

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2025-1-14**

ATTENDANCE

Erica Nikolic, President
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3
Mary Davis, Ward 4
Candace Hill, Ward 5

Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor
Tom Haba, Service Director*
Mark Garratt, Police Department
James Climer, Law Director
Brian Thompson, Finance Director
Brian DiRocco, Fire Department
Matt Jones, Village Engineer

ABSENT

Johnnie Warren, President Pro Tem
Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor
Sam O'Leary, Assistant Law Director
Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2
Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official
* Arrived after roll call

Meeting opened at 7:06pm by Nikolic
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Nikolic: Moving on to agenda item number four, meeting minutes. We have several of them tabled, we have two members that are out. If we can make a concerted effort to get through these so the next meeting we could get some of these off at the table. I didn't want to take any off the table with two members out tonight. But if we could all work to review them by our next meeting so we can move some of them off that would be great. **Nikolic:** Agenda item number five Clerk Correspondence. **Joseph:** I don't really have any except this meeting is currently being transcribed live. So, I just ask for no side conversations. So, the mic can clearly pick up whoever is speaking. **Nikolic:** Thank you, moving on to agenda, item number six, departmental reports. **Joseph:** I really don't have anything except, this meeting is currently being transcribed live. So, I just asked for no side conversations. So that the mic can clearly pick up whoever is speaking. **Nikolic:** Thank you, moving on to agenda item number six, departmental reports.

Department Report

Law Director, Climer **Climer:** Thank you, Madam President. There are several items that I would like to move off the work session. That would be number 2024-WS-40, which is the prohibitions against fireworks. 2024-WS-50 which is the ordinance repealing chapter 139 of the ordinances. Which is a reiteration of the employee manual. I'd like to repeal that so that we don't have conflicts with the employee manual. 2024-WS-51, which is the employee handbook for the fire department. 2025-WS-01, which is just a renewal of the authority to sell village property through an internet auction site. Which is something that is supposed to be done each year under

the revised code. 2025-WS-02, which is a reaffirmation of the anthem code. **Davis:** Can we do 2024-WS-52, that's the animal control. **Climer:** If that's Council's wish. **Davis:** Okay. **Climer:** And 2025-WS-03, which is outlined, it's intended to respond to OML's request. There is a tariff revision with the Ohio's Utility Commission. That would require any time we need to move AT&T's utilities out of right of way. We would have to pay for it, whereas normally the utilities do. the OML is undertaking a fight against that. they are not asking for any money at this time but they are asking for our support. And 2025-WS-04, which is out MOU with the Soil and Water Conservation District. Which is something we do yearly. they handle our public education portion of that program. Which is very time-consuming and would cost much more than that amount to do ourself. **Davis:** May I ask, do you know, it was mentioned by Mr. Jones. That we pay the \$6,000 for this and then we get that paid back to us? **Climer:** Per my understanding, yeah, Matt understands that a lot better. Finally, on the agenda is the Trescal Job Creation tax Credit. As I understand it's the consensus of Council that they would like to split that tax credit 50/50, as opposed to 75/25. **Gottschalk:** The Economic Commissioner, is he expected at all? **Davis:** No, sick. I would caution if that's the case. The one attached tonight still reads 75%, so we need to amend that. **Nikolic:** They are both tabled. **Climer:** So, we'll have it amended for the next meeting. **Nikolic:** Okay. **Matlock:** So, they are going to agree to 50/50? **Climer:** Well, I'll amend it for Council's consideration next meeting. **Nikolic:** Law Director, is it your recommendation that we do this now. Or wait until the legislative portion of the meeting? Or the next work session, what's your recommendation? **Climer:** I don't think that they can be passed tonight anyhow. So, I would suggest they be moved during the next work session. **Nikolic:** Okay, does that conclude your report? **Climer:** Yes. **Davis:** Do we need to have one reading of them first or not? **Climer:** I think once they get moved out of work session under the regular agenda, then we can read it. So, my suggestion would be since they can't pass tonight anyhow. Let's move them at the next work session on to the regular agenda. **Nikolic:** When they can be passed? **Climer:** Yes. **Davis:** Okay, because we need six for that. **Climer:** Six to suspend, five passes an emergency, yes. **Davis:** We have five, correct? We have five now. **Climer:** Yeah, but you need six to suspend the rules. **Davis:** Oh, okay, thank you. **Matlock:** Charter Commission, do we have all the residents that's going to be participating? **Climer:** Sam has been spearheading that. We were short two appointments. I know we sent out a request for people who haven't yet appointed to do that. **Nikolic:** We have them, I think that our Clerk sent out an updated email with all of the appointments. **Matlock:** Do we have all the appointments? **Joseph:** Yes. **Climer:** So, there will be an initial organizational meeting called and we can see it. **Matlock:** And I notice we have something in here regarding our employee handbook. **Climer:** Yes. **Matlock:** We're still updating that or is it's updated already? **Climer:** The Fire Department handbook has been updated. **Matlock:** Okay, the regular employee handbook hasn't been updated? **Climer:** That is the Fire Department handbook, I believe. **Davis:** It says other than Fire Department and non-auxillary Police. **Climer:** Yeah, I honestly need to take a look it's been so long. **Nikolic:** Right, and I think the problem with that legislation is that it references Exhibit A, but Exhibit A is an attached. So, we can't really determine what exactly it is talking about. **Climer:** All right, I'll work with the Clerk to get that attached. **Matlock:** Okay now, if my question to you would be. Would it be any offense if we were to have that employee handbook since it is the beginning of 2025. Have each director issue that to all of the employees. **Climer:** It was issued when it was first enacted. And it gets reissued for new employees. So, they should all have it. **Davis:** But did we update it or we didn't? **Climer:** If there is an update, we'll get that distributed. **Davis:** And have them sign that every employee received it. **Climer:** Yes. **Matlock:** Okay, that's what we

