VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 2023-09-26

ATTENDANCE

Johnnie Warren, President Paggie Matlock, Ward 3 Mary Davis, Ward 4 Candace Williams, Ward 5 James Climer, Law Director

Dave Tapp – Fire Department Tom Haba, Service Director Brian L. Thompson– Finance Director Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official

Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor

Mark Garratt, Police Department

ABSENT

Elaine Gaither, At-Large Chris Callender, Ward 1 Eloise Hardin, Ward 2 Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor Carlean Perez – Recreation Director Ed Hren, Village Engineer

Meeting opened at 6:59pm by Warren Pledge of Allegiance Roll Call taken

Warren: Any correspondence? Tanya: We received a booklet from Legal Aid. I also handed out a new phone extension listing for the Village. Warren: Ok, I would like to deter the approval of the minutes from September 12th, 2023, for the finance and regular Council meeting until next meeting. We received them late and didn't get a chance to review them. So, we will go into the departmental reports, may we hear from Mr. Marinucci. Departmental Reports

Building-Marinucci: I have no report today, but I am here for questions. Davis: At the last meeting you talked about going to Mr. Schuster's house on Garden Road. Marinucci: He has a meeting set up and that issue will be resolved. I was supposed to be in today, to be honest with you. I was waiting this afternoon and he didn't show up. You are talking about not Schuster but the neighbor right? Davis: Mr. Schuster was the one who made the complaint about the water draining on his property. You said you would have Mr. Gavin... Marinucci: Yea he called; I am having a face-to-face with him. We were scheduled today but he did not show. I don't know the reason why, because he has questions about the driveway. So, that is on the agenda. Davis: Can you tell me; do we have to put in if it's gravel now? Is it in our Ordinances that we have to put a blacktop in the driveway? Marinucci: No. Davis: Ok, I didn't think so. That was a miss understanding from your assistant then. Marinucci: The people selling it are complaining, they don't want to put the gravel in. Davis: So, they do have to put fresh gravel in or more gravel? Marinucci: It's only if you go out there, and they all are like this by the way. You go out there and the grass is always growing through it. When the report comes back from the POS, we may put gravel in it. It's an expensive hit right now to put black top on the concrete. The ordinance doesn't require it anyways. If you had to explain it, if you have blacktop and it is damaged you have to blacktop it. If it has concrete we can hold them to that. If they are ten squares and three are broken, we make them fix the three. Davis: Not the whole thing? Marinucci: Not the whole thing. Davis: Ok, I have another question for you. In the activity report from Aaron, should we be asking him. Or do you want to ask him and have him answer me? He put that two of my residents on Alexander Road had pest control. We don't know If the pest control was resolved. There was nothing done, there's two house and I guess they are side by side. Marinucci: Ok. Davis: Alright, I appreciate that, thank you very much. Warren: Any other questions? May we hear from Mr. Tapp.

Fire-Tapp: Tapp: Thank you Council President. Two Thursdays ago, we had a fire at 7555 Hickory. It was a little bit of a problem because it was 3:30p.m., and the school bus was coming around. So, I want to thank Chief Garratt and the Police Department for help with that. Our mutual aid came in to help us out and get the school bus around us. Minimal damage to the house, there were no injuries to the outside of the house. You can't even tell it was a fire. I did the investigation

with the insurance company, and they said it was an electrical fire. That's all I have to report, any questions? **Warren:** The residents didn't have to get relocated or anything like that? **Tapp**: They are working on the house now to move into. **Warren**: Ok, may we hear from our Police Chief.

Police-Garratt: Thank you, Mr. President, I just had to pass along these finance sheets on the legislation you asked me to bring. I wanted to make sure you had it in your hands for review. Fair Oaks Road will be opened tomorrow. I have the guardrails in today, so they finished the paving on that. I don't know if I stole your thunder on that Mayor. We have had a lot of trucks down residential roads. Since they closed it, we have written one hundred and forty-seven truck violations. So hopefully that will stop after this because we have been pretty busy. One Officer wrote nineteen trucks in one day. They've posted properly so hopefully we won't have this issue anymore. Mostly on Macedonia Road and Alexander Road, it's in your ward. Davis: Yes. Garratt: Hopefully, we will curb those complaints and that will take care of it. Davis: Ok, great, thank you. Garratt: Thank you, Mr. President. Warren: May we hear from our Law Director.

Law-Climer: Climer: Thank you, Mr. President. I passed out a proposal that we have received from a gentleman interested in developing some lots on Suwanee Road. It is a opportunity to get rid of some more of the land bank properties we have. You will see attached to the proposal, my original response to the inquiry. Basically, we're making no representation about soil or any condition of the properties. He'd need to purchase all the properties that are outlined on the third page in green. Of those, he would then need to consolidate them into about four lots. In order to meet the minimum lot width required by our ordinances. He would need variance on depth, that's a fairly small variance. As many of you know, portions of Suwanee Road are not in the greatest condition. They haven't really been repaired because no one is living there. One of the conditions if he did develop these lots would be to bring those portions of the road up to City standards. I passed this out for your consideration pending the next meeting. I would like to have a discussion and answer any questions you may have about it at that point. Williams: Let me ask about the condition for bringing the roads up to, I don't even know what word to use. Those roads are horrible, how would that work? Would he only do the portion in front of what he is purchasing? What would we do about the rest of it. Climer: I think Ed's concern is the areas in front of these particular lots are particularly bad. That is what he would need to bring it up to standard. Williams: What about the areas outside that, that's not up to standard? Climer: He would have no obligation to that. I will talk to Ed some more about it. Williams: So, we would lead that and take that on? Do you see where I am getting at? Like the road would be partially done and partially undone, but we have residents or be expected to build on that road. Climer: Well, the City is maintaining those other portions. Now whether the Village is maintaining the other portions at this point, honestly I haven't... Williams: Yea, because you can't drive completely through that street. Climer: I think that his lot covers most of the undriveable. But again, I will double check that. Williams: Yea, can you, I would like to know more. Warren: I see here there's a small sliver between forty-nine and fifty. Is that a typo or is that supposed to be green? Climer: That is my bad use of pdf. Warren: Ok, I just wanted to make sure. Climer: All of these shaded areas go to the lot lines or intended to go to the lot lines. Warren: There are zone what currently? Climer: Single family. Warren: Ok. Nicolich: Excuse me Council President can we have a copy of the proposal? Is it possible for us to view it? Warren: We can get copies made. Davis: Mr. Climer, how many house would this provide by consolidating these ten lots. Under our ordinances now, lot size and the amount we would require. Climer: It depends on the width, 4.44 lots, so four. Gottschalk: One of the reasons this hasn't been developed is because it's a major wetland area. It's going to be a lot of cost involved. Whoever is interested in doing that when they see the cost involved in delineating the wetland. It's probably going to be cost prohibited. Climer: There may or may not be a wetland issue. Again, this is in the very early stages. I wanted to bring it to the Council's attention. Williams: Do you how many more lots are to the right of this, on this street? I am just wondering. Climer: I believe they are two occupied lots. The ones you see to your right forty-five and forty-four are not owned by the Village. I think there may be a couple further to the right. Which are occupied by other people. Davis: Has it been mentioned to them that it may be wetlands or might be. Or do we not even bother with that? Climer: One of the conditions of the broad outline I had given him is, we make no representations about the suitability of the property. He needs to take it as is and decide for himself. Williams: Ok, thank you. Warren: May we hear from the Finance Director.

