

Manager's Report - 10/23/17

1. John Schoeni - Mahoning County Health Department advises that the property located at 516 W. New York Avenue was at Sheriff's Auction on 9/19/17 for delinquent real estate taxes.

There were no bids.

2. Chief Harris has completed interviews of all five candidates from the current Civil Service patrolman's eligibility list and selected Mr. Zachary Scott, Mr. Joshua Kelm and Mr. John Siranovic to be hired as fulltime patrolman to fill the department's current vacancies. Both Scott and Kelm were part-time officers with the department. Siranovic was the former chief of Smith Twp PD. Their appointments are effective this month.

I am happy announce that Officer Dan Guy has to return to full active duty without restrictions as a patrolman effective today. We are relieved he has recovered and happy to have him back to work.

As a result of the seriousness of the condition and the duration of his absence as a result of that condition, he has met the criteria to receive the *Legion of Honor* commendation. This is awarded to any police officer or firefighter that has a permanent injury and or severe medical condition in the active role of the job, there-by preventing an officer from further serving for a minimum period of 3 months or longer.

3. I would like to recognize and congratulate Ed Householder on the occasion of his retirement from the Village of Sebring, as a Water Treatment Operator I, and for his service for the past 32 years. Ed started his career with Sebring on November 28, 1984 and has been a dedicated and diligent employee during his tenure. Ed's effective retirement date was September 30. We wish him an enjoyable 60 day hiatus, until his return to duty on December 1.

4. Safeguard Properties (Kristy Rodecker - VPR Coordinator) requested that we release and return the bond for 127 West Georgia Avenue, which had a bond check sent 12/19/2016 (check # 6512674). The property was sold in June. I responded that she needs to send a letter outlining the particulars of the sale and confirming her company's current status of involvement in the property. Upon receipt, we will make arrangement to release the funds.

5. I attended the Business/Land Development Committee meeting to discuss the Royal China brown field issue, RCAP grant, WSOS consulting guidance and options to move forward with some a clean-up program. At the committee's request I made inquiries through the Ohio Municipal League network, Ohio Mideast Governments Association, Ohio City Managers Association and Sherry Loos (RCAP) for contacts for professional consultants to guide us in this process. We have generated a list of contacts, which was forwarded to Council earlier. We can solicit quotes after outlining our initial scope of project so we can get an idea of approximate costs.

6. As we moved further along with the FEMA grant, it looks like it's not going to happen. The reason is that FEMA requires a Cost-Benefit Analysis to be completed along with the application. They require real data to be included not hypothetical scenarios. They also require at least a C-B ratio of 1.0 meaning that there is at least \$1.00 benefit for every \$1.00 spent. Our form could not show that with the existing data thus resulting in FEMA rejecting our application.

We tried to submit a few different hypothetical scenarios such as a zero pressure system would not provide fire flow and if downtown caught on fire, there would be a total catastrophe. This scenario, among others, that we presented were all rejected. However, they are looking for actually events which Sebring has not experienced to date (thankfully).

We can try again the next cycle but we will have to very clearly document down time due to power outages, what caused the outages, cost of the outage (electrician, lack of manufacturing production, overtime costs to the Village, illnesses, etc.). Staff at the WTP have been instructed to document all power outages and the costs. In our particular case, FEMA said that this was a maintenance issue and not an emergency issue. We are working on other options to achieve our goal.

7. Per Presidential order flags were flown at half mast on October 6. This was in honor of and in mourning for the victims of the recent shooting tragedy in Las Vegas, Nevada.

8. The Service department recently worked on the 4 inch water line replacement on East Michigan Ave. They were able to discover that a 6 inch line was in service from 12th street and fed one hydrant. They also found where it reduced to 4 inch and replaced the portion that feed the second hydrant bringing the road into OEPA compliance. The original cost to replace this

line was anticipated to cost \$40,000.00 if the work was done in house. The contracted engineering estimate option was of \$250,000.00. However, the actual cost will be estimated at less than \$5,000.00 for the work. I like to offer my sincere appreciation to Bill Sanor for his efforts on this program and for saving the Village \$35,000.00 on this job.

