We love him. If
5 anyone talks to Josh, you'll immediately buy
6 stock in Chick-fil-A. He is the most avid
7 Chick-fil-A fan I've ever seen in my life. For
8 his birthday this year, we brought in
9 Chick-fil-A. He said that it was the best
10 birthday he ever had, and he's 26.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Deb would challenge
12 him on that. She could live on Chick-fil-A.

13 MAYOR LICASTRO: I mean, he knows what
14 they have for breakfast. Have some fun and ask
15 him what to order. I thought 26 years old and
16 this is the best birthday you've ever had. It
17 was a low bar.

18 MR. PUFFENBERGER: That's great. Now,
19 what did we spend on him this year?

20 MS. COOKS: We're almost approaching 15,
21 because we -- it's \$15 an hour for about 20 hours
22 a week, so we're at about 13,000 now.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Okay.

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: The pressure he takes
25 off Diana with his work on public records is

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1 marvelous. You have to come in and meet him.
2 He's a great young man.

3 MS. HUFFMAN: Then, Mayor, you know I'm
4 going to make my push for the remainder of those
5 intern possibilities that can certainly help
6 Village administration with capacity, so that you
7 all can get back to other things that are really,
8 really important and be able to fill some gaps.
9 I'm sure we can talk about that at another time.
10 I certainly want to put that out there.

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: And, Gina, we
12 appreciate that. And this next topic relates to
13 that. Understanding that we don't have room for
14 any other interns in Village Hall. I mean, Josh
15 and I work in this kind of proximity, so that's
16 why I know what he has for lunch every day.
17 Because we have a strong need for what we're
18 going to call a website coordinator, this will be
19 a new position. This individual would update and
20 maintain the website for the Village. Basic
21 responsibilities would include producing and
22 updating web content in the Village website,
23 managing, directing the activities and traffic on
24 a website.

25 In addition, the coordinator will work
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1 in close contact with all Village departments and
2 website provider to meet all needs specification
3 regarding the site. This would include page
4 updates. Now, things like that we already do.
5 The big thing is agendas. It takes about 10 or
6 12 hours a month for Mary Ranney and Diana Cooks
7 to do postings, agendas, document, Planning
8 Commission, ARB, all boards, all commissions,
9 committees, Council, it takes an inordinate
10 amount of time. This individual would take that
11 upon themselves and do it for us. It would also
12 maintain and update individual pages on the
13 website for all departments and, of course,
14 troubleshooting.

15 We'd like to use someone already on
16 staff for this purpose. And it is a quarter pay.
17 It's considered a quarter pay approximately, so
18 it's about \$10,000 a year. Money well
19 worthwhile. I don't know if you want to speak
20 about how much time you spend doing agendas and
21 all that. It's crazy how much time it takes.

22 MS. COOKS: I think you summed it up.
23 It takes quite a bit of time to make sure that I
24 have all the documents I need, to post it on the
25 website, you know, making sure that it's posted
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1 properly. For Council next week, I'm going to
2 probably spend about six hours on Monday posting
3 and getting documents ready.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: And because the
5 documents we post are generated internally, it
6 will be hard for someone to do this off-site as
7 an intern. Believe me, we know it's a cheaper
8 alternative. Although, 10 grand isn't that much,
9 but we're asking Council to consider creating
10 this new position and a job description.

11 MR. PUFFENBERGER: I envision this
12 individual having control over social media as
13 well.

14 MAYOR LICASTRO: That's correct.

15 MR. BENJAMIN: That was going to be my
16 question, too. We can add to this job
17 description social media and marketing.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Exactly. They would be
19 the go to individual.

20 MR. BENJAMIN: E-newsletter development,
21 things like that.

22 MR. PUFFENBERGER: We obviously need to
23 do something to the website sooner than later.
24 It's not a good website as it exists.

25 MR. McDONALD: Is 10,000 adequate?
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1 MAYOR LICASTRO: 10,400. Is that what
2 you're asking, Tom?