Finance-Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I don't have any additional reporting tonight, but I can entertain questions. Williams: I think my question would be, we talked about have the financial reports through September for today's finance meeting. There was no meeting, I'm trying to find my notes, we reviewed up to June now. Thompson: Yes. Williams: Ok, so we are missing July, August, and September. Thompson: Yes. Williams: When will we be up to date? Thompson: The hour before the next meeting, we can look at its kind of like a three month quarterly. Davis: July, August, and September you said? Thompson: Yes. Williams: Do you expect any legislation related to anything financial prior to that? Thompson: At this point, I don't think I have anything. I may have some tax rates to accept from the County, I'll take a look at that. Davis: You were going to send out letters to each department head about making sure budget gets started. Did you send them out yet? Thompson: No, I did some final analytical information as it relates to payroll. So, I will have it out before the end of this week. Davis: Ok, and also you said you would have credit cards, dates, who has credit cards, and the purchases. So, would that be at this October meeting? Thompson: Yea, I may have that before. Davis: We'd appreciate it if you could get it to us before; it will give us a chance to look at it. Warren: Before the first October meeting, we would like to have the financial information prior to that. Hopefully, within the first week of October because there may be a possibility, I'm not saying for sure. There may be a possibility that we may have a special finance committee meeting before the regular Council meeting. So, we would like to get that before. So, we are looking at by October 8th, 2023, which is a Monday. Which is almost two weeks from today. Thompson: Two weeks from today, the 8th is on a Sunday. Davis: Yea, it will be on a Sunday because our thing is on the 7th, on Saturday. So, Monday will be the nineth. Thompson: The next meeting is on the 10th. Davis: So, we need it the week before. Thompson: I usually submit it like the 6th, and you'll have it over the weekend. Warren: Ok, that will be good. Williams: If we have having a financial meeting on the 10th, when will we have September's? Thompson: Seeing all the reports for the meeting? Williams: You won't close out September by October 10th will you? Thompson: My goal is to have all three of them in the first meeting. I will submit the information October 6th. Then we will have a meeting an hour before that meeting date on the 10th. Williams: The other thing we requested was the details on the ARPA fund expenditures. Thompson: Ok. Williams: You recall? Thompson: Yes, I do, I will make sure I have everything. Warren: May we hear from Mr. Haba.

Service-Haba: Thank you Mr. President. I actually have nothing to add to my report, happy to take questions. Davis: I walked down the trail yesterday, the trail on Broadway/Richmond. The one on Broadway, there's a commercial building that dug it out because of the water and they had a big hole. Haba: I did talk to them, I got to go over. I think a water line they had to connect. Legally I am not sure, I have to talk with Jim about it. Find out whose responsibility it is, and it will get taken care of. Davis: To replace it, yea. Warren: Well, they dug it out, there's a responsibility to restore it to the minimum condition of what it was. Haba: It wasn't Cleveland Water that dug it out, it was that business itself. Davis: 26625 is the address of it. Mr. Bugarcic's property is on that corner. I know it's not yours, but that gravel, you guys fixed it once to make it at least walkable to cross, it's a mess again. Haba: Yea, I got into it with them a few weeks ago. He was hauling some of his bricks out of there and the guy ran over our cones we put out there. He tore out the sidewalk. Davis: Yes, he tore out the walkway. Haba: I asked him what he was doing? I think it was a Saturday, I happened to be there. He thought he removed the bike path. He moved it back a couple of times and I moved it back a couple times. I don't know what Mayor or Council wants to do with that. It's been tore up there, you know he did the curb cut outs, other places. That took the curb out and the bike path out and still out. Davis: Maybe we can get an update about it today. If it's going forward, or not going forward, we haven't heard, or we don't want... Haba: Like I said he was hauling brick out of there three weeks ago probably. Davis: Was he? So, he has to replace. Warren: Well, if he's hauling bricks, that means he's probably not going to be building. Haba: He had a company guy that had a flatbed truck, he was polite. Warren: Well, he's going to have to restore all of what he destroyed too. Marinucci: He put a lot of concrete under the surface. That has to come out. Warren: I think that maybe you can get with the Law Director and send him a letter. Identify all the things that we anticipate for him to do. Climer: If you guys can draft up the details on it, I will put the lawyer words on it. Haba: Ok. Davis: Thank you very much Mr. Haba. Warren: Any other questions? If not we will hear from the Mayor.

Mayor-Gottschalk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Police Chief pointed out Fair Oaks will be opened starting tomorrow. It was a very important project and next year will be Oak Leaf. Which runs parallel to North to South and back to Alexander Road. I am only going to address the issues before you tonight on first reading that Ed Hren has before you.

