

Minutes of  
JOINT MEETING OF VILLAGE COUNCIL, YS SCHOOL BOARD & MIAMI TOWNSHIP  
TRUSTEES

December 7, 2022, 6-8pm  
Council Chambers, 100 Dayton Street

CALL TO ORDER

Brian Housh called the meeting to order at 6pm.

ROLL CALL

Council was roll called in at 6:01. Those present were Council President Brian Housh, Vice President Kevin Stokes and Council members Gavin DeVore Leonard, Marianne MacQueen and Carmen Brown. Village Manager Josue Salmeron was also present.

Attending for Miami Township: Trustee Marilyn Moir, Trustee Chris Mucher and Fire Chief Colin Altman.

Attending for Yellow Springs School Board: Judith Hempfling and TJ Turner. Superintendent Terri Holden and Treasurer Jacob McGrath were also in attendance.

UPDATES FROM EACH ENTITY

**Miami Township – Debrief re: Fire & Rescue Levy:** Marilyn Moir thanked voters for approving the levy. She commented that it was primarily the Village precincts that had supported the levy, which was not heavily supported in the rural areas of the Township.

Moir provided figures for current and projected expenses, stressing the importance of the levy's passage. She made note of deferred expenses, highlighting some of the expenditures needed, and commented that further funding resources need to be identified to adequately address both needed purchases and staffing. Moir commented that the pending retirement of Chief Altman may provide an opportunity for reallocating personnel.

The group discussed strategies for covering expenses at a high level.

Regarding the goal of decreasing personnel costs, Township representatives indicated that this would be accomplished by managing overtime expenses.

Mucher lauded Fire Chief Altman, offering high praise for his 27 years of leadership as Chief.

**School Board – Facilities Committee & Levy Highlights.** TJ Turner noted regulations around school levies which restrict any Board comment around levies.

Terri Holden, Superintendent, reinforced this message, underscoring that this is a legal restriction and is not an issue of withholding information.

Hempfling stated that she and Board member Dorothee Bouquet are developing an alternative to a new structure/s which is still in process. She stated that the initial number for foundational renovation is currently \$25,000,000.00.

Hempfling noted that in January, two Board members will work with an architect to gather numbers for new structure/s.

Treasurer Jacob McGrath provided information on upcoming levies. He stated that there will be a combination bond/levy on the ballot in 2023. He noted that the current bond debt will end in 2027.

McGrath shared that the two emergency levies that will come up for renewal in 2023 will likely be combined into a single substitute levy.

Salmeron received confirmation that the new build numbers do take inflation into account, and should be relevant if the ballot issue were to pass in 2023.

DeVore Leonard received confirmation that state-level funding is only available for new construction.

Holden stated that if the project is passed in its entirety, that project can be refunded up to 27% in eight years following passage of the levy.

**Village Council – Utilities & Reciprocal Income Tax Issues.** Housh suggested that the Village can likely provide webpage access to high level documents for all three taxing entities to facilitate ease of access and comparison.

Salmeron provided information regarding a proposed reciprocal tax change, noting options from 100% credit to zero credit, and commenting that the amount of the credit reduction will be Council's decision.

Salmeron then presented information regarding utility rate increases which were recently recommended by Courtney and Associates.

Salmeron presented the proposed phase-in for those increases, which are 6\$ for Electric; 40% for Water, and 16% for Sewer.

Holden asked whether there could be any policy change that might mitigate the need for increases.

Housh noted ongoing economic development conversation and activity.

Housh mentioned the Basic Income Initiative as a potential mitigating factor.

Housh made a strong plug for paid parking, which he offered as a resource, along with an effort to assure that all taxes owed to the Village are collected.

Stokes commented that the Village should take advantage of the anticipated major employer coming to the Columbus area to promote the Village as a residential option.

Salmeron commented that increased housing in the Village would serve to offset water and sewer costs to all utility customers.

#### CITIZEN CONCERNS

Jessica Thomas, Yellow Springs News, asked for an example of what the reduction in reciprocal tax credit would mean for someone working outside of the Village.

Salmeron responded that that person would then pay a percentage of Village income tax in addition to the tax they would remit to the employing municipality.

Housh commented that something in the 50% range is likely.

There was a general conversation around income tax.

Brown stressed the need for innovative and intelligent growth as opposed to “growth for growth's sake.”

Cheryl Durgans asked whether there is a target number around an ideal amount of growth. She commented that a breakdown of the impact of growth on utility rates would be useful. She also asked that all the proposed possible revenue proposals be presented as a one-page document.

Thomas asked that all options being considered by the Village be put on the table.

MacQueen asked the three entities to support affordable housing.

Hempfling asked for a level of interest in a group called "Honesty in Ohio Schools" which provides information on securing guns.

There was general interest in the idea, which Hempfling will provide more data around.

#### NEXT STEPS

Housh recommended a planning sub-committee for future meetings, perhaps made up of the Finance Director and one elected official from each entity.

DeVore Leonard suggested more public engagement in the joint meetings, opining that if there were more outreach, perhaps the process would be more effective.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 7:51pm MacQueen MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The Motion passed 5-0 on a voice vote.