need to do. Just trying to keep it all updated. **Climer:** Understood. **Nikolic:** Any other comments? Hearing none that we hear from our Finance Director, Brian Thompson.

Finance Director, Thompson | **Thompson:** I don't have a report at this time, but I can answer any questions. **Matlock:** We don't have any reports from you for 2024. I think the last meeting you stated that you should be finalizing 2024 reports. And that we should have a copy of those reports by this meeting. So, do we have any of those reports that we have requested? **Thompson:** I did send in a lot of credit card statements, debt schedule, current payroll, and accruals. There was a couple more I can't remember on my list, but I did submit some. There is a few left to submit. **Matlock:** Yeah, you were going to reconcile. And make sure that all the 2024 payments you have finalized, will be placed on a report. So, we will know exactly if each department went over their budget or under their budget. Where we were at the beginning of the fiscal year 2024. How much was in the general fund? How much was... I mean, do we have anything on that? **Thompson:** We're working on it now, now that my staff is 1 to 4. We're closing November, December simultaneously. So, I figured it will be the next couple of weeks. We still projected around half a million dollars in the general fund. But we'll have a final report in the next couple of weeks. We're closing out November and December simultaneously. **Davis:** Okay, so at our next meeting, at the end of the month for sure, all forms will be ? **Thompson:** Yes, all financial reports. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for finance director? Hearing that May we hear from our Service Director?

Nikolic: Actually, Service Director Haba came in and mentioned that he would be out plowing roads given the weather conditions. So, if there are no pressing questions. Any questions you have send them to him via email and/or wait until next meeting. May we hear from our Fire Chief?

Fire Chief, DiRocco | **DiRocco:** Good evening, I have no report at this time. I'm available for any questions. **Matlock:** We just want to find out if you can contact Tanya and give us a date of when you can meet with us. So, we can clear up the Fire Department on all the issues that you have in regards to pay and increases whatever it is, your budget. **Davis:** Job descriptions of the new people, the captains. **DiRocco:** Get with Tanya, set up a date, got it. **Nikolic:** Was that supposed to take place in a finance Committee meeting, Councilperson Hill? A follow up budget discussion, a follow up with the Fire Department with positions. **Hill:** Is that what you were talking about? **Matlock:** Yeah, we we just want to make sure within the next week we have a meeting with them. So, we can get everything squared away. **Hill:** They were going to send us dates last time. Do you know if Chief Tapp sent dates to our Clerk? **DiRocco:** I don't know. **Hill:** All right, just remind us of some dates and we'll schedule something, thank you. **DiRocco:** You're welcome. **Nikolic:** Thank you, Councilperson Matlock, may we hear from our Police Chief, Garratt?