It's resolution 2023-33, and there are four points to this resolution. The first one is the Broadway Avenue Resurfacing Project. On that one the estimated price is \$3.015 Million. The Federal Government is putting up \$1.708 Million, which is a balance of \$1.307 Million. We are requesting \$904,000.00 on a grant, which will then leave a balance of \$402,000.00. On that the County is putting up \$201,000.00, and finally the Village share will be \$201,000.00. That project is scheduled for 2025, that is again from Tryon Road to Richmond Road. The second one is Tryon Road Resurfacing Project- Phrase one. That is from Richmond Road all the way to Jean Drive. The estimated cost is \$562,000.00, the County is putting up \$235,000.00, OPWC is putting up \$250,000.00. So, our balance for the Village would only be \$77,000.00, that's a project for 2024. Williams: Are you talking about the legislation? Gottschalk: Yes. Williams: Do we have those numbers? Gottschalk: No, he's not here so I am reading, this is the first read. You can get them next week if you want. Warren: We do. Williams: I am sorry did you say Ed will provide the numbers. Gottschalk: Ed is, again going through his own situation with his health. He would probably be available on the third reading. Williams: Does he have these numbers in a document whether he's here or not that he can submit? Gottschalk: No, I can have him do it for the next meeting. Davis: We appreciate that, that would be great. Warren: We need it for the next meeting. Gottschalk: Alright, so the balance again would have been only \$77,000.00 for that phrase, which is in 2024. Next item is the Alexander Road Septic Conversion Project. That's from Macedonia Road on Alexander to Painter Road. Now Painter Road does not hit Alexander Road but that is where it will go to. Then it will be a connection in the ground to Painter Road. We are looking at an estimate cost of \$442,000.00 and OPWC's \$321,000.00 would leave a balance to Oakwood for \$221,000.00 on this project. It won't be scheduled until 2025, but we are hopeful to get more grants towards the \$221,000.00. Lastly, the Richmond Road Reconstruction Project. That is on Richmond Road where it's lead by Glenwillow. They will resurface the road and at the same time add a trail running from the Bedford Reservation entrance to the South Chagrin Reservation. It's over 800ft, we will only be paying for the reconstruction of our part of the road. At this point it is not clear whether it would be \$100,000.00, with \$630,000.00 as the estimated cost. OPWC is putting up \$250,000.00, the balance is \$380,000.00 of which our share would be \$90,000.00 or \$100,000.00 of the \$380,000.00. whatever it is, we will only be paying \$5,000.00 a year, for whether it's eighteen years or twenty years. This is going to be a very important project in time. Because from that it could lead into the old landfill that's on our side into a beautiful park. Where you will have trails going through it, Petitti's would be furnishing plant material and flowers to really make it look gorgeous. It offers as it is, even with just this. People using Forbes Road and then taking Richmond Road and going over the hill on Buckthorn. It would only take them to the Bedford Reservation whether they are walking or using the bike. They can now go to the South Chagrin Reservation which leads into Solon, it is quite a trail. Williams: Does Ed have a date this needs to be approved by? Gottschalk: Yea, that one we don't know if it would be twenty-four or twenty-five. It is up to Glenwillow they are the lead. Williams: Does he have a date he needs this approved by in order to submit? Gottschalk: Yea, but as I said. Glenwillow just needs to know where we are on this. We are only spending what is going to be our share once reviewed by our engineer. We are only going to pay \$5,000.00 per year, up to whether it's eighteen or twenty years. Williams: Does Ed need us to approve this legislation by a certain date? Gottschalk: No, there's no rush on it, other than This can't linger on. Because again Glenwillow has to get there.... Warren: We are not just talking about this one, we are talking about all four. First of all, what we need is the exact cost, we need it in writing. We want it to show the grants we have confirmed, the grants that are potential but have not been confirmed. Then at that point for each of these projects that you just mentioned. We would like to see that and the name of the grants, the total amount left for the Village. But we need Ed here by the third reading because this is going to be tabled if we don't get the information. So, the thing is we need to have the financial information prior to the next meeting. Williams: Number four, if I am correct, is where we are paying \$5,000.00 into a project with Glenwillow, is that the one? Gottschalk: Yes, that's the one where we pay \$5,000.00 a year. Let's say our project cost \$90,000.00, then it would be eighteen years rather than twenty. If it is \$100,000.00, then it would be twenty years. So, it really depends on when Glenwillow sees the final grant return. Then they can make the decision on when to start the project. Williams: So, we have a separate contract for that because we have to make our payment to Glenwillow? Is that correct? Gottschalk: Yea, it will be made to Glenwillow. Williams: Where's that contract and when does that need to be executed? Gottschalk: Again, when Glenwillow is asking to have this done is when we will, ok. Williams: How does that work? Warren: I don't see how it will work without knowing up front what the Village obligation will be and the terms. Gottschalk: How many time have I explained this Johnnie... Warren: You don't have to explain anything. Gottschalk: We are talking about this project cost \$630,000.00, when they get their grant