3 MR. McDONALD: Yes.

4 MAYOR LICASTRO: 10,400 for this
5 position and we would include social media, et
6 cetera, et cetera.

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Social media follows
8 outbound marketing as well. That's a whole
9 different thing.

10 MR. BENJAMIN: Right.

11 MS. BURKE-JONES: So this is a new
12 person.

13 MAYOR LICASTRO: No, we would use Angela
14 Fernandes, who is our Deputy Clerk of Court. She
15 is an IT savant. A lot of this she does in her
16 course of duties. This would add more
17 responsibility and, therefore, we think it's fair
18 to say pay her additional monies.

19 MS. BURKE-JONES: So this is a pay
20 raise.

21 MAYOR LICASTRO: No, it's a separate
22 position.

23 MS. BURKE-JONES: Yeah, I'm just trying
24 to figure out, so she would not do this work when
25 she's in the office?

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1 MAYOR LICASTRO: That's correct. A lot
2 of it could be done on her own time outside of
3 the office. There's so much that we generate,
4 she'd have to take home with her to do the
5 updates. So it's not a pay raise, it's a
6 separate position.

7 MS. BURKE-JONES: That's what I was
8 trying to understand. Okay.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: It would not take
10 away from her current responsibilities.

11 MAYOR LICASTRO: Ms. Kreiner would make
12 certain they would not take away from her current
13 duties.

14 MS. KREINER: I'd like to speak to this,
15 if I may.

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Please.

17 MS. KREINER: Angela, and the Chief will
18 know, we work with Angela on a day-to-day basis,
19 a lot of this stuff she does now. I mean, we're
20 doing the website design, redesign right now
21 right in the middle of this. And, you know, as
22 department heads, we run our departments what we
23 carve out our time to do, you know, to be
24 involved in the meetings with the website
25 creative designers, because we were the original

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1 people to help do it, but she has the ability to
 2 take this on. And she's now the point person for
 3 this redesign with our input, of course, our
 4 pages input, our links and whatever we're doing.
 5 But she has the ability. She has the
 6 skill set. She's I want to say homegrown, but
 7 she's been with us 19 years. She's a dispatcher,
 8 moved to deputy clerk, took on these
 9 responsibilities without any additional increase.
 10 She's taken on a lot of these. We tasked her
 11 with Zoom during COVID. She did a lot of these
 12 things to help, always update the website to let
 13 people know what was going on. It was something
 14 that we were all busy doing our department work
 15 and she by default and by skill was able to take
 16 that on.

17 I think she should be compensated for
 18 it. I think it's an ideal position for her. She
 19 has the flexibility to do it. Some of it she
 20 wouldn't have to do it at work, she can do it
 21 off-site. She can do it aside from her 40 hours
 22 she puts in at work. I don't know what the
 23 formula they put in, it's between five and 10
 24 hours a week, depending on what's going on.

25 Council one week will require her to do
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1 more, but one week might require her to do less
 2 input. So as a person who's worked 22 years
 3 here, I mean, I think it's an important job. We
 4 need it. And I feel she should be the one to
 5 have this job and be compensated as such. I
 6 think it's not -- I think it would be -- and we
 7 all work with her. So you have to remember
 8 department heads, we have good communication and
 9 everybody has the communication ability with
 10 Angela.

11 CHIEF LOBELLO: I can just chime in that
 12 we just did a lateral transfer procedure this
 13 past week. And in a matter of a five-minute
 14 conversation with Angela, I'm not an IT guy, I
 15 was able to explain to Angela what I was looking
 16 for on the website and five minutes later she
 17 said go ahead login. And I logged in and it was
 18 exactly what we need. The ability to walk down
 19 and talk to a friendly face, we probably grew up
 20 together, 20 years together here, as opposed to
 21 somebody who is off-site or is new to us, it was
 22 seamless and awesome.

