

VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Mayor Opelt opened the February 19, 2008 Council meeting at 7 pm. A prayer was offered and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Miesmer, Bowman, Campbell, Cox, King and Madaras. Others present were: Mayor Opelt, Chief Molnar, Bud Kahler, Marcia Cousino, Russell Eby, Alton Beeker, Dennis Henline, Will Malone from the Sentinel Tribune, Gene Steele, and the clerk.

Treasurer's Report: Council was requested to approve \$13,582.16 of bills for payment. Miesmer made a motion to pay the bills and Cox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the February 5, 2008 meeting were approved by Council.

Ordinances 1418 – 1st Reading – ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BETWEEN WOOD COUNTY, OHIO, AND THE VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE, FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2008 AND 2009 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This is a two year contract carried from 2007. Campbell made a motion to suspend the rules and King seconded. Roll call vote was: Campbell – Yes, King – Yes, Miesmer – No, Bowman –Yes, Cox – Yes, Madaras – Yes. Miesmer made a motion to pass Ordinance 1418 and Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report: No Report

Mayor's Report: The Mayor distributed a copy of a letter the Kahlenbergs sent to the Wood County Commissioners concerning the clean out of the river. A response letter from the Commissioners was also distributed to Council.

Mayor Opelt shared a newspaper article from the Daytona Beach News about the Pemberville Flood.

A letter to the Sentinel Tribune editor was read by the Mayor. Mike Dembicki thanked his neighbors, the Eastwood Seniors and all those involved in the sand bagging efforts during the flood.

Theresa Stein-Moenter from the Union Bank wrote a thank you note to the Mayor and Council for their coordination and help during the flood.

Eric Campbell and Keith Madaras were especially recognized by the Mayor for all of their hard work during the flood.

Mayor Opelt had a thank you read at the Eastwood basketball game to recognize all of the Eastwood students who helped during the flood. He also wrote Eastwood High School to have them share our appreciation to all those students who helped.

Miesmer: Miesmer expressed his thanks to all those who helped with the flood relief.

The new public restroom hours were announced as 7 am to 10 pm. The Street Department would open and the Police Department would close the facility.

The roof repair on Townhall would soon be finished.

Amp-Ohio would be willing to give a presentation or a public forum concerning the new coal-fired power plant that is going to be constructed. Miesmer asked Council to consider this idea and let him know if Council would like to hold such a meeting. There are groups against the coal-fired power plant such as Ohio Citizens Action.

There will be an Elected Officials Public Records training held at Owens Community College on March 15, 2008. TMACOG is hosting this training with the Secretary of State. Elected officials who need to take the training could plan to attend.

The Personnel Committee met on February 14, 2008. They have completed 14 chapters of the personnel handbook and have 10 more chapters to review. The Committee hopes to have a draft completed in a couple of months.

The Planning Commission will meet on February 20, 2008 at 7 pm.

Bowman: The Economic Development Committee met on February 11, 2008. Attendance was low and Bowman invited anyone interested to come to the meetings. Those interested in the economic development of the community is invited to contact Bowman or King to join the committee.

Campbell: Bay Tractor quoted \$3,155.91 to trade our two mowers for two new John Deere mowers. This is through the government purchasing program. Cost for 2006 was \$4,403 and for 2005 was \$5,512. Campbell made a motion to purchase the lawnmowers and Madaras seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Campbell contacted Laurie Oberhouse of the Historical Society to see if they could help with the cost to repair the gutters on the Townhall/Opera House. The quote to replace gutters and downspouts was for \$9,700. Oberhouse reported that the grant received by the Historical Society was restricted to interior restoration only. Mayor Opelt suggested asking the entire Historical Society for their financial help. Campbell would try to attend the next meeting of the Historical Society meeting to address this repair. The quote for the gutters would be for copper material. If copper is used, it must be all copper it cannot be mixed with any other metal.

Streets/Sidewalks/Lands & Buildings Committee will meet Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 5 pm.

The Flood Meeting will be at 7 pm on February 25, 2008.

Campbell asked that two informational links be added to the village website. Links added are as follows:

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Pemberville-Ohio.html>

<http://newweb.erh.noaa.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=cle&gage=wdvo1&view=1,1,1,1,1,1>

City-data.com gives general information on the Village of Pemberville. The second website provides a hydrologic prediction service for the Portage River at Woodville.

Cox: There will be a Tree City Award meeting on April 16, 2008. Several committee members will be attending and a plaque will be given to Pemberville.

The Tree Commission will meet on February 28, 2008 at 3 pm.

King: There was a Safety Committee meeting tonight at 6:30 pm. Safety and security was discussed for the car shows and the fair.

The Police Department is getting a quote for a new cruiser. This will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Madaras: No Report

Guests: Marcia Cousino conveyed her thanks to all those who helped and donated for the flood.

