

**VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2008**

Mayor Opelt opened the December 2, 2008 meeting at 7 pm with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Miesmer, Bowman, Campbell, Cox, King and Madaras. Others present were: Mayor Opelt, Chief Bingham, Charles Aring, Chuck Schulte, Russell Eby, Gene Steele and the clerk.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The November 18, 2008 minutes were approved by Council. Board of Public Affairs minutes of the November 3, 2008, November 17, 2008 and the November 26, 2008 special meeting were distributed to Council.

Treasurer's Report: Bills amounting to \$5,956.41 were presented for Council to approve for payment. Campbell made a motion to pay the bills and King seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Month end reports were distributed to Council as follows: Cash Summary by Fund, Fund Status Report, and Supplemental Appropriations.

Board of Public Affairs members, Charles Aring and Chuck Schulte, presented information about the future plans for a new sewer plant. The Ohio Public Works Commission has awarded the Village \$400,000 in grant funds toward the project. The total project is estimated at \$2 million to \$2.5 million. Thus, the Board has asked Council to contact our State and Federal Officials to ask for their help in getting additional funding for this project. Schulte and Cartledge met with Senator Mark Wagoner last week where he informed them that there will be \$200 million available for Ohio Public Works. Schulte is working on getting a letter sent in the near future.

The project will probably be financed for 20 to 30 years. The time frame for the project is: Design Completion – February 28, 2009, Bid Awards Completed May 15, 2009 and Construction July 15, 2009 to July 15, 2010. The Design is about 75% complete and is far enough along for review by the Ohio EPA. It is important to work quickly for funding because grant awards are processed on a fast track. The old sewer plant is due for replacement since it went online in the early 1970's with a 30 year lifespan. The Northwest Water and Sewer District is planning to contribute one-eighth of the plant cost and will use up to 50,000 gal capacity. The Board will be working on finalizing the agreement with Northwest Water & Sewer soon.

ORDINANCE #1438– 1st Reading – 2009 ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS, DEFINING DUTIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION . Ordinance 1438 was written after input from employees and Council was received. Highlighted items were: 1.) A flat 45 cent increase of wages was given to each employee rather than a percentage rate. The 45 cent increase calculated to a

2.35% increase in wages for the 2009 year. 2.) The payout of compensatory time would be the second pay period in December 2009. 3.) The BPA Clerk would receive a wage of \$13 per hour. 4.) The title was changed to Streets, Lands and Building Supervisor. All other language stayed the same from the 2008 Ordinance. Miesmer made a motion to Suspend the Rules and Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Campbell made a motion to pass Ordinance #1438 and King seconded. The motion pass unanimously.

ORDINANCE #1439 – 1ST Reading – ORDINACE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF PEMBERVILLE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009.

Clerk's Report: Wood County Dog Shelter will hold two dog license registration times here at the Town Hall. The dates are: December 16th (Tues.) from 9:30 to 11:30 am and January 21st (Wed.) from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Chief of Police Report: The Officer Phil Program will be at the elementary school on December 17th. Officers will be volunteering for the "Shop with a Cop" program on December 13, 2008. The Police Department has had five participate in the "Ride Along" program so far. The Suburban Press interviewed the Department about the "Ride Along" program. There have been complaints about cigarette butts in the downtown area. Cigarette butt disposal cans are prohibited currently, but Chief Bingham will talk to the Health Department about getting this restriction lifted so disposal containers can be placed downtown.

Mayor's Report: The Pemberville IGA reported to Mayor Opelt that they were very pleased with our new Police Chief, Richard Bingham, and our new Prosecutor, Matt Reger.

Growth 21 organization has asked Mayor Opelt to write to our State Officials in support of the CSX Railroad expansion in North Baltimore, Ohio. This expansion is said to bring 3,000 new jobs to the area. There are two House Bills in Legislation that will have an impact upon railway system operations which asks for support from area leaders. It was suggested to contact Tom Blaha at the Wood County Economic Development and also the North Baltimore Mayor to get more information about this matter before a support letter is issued.

Miesmer made a motion to pay the Wood County Economic Development membership at the supporting level of \$500. Bowman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Time Warner Cable sent a certified letter detailing the changes in the TV programming. This letter will be added to the Pemberville.org website and you can also view the programming list from timewarnercable.com.

The December 2008 calendar was reviewed by Council. The Economic Development Committee will not meet on December 3rd and the Personnel Committee will meet on December 11th.

Mayor Opelt will be sending a thank you letter to Janet Smith for decorating the Christmas Trees in the Council chambers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MIESMER:

The Personnel Committee will meet on December 11th at 7pm and the Planning Commission will meet on December 17th at 7pm.

Miesmer made a motion to nominate Brian Heestand as the Zoning Inspector and Debra Cartledge as the Zoning Clerk for 2009. Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BOWMAN:

Bowman commended PIMA and the Historical Society and all who helped out with the Tree Lighting Ceremony. There was a nice ceremony and singing before the tree lighting and then refreshments in the Old Ford Garage afterwards.