23 MAYOR LICASTRO: So if you look on the
 24 Facebook posts for the Bratenahl Police
 25 Department or on the website, the document we
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1 created for lateral transfer is up, it's running,
 2 we're starting to get some phone calls. It's a
 3 well-crafted document and it's pretty much all
 4 from Angela.

5 So that sort of ends my overview. I
 6 know we're not looking for this meeting to be
 7 definitive. Any questions on anything pertaining
 8 to admin?

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: A couple, yeah. We
 10 covered a lot of that. I'm looking at -- as I
 11 said before, we'll do this, we'll do some work at
 12 the fund level at some point in the future, but I
 13 do want to have this question answered.

14 Fund 740, we listed property tax
 15 collection fees at \$15,000. Thus far this year
 16 we've spent about \$11,000. Did we not
 17 appropriate anything for that last year?

18 MS. COOKS: We never have. We never
 19 appropriated anything for -- I learned from the
 20 auditors, we've always booked it a net and we
 21 should really be booking as a gross and grossing
 22 down those fees, so yes.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: So this is a result
 24 of an auditor's recommendation?

25 MS. COOKS: Yes.
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1 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Got it.

2 MAYOR LICASTRO: Actually, Jim, three
 3 auditors. They've been like a herd of locust at
 4 Village Hall, there repeatedly. And if one were
 5 to value one's worth by the number of times one's
 6 name was said, the word Diana is repeated by
 7 these three individuals, Diana, Diana, Diana.
 8 We're close. We're close to being done.

9 MR. PUFFENBERGER: How's it going?

10 MS. COOKS: It's going great. No,
 11 actually it really is. It is going great. Great
 12 may be an overexaggeration. (Laughter.) It's
 13 going well. They, and we, have come to the
 14 conclusion that we're going to use this as an
 15 opportunity to right the ship. And this audit
 16 period that we're in now, 2021, 2022, we'll see
 17 less of or more best practices. I'll leave it at
 18 that.

19 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Got you.

20 MS. COOKS: I don't think we can really
 21 say that there's been anything that is egregious
 22 at all.

23 MAYOR LICASTRO: There will be some
 24 material weaknesses, but there's no finances for
 25 recovery. All in all, it's a much better audit

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1 than the last few. And we're hoping with the
2 expertise they shared with Diana the next one
3 will be immaculate.

4 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Thank you.

5 MAYOR LICASTRO: Do you have another
6 question?

7 MR. PUFFENBERGER: No, other than that
8 one. Does anyone else on Council have any
9 questions or concerns, et cetera?

10 All right. I'll open it up to the
11 audience for a couple minutes, because we are
12 running late tonight and I feel like crap. So
13 pat.

14 MS. MEADE: Just one question. Where
15 would capital improvements come in?

16 MAYOR LICASTRO: Capital improvement is
17 a restricted fund. Projects that pertain to that
18 would be taken from that fund.

19 MS. MEADE: Have you guys talked about
20 how much would be put into that this year or the
21 coming year?

22 MAYOR LICASTRO: No.

23 MR. PUFFENBERGER: No, we've not gotten
24 to the fund level yet. That will be at fund
25 level.

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1 MS. BURKE-JONES: At the next meeting
2 we'll talk about those issues.

3 MS. MEADE: Some of those things in here
4 talk about restricted funds, so that's why I
5 brought it up.

6 MR. PUFFENBERGER: Yeah, there are some
7 issues that certainly will be brought up in
8 addition to what we discussed tonight, but that
9 will be the fund level. Any other ones?

10 All right. If there's no other
11 questions, no other concerns, I'll entertain a
12 motion to adjourn.

13 MR. McDONALD: So move.

14 MS. BURKE-JONES: Second.

15 MR. PUFFENBERGER: All in favor.

16 MS. BURKE-JONES: Aye.

17 MR. McDONALD: Aye.

18 MAYOR LICASTRO: Thank you, department
19 heads, for your time.

20 (Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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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.

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Nancy L. Molnar

Nancy L. Molnar, Notary Public
within and for the State of Ohio

My commission expires July 15, 2023.

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