Police Chief, Garratt | **Garratt:** Thank you, Madam President. I want to go over an investigation that we've started in June. It just got wrapped up last month. It involved the elegant spa, which is to 29929 Broadway Avenue. This is next to, in the same strip mall of Subway and chinese restaurant. **Davis:** I just saw it today when I went to get Chinese food. I didn't know there was such a thing. **Garratt:** They're pretty discreet, other than an open sign up front. What happened is were initially made aware of the situation down there. We contacted the Northeast Ohio

Human Trafficking Task Force, a division of Homeland Security. They handle these type of investigations. So, our detective investigated with them. What it turned out to be was labor, sex trafficking, and prostitution. So, like I said, we've been surveilling since June. We executed a search warrant on December 12th, 2024. Where a couple of people were taken into custody and information was gathered, processed, and taken back Homeland Security. So, there was the arrest. There's a lot of these pop ups, massage parlors, foot massage, foot things, peaceful foot spa. These have been popping up all communities across Northeast Ohio. They come in, they make X amount of money. They get caught, they bail and this is just another ring that we're dealing with. So, they're out of they've been out there for about a month now. So, we're keeping an eye on that. I guess, according to the Building Department last month. There's someone interested in occupying. So, that's why if you heard some of the scuttlebutt about what's going on. I think that's about as much as I can tell you about the investigation. I just have some 2024 numbers for you that I want to pass along also. Calls for service we had in 2024 5338 calls for service, and that's total of 15 a day. So, that's pretty busy. There's the list of anywhere from domestics to a variety of different assaults and stuff like that. We had a traffic stop at 3226 traffic stops about 8/9 a day. So, we're aggressively enforcing traffic violations. Not that we cite them all because out of those 3226, 974 were cited. So, it's pretty busy year, it increases every year, like I've mentioned in the past. I just want to make it aware, one other thing is, Oakwood is a part of SEALE. For those who don't know what SEALE is. SEALE, an acronym for Southeast Area Law Enforcement. Within SEALE, we have several different units. Narcotics, Swat Team, Bomb Squad, Investigation Unit, Critical Incident Team, Tactical Dispatch, and Medics. There are all sorts of (inaudible) involved in these units. And there are seven Chiefs on board. Each city, there's Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple, Solon, Oakwood, Garfield, and Walton Hills. And each chief is an organizer of that. Each Chief has a responsibility to a unit, I am responsible for the Swat Team. So, it's a very busy unit. We average about three raids and executing search warrants a week, it's pretty busy. Assist in narcotics, we assist the U.S. Marshals, the FBI, Cleveland PD, we do a lot of their warrants. Some of the arrests from 2024, the numbers are in now. They had 77 cases through the Narcotics Unit, and seven of them were here in Oakwood. The most was in Garfield, which was 20. Maples is right there at 19. I'm going to send some pictures around. These are some of the seizures that happened in 2024. And this is as a result of our search warrants and our investigations. And this is just a drop in the bucket compared to all of this. You can see there's a lot of currency, a lot of U.S. currency, a lot of drugs, a lot of firearms. That's just the narcotics unit. **Matlock:** Do y'all get to keep any? **Garratt:** What was that? **Matlock:** Do you get to keep any, I'm talking money. No, I'm just joking. **Garratt:** Well, no that's a good question. I received the total amount of money assets of \$980,000 last year, almost \$981,000 US currency. The prosecutor said it's called an administrative forfeiture. So, what happens on the other side the Judge reviews the case and seizes the money eventually; most of the time. And SEALE, get 80% and County and/or FBI or DEA, depends on who's doing an administrative seizure gets the other 20%. So, 80% of those funds go for specialized units, equipment mostly. Some of it goes for the narcotics agents salaries. We get a lot of those funded by narcotics grants that we're involved in. Oakwood is involved in that. So, all these teams are staffed by officers from the seven cities, including ours. We have several officers in some of the units on there. They stay very busy. I can give you a rundown of the drugs, the amounts, the weights, and the guns and everything else. You can see from the pictures; that's just a drop in the bucket compared to what we're dealing with now. It's everywhere, you can't get away from it. It's just the way it is. And some of the Councilmembers years ago. We brought a table out of all the guns