9. My office received a request from Ms. Angela Weingart a current resident:

“I know a while back there had been some talk of a dog park for the Sebring and Alliance areas. I was interested in proposing multiple ideas for this situation. I saw the quotes of how much it would cost to do such a thing, and I think everyone is estimating extremely high. For one, it's dogs, as long as they have a safe area to run and play, they don't care about all the technicalities that were talked about during the proposal I read. The land aspect is the only part that cost money in my proposal. There are so many alternatives to the costly build that was described. \$25,000 was the estimated cost I saw, that's outrageous. This shouldn't be put on the cities to build a dog park. Why can't we be more creative? This was my first thought, then my mind flooded with ideas. To all the people that have dogs in this area, I think my proposal could get a vast response. I have never gone about something like this, but I think what I have in mind could work. I don't want to waste my time or yours, so if you could so kindly guide me in the right direction as to who I need to propose this to, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for your time.”

10. If you get any calls about a fence being built out of old pallets at 105 East Virginia Avenue, it is not a permanent fence. It's only a part of the resident's Halloween decorations for the kids and it will be removed after Halloween.

11. We received from the Mahoning Country Commissioners a request from the Ohio Development Services Agency for political subdivisions to submit a Community Development Infrastructure Strategy. Basically, to submit a list of community project needs for CDBG funding eligibility. We are working on a response and plan to use information from the development of an up dated Five Year Capital Plan we are working on.

12. Larry Baxa, Sr. Rural Development Specialist for Ohio RCAP, advised me this week that our OEPA required Asset Management Plan development, which has been delayed for a few months, has been resumed and should be completed by March 2018. This is well in advance of

OEPA's August 2018 submission deadline. I will forward a copy of the completed plan to Council when completed.

13. RITA requires all the final information to be entered and a report for collections generated no later than the next extraction date of 11/10/17. Therefore, Mabel has started on "cleaning up" the old records that have been held for various reasons. After the "clean up", the report for collection can be created.

14. Attended a Service Maintenance Committee Monday night. Topic of discussion was the request for a sewer line extension beyond Village corporation limits. The committee explained to that due to a 1993 ordinance the line cannot be extended without annexation. However, since there is an intervening property, which has not petition for annexation, the line cannot be extended without the requester's property being contiguous to the incorporation limits.

15. Received official hardcopy confirmation of the California Avenue paving grant award for \$151,738.00 from the Ohio Public Works Commission and the associated contract. Council has already authorized entering into contract per ordinance, which was signed and submitted. The project matching proceeds of \$129,258.00 will be allocated in the 2018 budget to begin the process in January and with an anticipated project completion date in July 2018.

16. The 4th quarter sub-budget transfers have been completed. Draft legislation for the additional inter-fund budget transfers was forwarded to Finance Committee Chairman Wright requesting his sponsorship. Department Heads have all been advised to curtail all major expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year to avoid the need for further appropriations or transfers. Also, work continues on the 2018 budget and my goal is to have the first draft to you by the end of this month.

17. I have taken the liberty of submitting information to Council for its consideration in support to challenge to a law that would reportedly deny municipalities across the state constitutionally guaranteed rights.

With this support we can join more than 100 cities and villages statewide seeking to halt the implementation of House Bill 49 come Jan. 1, 2018. Essentially it is a fight to maintain home

rule which House Bill 49 seeks to erode. This income tax collection legislation would, among other things:

- Eliminate a municipality's ability to review income tax returns for accuracy
- Eliminate a municipality's ability to correct, review or audit a tax return should certain questions regarding it arise
- Eliminate a municipality's means to verify rental income on partnerships or corporations filing with the Ohio Department of Taxation
- Allow refunds to be approved only by the ODT
- Allow the state to seize 50 percent of a municipality's monthly fund distribution in the absence of timely compliance, even if given unreasonable timelines.
- Could possibility interfere or negate our contractual arrangement with RITA.

Challenges to HB 49 will reportedly come from those questioning its constitutionality. The state constitution guarantees municipalities the right to operate as their leaders see fit, provided it does not conflict with state law. However, the state is seeking additional revenue at the expense of these municipalities and despite their rights. I recommend the show of solidarity in opposition to the state's actions. Unlike the \$4,000.00 contribution cost to cities the cost to a village under 5,000 in population, such as Sebring, to join the lawsuit is only \$1,000.00.