it will be down to \$380,000.00 and split between the two. They are paying the balance of our share, which would be either \$90,000.00 or \$100,000.00 based on what Ed will review. Williams: For the record this is only your second time explaining it. The first time you just threw our \$5,000.00 for some you weren't sure how many years. So, this is only the second time. Gottschalk: We are getting legislation forms that will be in front of you. Williams: Ok, so we need to be very clear about those numbers and what Glenwillow's cost is. Gottschalk: There will be legislation from Glenwillow to be acting on this. Ed is only getting a sense for all of this and putting it together with Glenwillow. Warren: Ok, we understand that is going to be for all four projects, the break down... Gottschalk: Yea. Davis: Now question, in the legislation it lists that the public works for just a potential grant. But this is many grants I thought you were talking about. So, it is not just a single one... Gottschalk: Each project has different grants coming in and it still can be more. I have already given you what the estimated share for the Village is for each, but it could be even less than that. Warren: With this legislation the wording is not correct as the process is going to be proposed. So, what we're going to say is, in addition to the wording being corrected. Each one of the cost break down, each one would be an addendum to the legislation. Gottschalk: in the next Council meeting, I will have about four or five pieces of legislation. Regarding companies here in Oakwood expanding or coming into Oakwood. That would include job creation, tax credit legislation, job retention legislation, one on the C.R Community Reinvestment agreement, two or one at least on tax incentive finance agreement. You will have that not at the next meeting but the following meeting. Williams: Does that have a date it needs to be approved by? Gottschalk: Yes, there will be some that has to be acted on. Williams: As soon as you give it to us? Gottschalk: Let me formulate these things and discuss them again with the companies. Again, there was one in here from Texas, one from New York, and one from Paris, France. We got all kinds of things going on here. So, I will first put it together and I'll have a better handle then on when these have to get passed. Davis: Mr. Mayor, question, did you mention whether Kroger's is going forward or not? Gottschalk: The new person in charge of this project, I am speaking with her tomorrow. Jobs Ohio is putting up quite a bit of money, they have extended until six months, our extension is only until October and then we are done. We will terminate because premier would like to have that land back and develop it. Kroger has been going on and on and I am exhausted, it was a nice arrangement. Actually, I think some of their fulfillment centers, I think there's seven in the country now. Some of them are not doing too well. But here in Northeast, Ohio between homestead senior care which is right here in Oakwood. Visiting angels u looking at over a thousand clients that each have to get delivered food. Otherwise, the care giver has to go to the grocery store. So, right there, there's a thousand clients just for that. This will be presented to them but in person. The lesson to be learned when other people are involved is you never deal with committees. Nothing gets done you have to deal with decision makers. They are able to make a decision in one or two meetings. Warren: One of the things just to let you know is that, and I just read this recently. The issue with Kroger right now is the merger. That's the big issue with them, as a matter of fact, they are selling off a certain number of their stores to some smaller organizations or operation. Now it's a potential they may have to sell an additional one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty stores. So, they are facing that type of situation. It's not just the thing of negotiating with anybody at Kroger. Gottschalk: At the same time, \$24 billion arrangement with Albertsons and this thing certainly has tied them up and it's an excuse. But remember this was supposed to be on fast track two years ago. When we did meet last time in March, they wanted to re-look at the agreement and make some changes. I didn't receive anything until I sent a report on exactly where we stood on this. If it's going to move forward at all, they only responded two and a half weeks later. My patients are exhausted, again I am only giving them until the end of October. At which time we are going to terminate, take the incentives out, unless they sell it to premier. So, that is where we are at. That has been a legitimate tie up for them, there's no doubt about it. At the same time, we are not going to be waiting around for another two years for this to happen. Warren: Ok, is that it? Gottschalk: Yup. Warren: I will open up the floor for public comments. This is the opportunity for residents to come up to the podium with a name, address, and to explain or present whatever they have.

Open Floor Comments

Karen Howse, (unknown address), In regard to the Village of Glenwillow and that project, you're saying it's \$5,000.00 a year? Gottschalk: Yea. Howse: you have not confirm the terms of the years to pay that, right? Gottschalk: No, they wanted us to pay \$10,000..00 for ten years and I divided that. I put it down to \$5,000.00 a year for twenty years. However, we have to see what the cost is going to be. Our share will probably be \$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00, that will all be on its

own legislation. Where it stipulates exactly how many years we will be paying on this, but it is quite something. Imagine a trail where it ends right now at the base of Buckthorn Road over there entering Bedford Reservation. So, it will extend now all the way down into Glenwillow and into the South Chagrin Reservation. Howse: So, you will have those terms of that agreement before they pass it. Gottschalk: Each of these pieces that I mentioned will have its own piece of legislation. Howse: Ok, my next question I have is, is there some form of legislation that has been passed in prior years that suggests or changes the terms of full-time administration? As far as the hours go. I don't know if that is a Council question or Mayor's question. Has legislation been passed in regard to what full-time hours should be, to be considered full-time? Williams: Not in the seven years I've been here. Warren: No, Law Director? Climer: I believe that our criteria are laid out in the employee handbook, which was adopted by an ordinance. Howse: So, they have been a change in the criteria in what full-time administration is? Climer: I don't know that there was a change. Howse: But you're saying in the employee handbook specifies expected hours? Climer: I believe so, yea. Howse: For a public records request, I'll send it again. I'll do it via email, I am asking to review the employee handbook for that. Climer: Sure, is this your request now or are you going to email it? Howse: Yea it is, but I can do it formerly in writing. Climer: Yea, send me an email, I'll make sure you get it. Howse: For full time administration, particularly in the Mayor's office, what are your hours of operation for your staff there. Gottschalk: My only staff is my executive secretary. Howse: Your only full-time staff is your executive secretary? Gottschalk: Hiliary works for the finance administration; she answers the phones. Howse: Is she part time or full time? Thompson: She's full time. Howse: And Dionna is full time? Gottschalk: Yea. Howse: In the Finance Department, who is considered full time? Thompson: Full time staff is the Finance Administrator, Accounts Payable, Finance Director, and Hiliary. Howse: How many hours as a Finance Director do you work Brian? Thompson: The office hours are 9a.m.-5p.m. Howse: If we look at that and said you are there Monday through Friday from 9a.m.-5p.m.? You commit forty hours a week? Thompson: Yes. Howse: Ok, this question is for the Law Director please. Is it proper for an individual who is hired to be full-time to work another job during the full-time hours they are expected to work at the Village? Climer: Depends on management's rules and whether they make up the hours. Howse: You're competing with the vents. Climer: I'm sorry, I need to take my hand away from my mouth. I don't talk really loud sometimes. It depends on the criteria that's been laid out by management on when somebody is supposed to be here. Whether they make up the hours they have been working at another job. Howse: Ok, so whether they make up the hours. So, the criteria do not have to be in writing. It's what the Mayor would say, I am ok with you working so many hours and you do your own thing. Climer: Whoever the supervisor is with the authority to do that, yea. Howse: So, if I am working here full-time, I am expected to be here 9a.m.-5p.m. But I am not here 9a.m.-5p.m., but I have another job or business...let me put it this way. Who does the checks and balances to ensure that this is so? That the Finance Director, Hiliary, and Dionna are working 9a.m.-5p.m., do you sign off on that? Do you verify that or...? Gottschalk: No. Howse: So, how do we know if people are taking vacation, or if they're sick? Gottschalk: That's Brian if that's the case. Howse: So, Brian you do the checks and balances, and you check your own? Thompson: Everyone turns in their time sheet. Howse: Who checks your time? Thompson: The Mayor is responsible for my time. Howse: So, the Mayor signs off on your vacation and sick time? Thompson: Yes. Howse: Public records request, I would like to see the timesheets that the Mayor signs off for Brian. Gottschalk: I don't sign anything off. Howse: You do not sign, he just said you sign off on them. Gottschalk: The key is whether the job is getting done. Howse: Is that the key? Gottschalk: To me, at the same time and obviously, I expect to have whatever is needed to be done. It's interesting by the way the State Senator.... Howse: You can tell me that after, I am almost done. We are talking about the Village of Oakwood not the senate. Warren: Mayor she has the floor... Gottschalk: Let me speak. Warren: No, let me speak because I have the gavel. Ms. Howse has the floor, go ahead. Howse: All I am asking is this, for over a year now randomly when I come to Council. One of the things that has been asked consistently of Council, various times, is financial reports. Copies of the financial statements. This is even before the staffing issues. Council is expected to make safe decisions on anything that comes before you relating to financial information. If it's presented to you and you don't know where we sit. I was looking at the minutes and the Mayor was giving accolades. About now that we have our financial reports from January to June, it says we are doing a good job financially, we are in a good standard, right. But you haven't received July or August, right? There's a piece of legislation that was passed many years ago. That requires you guys have your financial statements monthly on the following month, the 15th of each month. So, if a month closes, if I close, if you're closing the month of July. You are supposed to have those financial statements, the following month August 15th. I'm asking, I am almost