Bowman recognized the Village employees and business owners for decorating the downtown for Christmas. The Village has saved \$7,500 in appropriations toward new Christmas decorations. These decorations will run about \$20,000 to purchase.

CAMPBELL:

Campbell needed a copy of the minutes to the Wood County Committee meeting concerning the information on the Auglaize County ditch project. Gene Steele attended this meeting and thought it was helpful information for the Village because Auglaize County did not spend funds to do the FEMA flow study that was recommended to our Village.

Gene Steele requested a copy of the property survey that was completed this summer for the Downtown Business District. Poggemeyer Design completed the survey and they can be contacted to get a copy.

Campbell has contacted CSX Railroad about the South Street and Front Street track crossing. CSX said that they would be in Pemberville this week to work on the South Street crossing. This work would probably be asphalt patching, but would probably not improve the quality of the crossing. CSX sent a letter to Campbell stating that any improvements on Front Street would have to be requested by us to the Ohio Department of Transportation. The Front Street track with the service track to the elevator is a major problem, due to the proximity to the train bridge. This will be a major improvement project that will have to involve the Railroad Commission and the PUCO.

Bowman added that CSX has requested Freedom Township to close two streets east of town and then CSX would upgrade one crossing with lights and gates. The Township is

concerned with getting fire trucks down the streets that might potentially be closed. Mayor Opelt encouraged Campbell to keep communicating with CSX about these problems because Pemberville residents have contacted him about the poor condition of the railroad crossings. Residents need to know that this is the railroad's responsibility to keep these crossings maintained, not the Village. Council has notified CSX several times about the railroad crossings and has asked them to fix these problems. Mayor Opelt wanted an information notice put on the Pemberville website to get the word out to residents that the Village is trying to work on this problem with CSX.

Streets and Sidewalks Committee asked that the Police Department coordinate with the Street Department concerning snow removal on Village streets and assist with the Snow Emergency work.

COX:

The Board of Public Affairs presented information on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant earlier in the meeting.

KING:

There will be a Safety Committee meeting on December 16th at 6:30 pm.

There is a trial date set in February 2009 concerning the Perry Street property.

The Pemberville IGA reported to King that Chief Bingham has been very helpful to their business and has responded quickly when they have needed assistance.

King asked if the Council would be discussing the list of proposed budget cuts that the Mayor had given out a few months ago. Many of these cuts were put in the appropriation planning last month. The Mayor stated that the Village really needs to tighten our budget and employees should know there may not be a pay raise for a year or two, because it would be better to have a job with no raise than not have a job. When residents are out of a job, we cannot continue to raise taxes and up the utility charges on them. We have already made a lot of cuts for next year. Modine has not given any idea of when they would close. The company is tied to the auto industry and it is probably not looking good for them to stay open.

Miesmer added that we have started the budget cutting process and several Council members have been involved in the cutting at the budget planning meetings. Money set aside for vehicles and equipment items have even been cut some. Selling vehicles have been worked on also. Increased Park fees and Pool fees will be coming from our Park Committee. We did not budget for the unlimited pickup for next year. It will be Council's final decision to decide or work out a different way to pay for the unlimited pickup.

Mayor encouraged council to get a copy of the budget. He does not want Council to think that one or two people made the decisions on the budget, because that's not the way we run. Council has to make the final decision and approve the budget. We are looking to bring more cuts to the table because we certainly are not done.

Mayor thought that we need to let the residents know of our cost cutting efforts and offer a copy of the budget so they can see where spending from one year to the next has dropped.

MADARAS:

The Parks and Recreation Board met in November and the next meeting is January 8th at 7pm. They will be coming up with a list of increases on park fees for 2009.

General Comments:

Campbell stated that Council needed to be fiscally responsible. We need to remind the employees it is not their money they are spending. They need to help with cutting costs and watching inventory supplies, because every little thing counts.

Cox expressed she was confident in the work Cartledge had done with the budget.

Madaras thanked Mike Marsh for all of his help this year. Mayor Opelt also expressed that we have depended upon Marsh every year and we appreciate all that he has done to help us.

Mayor shared that we need to keep giving a positive word out in the community and encourage residents to come and listen to what Council is doing for the Village. The residents will see that we are doing the best we can under the circumstances.

GUESTS:

Gene Steele said he was trying to follow-up on the Wood County Commissioner's meeting to go ahead and clean up the river. Steele was concerned that major floods occur in February and something needed to be done soon.

Bowman saw Ray Huber, Wood County Engineer about a month ago. He asked about the survey from Huber's office on the ditch cleanup and thought that it may not be done until next spring.

Mayor reminded Council to turn in their Committee appointment choices at the next meeting.

There was no other business to discuss so Mayor Opelt adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Debra L. Cartledge

James R. Opelt

Fiscal Officer

Mayor