we had seized from that point. It's just the nature of the beast. So, just to give you an idea, that's not TV, that's what's happening here. I don't always report this stuff to you. But if it's anything the public needs to hear. Of course I'll report that for safety issues. But just know that all of these officers are in Oakwood and SEALE diligently doing their jobs. So, it's pretty impressive when you see the pictures, it's interesting. But that's where the money goes. We just bought, out of that, for half million dollars an armored vehicle called the Bearcat. But this is an awesome machine and it's also safe for rescues and it's available to us. I'm looking to do something in the summer where we just for safety purposes. Eight years ago. I'd like to see if we can get the fire department. I'm sure they would participate with us to do another safety course today in the summertime when rail is going out, get to see an accident. I mean, it's pretty amazing. We just had its maiden voyage, so to speak. On a call out in Bedford Heights for an active shooting that was going on. And what happened is the shooter actually shot the Bearcat multiple times with officers inside. And they couldn't even hear the bullets hitting outside, pretty impressive. That ended with a peaceful surrender. After the Bearcat, there's a long pole in the front of it that can puncture through brick walls, anything. We put our cameras in there, drones, tear gas in there. Whatever needs to be done to help influence the scene. We put tear gas in there, multiple projectiles, and the person gave up peacefully. Unfortunately, a neighbors down the street could feel it in her eyes it that much. It was a windy day, but that Bearcat definitely was a wise piece of equipment. **Gottschalk:** That the name for the Bedford School. **Nikolic:** The mascot. **Garratt:** Ironically, it is, it's kind of (inaudible). **Nikolic:** A quick question, Chief, but the photos. These represent seizures from all of SEALE, not just in Oakwood. **Garratt:** Yes. **Nikolic:** Okay. **Garratt:** And the reason you're seeing the same location is because the Narcotics Unit is housed in Bedford PD. So, you have the table there, and that's where we did play everything on. It's not that this is all from Bedford, this is all from all seven cities, that's quite a bit. **Davis:** The front page one, is this equipment that they used? what is it that? **Garratt:** That makes pills. There are pressers for making their own pills. That's a pill press and that's what that does. They put the drugs in and composite. **Davis:** And then there's one with cap that says, "trap star." Is that the name of the people that were doing that? **Garratt:** That was linked to another crime I'll just tell you that. **Davis:** Okay, it's like halfway back, is that supposed to be like candy? **Garratt:** A lot of different drugs are going in the candy. **Davis:** Is that what it is okay. **Garratt:** There's certain ones I get, I didn't... **Davis:** Yeah, it's like halfway back. I remember it had different colors. **Garratt:** Is that the blue ones you're talking about? **Davis:** They have blue and then they have this one at the back here has all colors. Yeah, so that could be the meth pressers. Those are probably made in the same pill machine you saw at the front. You can see them on the front, all those bags. **Davis:** Yes. **Garratt:** Those are all pills that are manufactured in the machine behind the photo. **Scruggs:** So, my question would be and I know they do this at some of the best science centers across the globe. Where the safety forces will kind of do something with the kids to kind of show them be aware of X, Y, Z. Or, you know, just kind of learning how to keep themselves safe when they make better decisions, when they're not around their parents. **Gottschalk:** We have that in our camp program. **Scruggs:** And all of those students wouldn't necessarily be able to participate in the camp program. So, is there something that we could potentially do. To bring, even if it's during the Safety Forces Day. To allow more family and even the younger ones that are not able to get in the camp. Because some like seven-year-olds and six year olds like are being offered this type of candy. You know, or whatever it is, or hey, be my friend or whatever. To bring out the families and have them have a good relationship with the officers. And being able to come and do all that. **Garratt:** So yeah, we will always do it on