pleading for Council just to consider this. I know that many cities have had challenges with staffing, that is factual. But it's incumbent upon the department heads to ensure that staffing does not hinder their obligation to report to Council. To make sure that the Mayor is informed of your finances. Because you guys are presented with legislation all the time with big numbers. To vote on stuff and you don't have the information. How are you comfortably passing legislation without the information. We are not asking you to be finance experts. But you should be knowledgeable enough to know that I am comfortable to say the Village is in good standings. To take on new debt, new projects like the Glenwillow. It sounds attractive, but how do you agree or entertain it, if you have the numbers given to you verbally. Promises over and over again that you are going to get data, and you don't get it. I don't know how it's done. I sit here and I know that you guys want to know this, it can't be just one person. But I am just charging you guys to ask the questions. It's your obligation to ask the questions if you pas legislation. Warren: We do. Howse: I am making a statement; I am not asserting that you're not. I'm saying I am trying to ensure that you know where we stand. Don't take it personal, I am telling you at some point or another, what I think. I don't think you would want to be surprised, a aha moment saying I didn't know this. Cause you don't know; you only know what is given to you based on someone else's time. If you commit this legislation that says, you are to receive financial report on or before the 15th of the following month. You just received January through June last Council meeting and you're giving accolades about that. You are saying now you are comfortable with it. I don't even charge you I charge the Mayor to be responsible for that. It's the administration, now when I say something and bring it up. You say it's not you guys it's the Mayor's responsibility. But Council you're passing legislation. Warren: Well didn't say that you just said that it was the Mayor's responsibility. We never said that. Howse: When I asked about an administration issue before you stated that Council does not get involved in administration issues. Warren: Following that, as you know in your own community. You would have to provide your Council with financial information. All the information and all the legislation we've passed. All of it doesn't necessarily involves money first of all. Any that does, we already know where we stand as far as the reports. The reports for legislation that we approve, 98% of the time, or 90% of the time at least. We have had recent reports, or we know that unless something devastating happens between two months where we didn't get anything in. We do have trends of finance as they come in. we do get a monthly report, not the one he presents to us in a finance meeting. We get a monthly income and expense report. Williams: Let me say this really quick because I don't want to sit here as a Councilmember, and we say things on record. It's hard to answer these questions in a general sense but I do not like making general comments about something like finances. But, we can't say that 98% of the time we have what we need. We can't say that we usually know our financial standing when legislation is passed. Many times, I vote no because we don't have the information. So, I don't want to make that blanket statement and be covered in what you're saying. When it's not true based on what I see. Warren: Well, I play for what I see. Williams: Ok. Howse: Johnny I've come to the meetings, and I ask the questions. You do not have the financial status; you don't know that. If I asked you right now, do you get a statement of cash at least. Which gives you a summary of what the general fund is and what all the funds' balances are? If you are saying 98% of the time... Warren: When we were fully staffed, we did. When we weren't fully staffed it was a big problem. At one time, Brian was the only one in finance. He didn't have any staff and that was in the months or March, April, and May. Howse: What about last year? You can look at the minutes, same inquiry. All I am asking is, it's not about incompetency, that's not what I am saying. What I am saying is it's the responsibility, that is what I am saying. Brian is an intelligent person, but when he gives you the information it needs to be timely. He needs to be timely, so when I ask the question. You can for certain say, I am going to add an additional \$90,000.00 to the budget next year and agree to this Glenwillow thing. Or when you ask to agree to some kind of grant and find out what is your share. That adds on to your debt. I am not saying you all should be accountants and know that. You should know where you stand. You don't know where you stand financially because you don't even have the reports to say, I know where we are at. You don't! I randomly come to Council meetings, your financial statements are not public, it's not on the website. There is no transparency. So, I am challenging you on this, I am not implying that you are afraid to say no, but just say not right now. Provide me the information and we can look at it, we can table it. You can table things and bring them back. Again, I just think it's incumbent upon the Mayor to push for excellence. To bring up the fact that, if you are hired a full-time person, expected to work full-time hours. There is no reason why these simple questions or requests for public information should not be given when asked. Warren: That is true, just to let you know, even though five minutes has been passed. But for the record, we propose and approve a budget just like the other communities, in the beginning of the year. With anticipation and projection just like your community and everyone else's.