Cousino, representing Pemberville Unwrapped, asked Council if they would approve a sign or banner promoting the businesses in town. Their idea was to occasionally put up the banner. Campbell shared that the marketing committee for Pemberville Unwrapped had discussed back in 2007 about having road signs advertising the businesses in Pemberville. These could be put on Route 6, Route 23, Route 20 and Route 75. Campbell asked Mayor Opelt to contact ODOT about putting up signs. Mayor Opelt suggested vertical pole signs that are seasonal be placed in the downtown area. Madaras thought that horizontal banners could be moved to various locations. Mayor Opelt and Marcia Cousino would try to work on this idea for the next meeting.

Alton Beeker would like to have road block signs saying "High Water/Road Closed" put on the streets during floods. This would clearly state where vehicles are allowed to travel.

Beeker also wanted to make Council aware of the problem on his farm land and the village well that is located on that property. There cannot be herbicides or pesticides used on the property around the well because of EPA restrictions. Mayor Opelt asked Beeker if he would be interested in developing this land for residential housing. Beeker would be interested and was asked to attend the next Planning Commission meeting on February 20, 2008 at 7 pm.

Dennis Henline complimented the Mayor and Council for their work. Councilman Campbell has done well to have sidewalks replaced in town. Henline asked what it cost to purchase the land on Rees Road. The land cost about \$68,800 and the grant is in the amount of \$21,344. Sidewalks would not be placed out on Rees Road until the new condos add more construction on that street.

The new public restrooms were completed with a \$50,000 grant and about \$10,000 paid by the village.

Henline asked about the status on the Old Ford Garage. Signature Associates Real Estate Agency was hired to sell the Old Ford Garage. The contract is for six months at 7% commission. The asking price is \$125,000. Henline suggested contacting potential users or past interested parties about purchasing the building.

Henline asked about the status of the swimming pool renovation. Great Lakes Concrete is in progress of this renovation and quoted the job at \$56,000. This renovation will make the pool like new. To build a new pool would cost over \$450,000. Mayor Opelt emphasized that many people had asked for the swimming pool and now with the loss of the park levy, the funds are down. Madaras shared that the village gave \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year when the swimming pool was operated by an outside source. The Village took over the operations starting in 2006 and the cost to the village was about \$9,000 for 2006 and about \$6,000 in 2007. Actual cost to the village was substantially reduced. Tentative dates are in place to open the pool this summer with a full schedule. Prices will not increase for admission. In fact the price of a season pass will be lowered to encourage people to purchase a pass.

Henline questioned the status of the Senior Citizen Center. Mayor Opelt informed us that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has signed a one year contract to host the Senior Citizen Center. The center will open in April 2008 and they are currently advertising for a manager. Hours of operation will be 10 am to 2 pm on week days for lunch and activities. The Village has agreed to reduce the utility bills for the first year. Nigel and Trudy Davies have offered to help with raising funds for a permanent location. The center has to average 30 people per day to continue operations after the first year.

Gene Steele is a resident living at 141 Bierley Street. His home has flooded several times, and he is interested in what the village is doing about the flood situation. He inquired about the US Geological Study that has been talked about. He cannot understand why we need to pay \$35,000 for a study that tells us when it floods. Mayor Opelt stated that the state and federal government require a study to be done before they will do anything to help the village. Councilman Campbell explained that the TMACOG study done in 2002 showed agricultural runoff was causing more flooding. There are two sand bars that need to be taken out, but they will fill back up in five years. Also, the river is on bedrock and therefore cannot be dug any deeper.

Mr. Steele thought there is a problem with the way his sewer line is connected into the village system. He asked that the sewer line be inspected. The Board of Public Affairs has planned to inspect this connection. Mr. Steele also brought up that Alliance, Ohio has an insurance ordinance (#171-03) that pays for sewer backup situation. Campbell thought this could be flood insurance and people are reluctant to sign up for this insurance. Flood insurance premiums are expensive and homeowners tend to let coverage lapse. Mr. Steele brought up a 1992 Ohio Supreme Court decision that holds the City of Xenia liable for poor maintenance of the city sewer system. Steele believes that his sewer line is connected to the storm sewer. The house next to him had the same problem that was corrected. He asked the village to inspect

his sewer line connection. Steele thought that any residents that have clay tiles on their property should have them replaced.

Mayor Opelt conveyed that we are working at this situation and will not let it go. There has been a Flood Committee put in place for the last year and they are looking into many things that can help. Campbell said there are grants available that could help pay for foundations to be raised. The highest flood level ever recorded was at 17 feet and last week's flood was at 14.5 feet.

Alton Beeker brought out that if water covers the sanitary system on Bierley Avenue, then you know the system is loaded with water and it is going to backup into homes. He also pointed out that the Bierley Street Bridge is not big enough and dams up the high waters on the front side of the bridge. The Bridge Street bridge is also too small according to Campbell.

Dennis Henline believes the solution is to convince the Wood County Engineers to build big ponds. Glenn Dierksheide's farm has 600 acres of ground that could be used to put in 30 to 40 acre ponds for water overflow. If you look along I75, this idea is used to keep flood waters away from industrial areas. Ponds would be a better idea than building flood walls.

There was no other business to discuss so Mayor Opelt adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Debra Cartledge
Fiscal Officer

James R. Opelt
Mayor