our own during Safety Forces Day. But if you have an event you would like. We do it for several different, wards have asked and invited us down for community meetings. And we're happy to come down and do that. Or if you want to set up some specialized, we can do that too. But Safety Forces Day, we did something similar, mostly firearms safety. And we loaded them up with (inaudible) had a bunch of stuff on firearm safety and all that kind of stuff. And as far as getting out the specific pills and stuff. There's always a variance in ages where that is a big thing to do. It's always better to set it up separately, honestly. So, we can focus on certain age groups and what they're facing at that age. So yeah, absolutely, we love participating in that kind of stuff. And it's a great event, I know a lot of you haven't been there. But we'll look at getting that kicked off again. We had helicopters come; it was a really good event. Even for the parents, especially of the younger kids. They did fingerprints and DNA. So that means if they go missing. They have ways to help us find them and expedite the process. **Scruggs:** We would love to partner with you. **Garratt:** Yes, I know it was a lot to report, and I apologize. I want to get some of that info out to you. If you have more questions in regard to that. I can go over it in great detail. **Davis:** Do you know anything about, or are you allowed to say. The house that's empty that Oakwood bought. It was supposed to be on Alexander Road, that corner house with the tarp. There were four policemen cars there Sunday. **Garratt:** I have to look; it wasn't anything major or I would have gotten a call. **Davis:** Because the house is supposed to be empty, its own by Oakwood. **Garratt:** (inaudible) Macedonia? **Davis:** I mean, Alexander and the bypass, the corner house that has a big tarp, whatever. But it bought by Oakwood or Premier. I don't know who owns it. **Garratt:** I don't know off the top of my head. It wasn't anything bad or they would have called me but I'll look into it **Davis:** Okay, because there were four Police cars there. **Garratt:** Sunday you said? **Davis:** This past Sunday. **Garratt:** about what time? **Davis:** That I don't know, my mom said they were there. **Garratt:** Okay. **Davis:** Thank you. **Garratt:** Sure. **Nikolic:** Anything else Council? Hearing none, may I please hear from our Engineer, Mr. Jones?

Engineer, Jones | **Jones:** So, I don't have a whole lot to report. I just want to give everybody a heads up that the reconstruction project on Broadway is going to be happening this year. That project was awarded by the County. A couple weeks ago, I believe it's been since the last time I was here. So, the contractor on it is going to be Vandra Brothers, which is based in Oakwood, which is fantastic news. There they were also the contractor on both of the Fair Oaks and Oak Leaf projects. So that's great. But, you know, I just want to give everybody a heads up that that is going to be happening starting this Spring. There will be significant impacts to traffic. But, you know, it'll be worth it in the end. That road is in desperate shape, in desperate need of being redone. So, basically it's between Tryon and Richmond, not including either intersection. So, the big impacts are going to be basically right out in front of here from here down to Richmond Road is where the impacts are going to be the most significant. So just to give everybody a heads up that's coming. And then I also just wanted to reiterate what Law Director Climer stated earlier. Two items in work session, both 2025-WS-03 and 2025-WS-04. Just definitely looking to get those moved along. You know, again, I acknowledge that we can't suspend anything tonight. So, if those could be a priority for the next meeting, I'd appreciate it. I don't know that I'm going to be at the next meeting. So, if you have any questions about those I could certainly answer that. Again, 2025-WS-04, with the Soil and Water District. That's a part of our MS4s permit with the EPA. It's a requirement that we do this. And again, the Regional Sewer District does reimburse the Village 100% of the cost of that \$6,000. So, while we do have to cut the check. We will very quickly get the money back. Other than that, I am here for questions. **Davis:**