We pass a budget in the beginning of the year based on projections of revenue. And projection of revenue based on history. That is how most places do it. When you give your financial budget for 2023, you had no idea exactly how much money you were receiving in Warrensville. But Warrensville Council had to believe in you that the projection you were giving them had a foundation and was correct. Unless you are saying they improved the budgets month-to-month. Howse: Johnny, let me clarify something for you on that statement. That is incorrect what you just said. Warren: Ok, go ahead and tell me. Howse: Here is what I would say. You do a projection on a budget because again you are estimating based on revenue. Warren: Who's "you"? Howse: Council is presented with a projected budget. Warren: And who gives them the projected budget? Howse: May I complete my sentence because you said I'm done, every time I try to talk... Warren: Go ahead. Howse: Council knows that the budget is a working document. It changes, it could change, every month based on your trends and what you are receiving. Things can happen, you can project that you'll get \$10,000.00 when all of a sudden I'm not getting \$10,000.00. So, your document, your budget is supposed to change. But you are not going to know that if you don't get your financials monthly. Warren: Correct. Howse: You are not going to know if you get wind of money. Like I asked the question last Council meeting. The Mayor said last year I made an inaccurate statement saying the general fund closed at \$146,000.00. he said it wasn't a fair statement because you guys were receiving \$300,000.00 from the County. I asked at the last meeting, did you guys get the \$300,000.00 yet, the answer is no. So, no one can answer that question. Warren: Let me ask you this then. With the \$300,000.00 is that projected, like two and a half percent payroll? Or is that a definitive thing like the reimbursements we are supposed to get from the County. Where we know we have contract to get those reimbursements? Howse: The Mayor said it was definitive and that my statement of saying the general funds closed at \$146,000.00 was unfair. Because you guys transferred money out of the general fund into a special revenue fund, your streets. That you were going to be reimbursed for that amount, three hundred something thousand dollars. He said it was coming in the first quarter, what month are we in now? Warren: We are in the third quarter. Howse: Has anybody asked about that money yet? Thompson: I just wanted to respond to a couple of things. We did receive the money the first quarter of 2023. If you check back in some of the minutes, it's documented formerly that we addressed... Howse: Where did the Mayor say it was going Brian? He said it would be replaced too. I ask you did you guys pass an advance. Thompson: No, we did not do an advance. Howse: You said you did not, so you put the money where? Thompson: We posted it back into the street fund where we paid out this project. Howse: But if you're taking money out of the general fund, you are supposed to replace that money into the general fund; with an advance. **Thompson:** The projects that we did were posted directly to the 201 fund. Howse: If you are taking money out of the general fund to subsidize streets and you are saying you are getting \$300,000.00. As the Mayor made the top comment, don't say that the general fund is ended \$146,000.00. Because you are getting \$300,000.00 from the County to replace that money being transferred out of the general fund. Thompson: Well, you can state that the balance is what it is. But when you schedule you budget like the Chairman is talking about. You have already appropriated the projections that you are going to subsidize the 201 fund. So, we will pay up front for some projects, and put it appropriately under the fund. When that dollar comes back from the County it makes the fund whole. Then the end result of your reconciliation of what you projected. Howse: You are obligated to make the general fund whole. Thompson: We don't do advances; we do transfers here at the Village. Howse: You do transfers with the anticipation of not receiving the money back to the general fund Brian. Thompson: Right, but it balances in the end. Howse: It does not balance. Thompson: It does, if you look at every financial week closing...(inaudible) Warren: Let me ask you, can you guys have a meeting to discuss... (inaudible) Thompson: Because the reports are sent to everybody. Yes there have been some challenges lately. The first page in that report, if you look back the last sixteen years you're going to have a cash report in those documents. Howse: Wait a minute...that's not where I am going. Thompson: But that's the way the system holds. You got a cash report on every single fund if you look back sixteen years. We can do a requisite find... Howse: I will provide you with the difference between an advance and a transfer. The Mayor stated...Thompson: Right, we understand, the Council understands... Williams: Why are you arguing with her. Thompson: Because she is arguing with me... Williams: No. Thompson: You don't have the right to tell me what to say... (inaudible) Williams: (inaudible)... Warren: Brian and Ms. Williams...I am calling a court of order for both of you. Williams: No, you're not. Warren: Yes, I am. Williams: I am asking him to stop yelling. Warren: Ok, and I am asking you, you're not...(inaudible) Williams: This is a Council meeting, there's no reason... Warren: First of all,... Thomspon: I am just responding to... Warren: No one is to speak unless they are recognized by the chair no matter what position they seat. So, the chair does not recognize either one of you. When you

started talking the chair was recognizing Ms. Howse. Now that she is done, we will go on to the next resident. Gottschalk: Hold on Mr. Chairman since my name was mentioned I have a response for about a minute and a half. Regarding our debt, we rolled over our infrastructure debt a month or so ago. Brian how much lower was it than the previous years? Thompson: About \$175,000.00. Gottschalk: In addition, we are at least \$300,000.00 more in tax revenues this year. And what I was going to say is, it's going to be even higher than that including the loss of *I. Schuman*. We are over \$300,000.00 from last year in tax revenues, what I was going to end up saying is. A major state Senator and economic developer has stated that on a per capita basis. There's more development going on in Oakwood Village than anywhere in the State of Ohio. That's exactly why we are in the position we are in with low taxes and our revenue situation. Council is aware of this. The money is more than last year and that they are aware of. Anyway, I have nothing more to say, I just wanted to respond to what Ms. Howse was saying. Warren: Ok.

Erica Nikolich, 7230 Wright Ave, Nikolich: Good evening Council, Law Director I just wanted to follow up on my questions of last week. I have your email; would the answers be better sent via email, or do you have them prepared today? Regarding the questions I asked you last week. Climer: I would like to do that by email. If you send me an email I will respond. Nikolich: Ok, and just out of curiosity I heard Ms. Howse mention public information request. If you all can state the process for that and how we as residents should go about doing that. Climer: It's spelled out in the revised code, but you can make a request through the law department. We will obtain the information from the appropriate people and respond. Nikolich: Ok, so just send you an email, ok.

Samuel Vawters:, BCSD, Vawters: Just wanted to acknowledge our bond issue. I just wanted to share some information, and this is not to advocate for or against the passage of the levy for the bond issue. The information provided is merely factual information regarding additional finances. So just a couple quick points:

- ➤ the Bedford School District has aging facilities. With the oldest building being 114 years old and the newest building being 58 years old. The average age is 74 years old in our district.
- > The building a Brighter Future Community Committee of more than 50 residents, parents, staff, and businesses. People recommended the master facilities plan which includes recommendation for:
 - A new high school with expanded career-technical education opportunities and space;
 - Cosmetology, Video Production, Visual Communication/Graphic Design, Engineering & Biotechnology,
 - Expand our preschool opportunities (we currently have a wait list). We actually had to turn a couple of families away because of the growing population of our preschool. Pre-Covid our preschool was a five star according to the O.D.E(Ohio Department of Education)
 - With new buildings our children will be protected with the latest safety tools and tactics. As well as having state-of-the-art facilities.
 - School- based health clinic with actual healthcare services in school.
- A State facilities study estimates \$224,840,305 million to renovate the current facilities. This is more than building new, which would cost \$161 million. So, the short of it is to renovate would be \$224 million, to build new would be \$161 million.
 - Many neighboring districts have or are building new buildings,
 - The state of Ohio will NOT fund ANY renovations of our current school buildings but WILL fund 21% of a new building facility project. Therefore, 100% of the funds would have to come from tax dollars,
 - This bond will generate \$161M and cost homeowners \$28 per month- less than \$1 per day and that's per \$1000,000 in home valuation. We actually have a video that you could put in the numbers according to your house value. That would give you the exact amount. Warren: Do you have the site? Because we, I think Councilperson Williams had mentioned a site or something like that. Vawters: It should be on our district website, but if it is not, I will get that information to you. We did have two community forums. One actually here last Wednesday in Oakwood, and then one last night at Central Elementary. The turn out was good so we did share that information there as well. Williams: Is there an upcoming forum? Vawters: Yes, I was going to say there is an upcoming forum October 9th, 2023, at the high school from 6pm-8pm. Our superintendent, president, and committee members will facilitating that. We do have Q&A portion and then we will take a

- tour of the building. As you know the Mayor has had his summer camps there at the high school for a number of years. Which actually my kids have attended it and several kids throughout the community. It has been a great summer camp program there. Tentatively, we're looking at meeting in the NLG, which stands for North Large Group instruction room. If the numbers are greater we will move to the auditorium.
- Funds from the \$9.9 million bond issue can ONLY be used for the facility plan and not salaries, benefits, etc. Sometimes people get them mixed up with the operating levy versus the bond. This is a bond and not a levy. Bonds are for buildings, so this money can only be used for facility plans. Warren: That should be a really big advantage if the buildings are built. Because of the fact that then that will offset your budgeting for the repairs of the buildings in this repair. Going forward, for the ongoing maintenance of the building, your maintenance budget should significantly drop. If you build new buildings and they give you more operating expenses. Vawters: Currently, I am not operating in the role of executive director. But, I can say that building state-of-the-art facilities, our staff assumes would definitely attract more families. It would help attract when I go recruiting for teachers. You know that currently, often we had to close our building. Because we do not have air conditioning and if it rains, it's going through the roof. Going back some time, Ms. Matlock and her team advocated for us to actually just simply have new faucets. Our bathrooms were just deployed, it wasn't even usable. So, if you go to the high school, currently we have buckets from the south side to the north side. Every time it rains, it rains in the classrooms, in the hallways, and on our children's desk. So, it's really about having a state-of-the-art facility. No one wants to work or be educated in dilapidated buildings. Davis: Can you tell me how many students are enrolled in Bedford schools? Vawters: Currently we have over 2,800 students. Davis: 2,800, is this down or the same within the past five years? Also, the 58-year-old building is that Heskett? Vawters: Yes. Davis: The building that's 114 years old is that Central? Vawters: Yes. Davis: Thank you. Warren: Just one quick question, with these new buildings that you are projecting. Are you building an area in those buildings to accommodate some special trades? Everyone aren't going to college. We were talking and everyone sees a need for training. For jobs of the future, and all jobs of the future are not necessarily behind a desk. There's auto mechanics, metals shops and things like that when I was going to high school. Are you guys having a return of those? Vawters: There's two questions on the floor, so I will start with Councilwoman Davis', then you. Our largest projection of attendance over the years, Ms. Matlock is a proud graduate, I am a proud graduate, Ms. Williams kind of, Mr. Warren? Warren: No, my kids, both of them. Davis: I am also a graduate. Vawters: And Ms. Davis, so our biggest capacity has been 3,500. Maybe 3,600 but we never had four or five thousand. So, to answer your question, yes our enrollment has decreased. We are a little over 2,800. Davis: Ok. Vawters: Your question was in regard to CTE. Yes, we currently have CTE programs. Previously, we were part of what's called consortia. That's ourselves, Warrensville, Shaker, Cleveland Heights, and Maple Heights. So, a lot of those courses and you know that when we went to Bedford high school, we did have cosmetology, auto tech, drafting, engineering. So, years ago those programs were eliminated, and we joined consortia. The challenge with the consortia is or was, that many of our students were not allowed to get into those programs. If I may, Ms. Matlock had a girl who wanted to get into cosmetology. But, at that particular tine we partnered up with Maple. If they had five seats or twenty seats, the first fifteen seats went to their kids. Some of our kids were not able to. We went to the community, and we heard them. What the community said is we want those CTE programs back in our buildings. We have taken ourself out of consortia and bringing those things back to our high school. Currently, we already have consumer science. If you remember we even had it at middle school. So, we are bringing those CTE programs back to middle and high school. Williams: So, the new buildings will house career and technical education within the buildings? Vawters: Currently we have family consumer science and several CTE programs as well. Warren: With nursing, have you guys thought about seeing what kind of collaborative efforts you can do with Tri-C, in the nursing program? Vawters: Currently we have collaborative efforts now. Years ago, the Mayor and myself did collaborate with Tri-C. We have reconvened that relationship with Tri-C, in fact, we have a very positive relationship. Just a sidenote, One of the thing we love about our school district, we have 588 staff. Over 60% have their master's degree, we have 22 master teachers. Of the 588 employees, not just the teachers but all the employees, we have well over 55% of our staff who graduated from Bedford High School. They now serve as custodian, bus driver, teacher, cook, paraprofessional. They serve at some kind of capacity. We've got parents who have kids who graduated from Bedford High School. Now they work for our school district. We have a great tradition and we're very prideful in what we do and the products that we've been able to produce from people right here. Warren: Do you see the younger population, who graduated maybe 20 or 15 years ago. Coming