May I ask, do we have the numbers of how much it's costing their Village for the driveway? What was the final do we know? **Jones:** I don't have the numbers with me. I do know that the contract came in pretty significantly underestimate. So, the Village's share would be less than what was originally budgeted the way it's set up currently. And again, I don't have the numbers in front of me. But I do know that the way the contract is set up right now. It will be less than what was budgeted. **Davis:** And that's by the Spring we would have to pay? **Jones:** So, typically the County doesn't start coming after you for funds until after the project is complete. We haven't got anything for Forbes yet have we? **Thompson:** No. **Jones:** So, it'll be 2026 before you see a bill for that job. But yes, it would be less than what was budgeted for. **Gottschalk:** We have Vandra Brothers here in oakwood. And Chris Ronayne the County Executive. **Jones:** Yes. **Nikolic:** What's the duration of that project start to finish time wise? **Jones:** Yeah, it's probably going to be the whole Spring and Summer. You know, I don't have exact completion dates yet. It's supposed to be a pre-construction meeting getting scheduled the next couple of weeks. So, I'll get a lot more information at that point. Again, the contract was just awarded a week or two ago. So, we don't have all that information yet. I do know that the contractor would be able to start as early as April 1st. I'm not sure that I think he'll start right on April 1st. But I would anticipate pretty soon after that. You'll start seeing work out there. **Nikolic:** Okay. **Davis:** And that's just to resurface it, not to widen it right? **Jones:** No, nothing is widen, it's a full depth reconstruction. So, it's more than just a resurfacing. There's a lot of things, repairs, it's going to be done, a fair number of repairs. But no, change alignment and no changes in elevation or width. **Davis:** Thank you. **Nikolic:** Any other questions for our Engineer? Hearing none, may we hear from Mayor Gottschalk, please, thank you.

Mayor, Gottschalk | **Gottschalk:** The lack of competency we've witnessed in the United States in the last 30 days is staggering. The misuse of federal government FEMA funds, storm victims in North Carolina, the nightmare in New Orleans, and the blatant California government and administrative incompetency in their response to the fires of California. First, I want to touch on our Fire Department. When I. Schuman blew up, we had nineteen firefighting units from other cities here in coordination with Chief Tapp. Nineteen, and with that, of course, it was helpful. Because other than the person that created the explosion who got killed, nobody else died. There were things flying all over the place. And all this was taken care of by fire units we had out here the nineteen. So, it's a very good response for our fire unit; kudos, great job. Then we had our Chief talk about the S.W.A.T Team about the apprehension of a unit over there in the parlor next to the Sunoco. Interestingly enough, the next tenant came there was going to be a convenience store. Dan came over there and after questioning for ten minutes. He opened up and said, we're also going to be selling vape vaping products. That was the end of that situation and they're no longer going to be there. You really have to be on top of this stuff. I see where the current administration is now wanting a ban, while they're still there, cigarettes. I can remember the Godfather. There was a literally a, what he did with Cigarettes and put them all over all over the United States. Selling them for...I can't think of the word right now. But literally what would be happening is this. They're going to be fortified probably with Fentanyl and other things as they're coming out from across the border. And so that would be bad news for young kids and Police. Let's hope that this doesn't get any mileage. It's not a good sign when we're now dealing with cigarettes. Which people have been cutting back on. But now when are you going to start putting a blacklist on them. That opens up the idea of having open markets for selling this on the side. And particularly, again at your convenience stores and whatever. The other thing that was