back there like the older people we won't look at? (everyone laughs) Vawters: Great question, I am not the executive director of HR. But, I've had the honor and privilege of hiring, just this year ten young people who served under my leadership as principle. They graduated 2012, 2013, and 2014. One of the gentleman on our committee graduated in 2016. So, the answer to your question if we hired young people who just graduated, yes. I've hired teachers, custodians, four security officers who graduated and went to the academy. Our teacher of the year, Ms. Allison Brennan, graduated in 2002, desired to graduate and come back to Bedford High School. She's the teacher of the year for the entire district. We also have a program called future educators. They begin in high school teaching classes or taking classes to be a teacher. They go off to Kent State University, Akron University, and Ohio State University, and come back and serve as teachers. Williams: To your nursing programs, I spoke to some graduates a few years back. They had gone through some type of nursing program with Cleveland Clinic or something. Vawters: Cleveland Clinic NUH, we were partnered that time with Bedford Hospital, along with Ahuja. William: Ok. Davis: You have on here that Pre-K through second grade school on Heskett site. So, Heskett will be taken down? Are you talking about new building or refurbishing Heskett? Warren: Are you tearing down and rebuilding? Davis: Because Heskett had the problem with the roofing since it was first built. Vawters: They will be on the Heskett site, but it will come down. Boyinton (B.O.E president): Heskett will actually become a swing school because it's the one building in the better shape. When we build the 6th-8th grade building on Chanel property. Once that building is completed, the middle school children will move into the new building on Chanel. Then we can move PreK-2nd grade over to the Heskett building. We will be doing some modifications in there, as we are building the PreK- 2nd grade building behind Heskett. So, Heskett will never be empty. Currently, Heskett is the middle school. The new buildings will start at the Chanel site, which will be the 6th-8th grade building and the high school. Once that building is complete, we will move the middle schoolers out of Heskett, to the new site. Then we will move the PreK-2nd grade into the Heskett building. In the meantime, we'll be tearing down Central, Glendale, and Carylwood. We'll bring those children to the Heskett building, once the PreK-2nd grade building is built. Heskett building is going to be the building that will be there the longest. We will eliminate Central, Glendale, Carylwood, and Columbus schools. Davis: So, is this levy going to be fixing the roofing for the water problem they have? Boyinton: It will be maintained to have the children there during this process. We are trying to do the least disruption to instruction right now and Heskett will be the swing building. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade building will not be built with this bond issue. Williams: I just want to thank you all as the board and the executive leadership team. I think you all are doing a phenomenal job. I know you all have only been there a few years. Maintenance of buildings is a problem that you inherited from previous boards and administration. I know you all are toughing it out dealing with that, but I look forward to supporting the issue. Boyinton: If you want to know more and see the plans. There's going to be much more information we were not able to provide tonight. Come out on Monday, October 9th from 6pm-8pm. We will have several people there that can answer questions. There's a lot of misinformation out there and several people can speak on the misinformation. We are trying to be as transparent as possible, but we do need folks to come out and hear us. Our children deserve this, they deserve better than what they are receiving right now. As a board member and resident of Bedford Heights for 39 years. As long as I am on the board, we are going to fight for this, for our children. Our time is now. Vawters: Mrs. Boyd did not share it, but she's an educator and she works for the Warrensville School district. This Saturday Superintendent Dolly has afforded us the opportunity to visit and observe their new building facilities. Last weekend a buddy of mine, we grew up together and he lived across street from me. His mother passed about 10 years ago. Came up for Labor Day weekend. when they got off the freeway. They were so impressed with Oakland village and the signs. The beautiful facilities, the state-of-the-art facilities that mayor and council have done over the years. The saw the walking paths, they went to the old neighborhood and went around, and they were just in awe. So, I say that to say, we've been given this opportunity to come visit Saturday morning, at 8:30a.m., to see their beautiful state-of-the-art facilities. It would be awesome if we have some beautiful state of the art facilities for our children and our neighborhoods to complement our communities Oakwood, Bedford, Bedford Heights, and Walton Hills. Each time you bring in a business, they talk about how they build a state-of-the-art facility for our businesses. Why not do that for our kids. Have a state-of-the-art where our kids can learn, and our teachers can teach. Haba: You say someone is going to be at Heskett always or just for a couple years? Boyinton: It will be indefinitely until the new buildings are built. As Mr. Vawters' said we will be getting 21% of that \$161,000 will be coming from the state. We don't know when we will receive it yet, but once we do, then we will construct a 3rd-5th grade building on the current Columbus Road site. Then Heskett will be gone. Williams: When and what time is the tour? Boyinton: We will meet at

the high school at 8:30a.m. I will be one of the chaperones at Warrensville, I am in one of the new buildings. Once the building was constructed so many kids came back we had to purchase another site. It's beautiful, we can only take 30 at this time, but can have a second tour. Come down to the high school, we'll hop on the bus. We'll have a great tour, see where we are and where we could be, our time is now. Gottschalk: Mr. Chairman, two quick points. Bedford has been very accommodating for our summer camp program. We're doing things there that aren't being done at any other school in the district. Hopefully, we'll be a model for at least Northeast Ohio. Also, it's very good to see they are enriching their curriculum to include the trades again. It's important to be able to retouch it and connect with their kids to be able to see what career they might be interest in. We're very, very pleased with the direction it's going. Warren: Anyone else? I'll close the floor for public comment. We will proceed with the agenda.

Floor closed.

Climer: Thank you Council president. Proceeds to read legislation:

Legislation:

2023-32

Introduced 9-12-2023 By Mayor and

Council as a whole

1st read

2023-33 Introduced 9-26-2023

By Mayor and Council as a whole

1st read

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 125.01, 125.04,

AND 125.05 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE POLICE

DEPARTMENT.

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR A POTENTIAL GRANT FOR THE FUNDING OF CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

PROJECTS.

Warren: Can I get a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Matlock YES VOTE: Warren, Matlock, Davis, Williams, Motion Passed

Adjourned at 8:30pm

Approved

Joseph, Clerk of Counci

Tohnnie Warren, Council President