concerning is the what's been happening is, again. Through the apps, you're able to rent, well it's been a little while now. But renting out houses for a night or two nights or three nights just to stay, rather than a hotel. This is less chance if your car is full or something like ammunition. You're not going to be stopped in a house as it is, it would be potentially in a hotel. And so, it's going to be more redundant now for us to be taking surveys at least twice a week, going through Oakwood. To make sure that you're not seeing unusual activity in someone's drive, this is very serious. What you're seeing happening is staggering in terms of what's going on here. I want to give kudos to our Council for passing the legislation for the health benefits. It was very much appreciated by both the Fire and Police Department, and the 20 full-time workers that we have here. We very much appreciate it, thank you very, very much. Since the Council-at-Large is not here to go over to Trescal. We'll wait until the next meeting. We reorganize beautifully the Finance Department. Which now has besides accounts receivable. She's been a 30 years experience with the state auditor's office. And leaves real credibility to what's going on over there. And we're very excited having her on the team. And so that reorganization is very much in place, very satisfactorily. And it now would be a less of a burden on Brian. We're getting things done now because they'll have a little more help. We'll hold off on Trescal until the next week. If Tommy was here, I would give kudos to him and his department as well. For the great job they're doing on maintaining the streets along with the Chagrin Valley. And as well as landscaping, which makes a glorious pathway when you come through Oakwood. Which has helped bring in the kinds of companies that we have here. It brings in the job creation tax credits, as well as the net profit tax credits. And why we've had the fourth lowest property tax in the entire County. Until the schools wanted to invest a \$170 million levy. Where they're tearing down six buildings, putting up four buildings. Including completely demolishing the high school. Lastly, now we're ready to reorganize the Building Department. And I'm asking either for an executive session next Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. Whatever your choice is, at about 6:45pm. The first two nights are going to be a big Arctic freeze coming in. So, I don't even think we'll get above zero. Whatever night you choose, we'll have it regarding the Building Department. At the same time, we've had, to be able to answer the phone as an example. We've had a couple of employees, so that's not a problem. But we also had a lady from the Meadows who's done it. Who I've had to pay out of my own pocket since she hadn't been approved yet from Council. But we need somebody to answer the phones down there. As an example, again today. Today, Dan, there was a issue, a major issue over at Starbucks. You know, he had to be over there for a while. And if we didn't have somebody answering the phones, it could have been a problem. So, I'm asking for, and you don't have to pass it tonight. That you give me approval for no more than a week at \$20 an hour. So, that's \$180 per day for the week would be about \$800/ \$900. So, that we have someone answering those phones. When he has to be out on assignment. So, you don't have to pass anything today. Just give me a thumbs up. In fact, the lady is a again, she's a resident in the Meadows. And she's been there already for eight hours total already. And we're probably going to need somebody to be answering those phones again when he's out on assignment. **Matlock:** Can I ask you a question? Again, I ask, have you contacted Mrs. Hicks? The manager who was there in that Building Department. **Gottschalk:** She so frustrated, I don't want to be using adjectives. She has not been given a raise. She was led to believe that she wasn't even getting paid. But not being given a raise for the last three years, she's not very happy. She's under the doctors supervision because of the stress. She would be obviously the best person to be there. But until, maybe if Council gives me something in writing. To say, in fact, that these things are not threats. I think we might be able to get her back. But right now, she's just very, very

distraught. How would you like it if you were there for twenty-four years and they said good-bye. **Matlock:** This is exactly what I have been talking about, about communications. You guys do not communicate, being in administration you should be communicating with your employees. You knew about that Building Department since when? When did they first say something to you about SafeBuilt? It had to be September. **Hill:** No, it was last May. **Matlock:** May, okay, May those plans that you were going to have to implement. Because I understand, or I know the guy from SafeBuilt had come in and he discussed everything. If you really look at what we have been paying SafeBuilt. How much have we been paying SafeBuilt a year, approximately \$50,000 a year. To go out and do inspections or homes and whatever. Okay. The Building Department, I'm just telling you what the failures were. One of your failures was your inspection. Two of the employees that you had in there. You had an Aaron guy in there didn't go out and do anything. We would give you houses, complaints from residents to just go out and look. And your Building Department manager basically put the nail in his own coffin. When he come in and he talked to residents like they were crap, okay. And they didn't see anything from what they were asking him to do. I mean, how this went over with the Building Department is really not good, okay? Because Lillie and them shouldn't have been gone. They approved the budget from, what, January to March. So, whatever you were going to implement with that Building Department should have been implemented. Lillie, none of them should have been gone. Until you actually went in, assessed and found out exactly how you were going to move SafeBuilt into our inspection. You had no one inside that Building Department who can do an inspection, period. **Gottschalk:** How do we have the fourth lowest property tax in the County? **Matlock:** Well, you want to know something. That don't have anything to do with the Building Department, the employees in the Building Department... **Gottschalk:** You have no idea how much you spending on SafeBuilt. **Matlock:** But look you were already, put it like this. **Gottschalk:** Hold on, when you start looking at eight hours a day, five days a week, for 52 weeks. And everything that's going on here. Permit and zoning is very little. You're looking at probably about two hundred, three hundred thousand dollars. **Matlock:** Mayor, I think they already gave us a contract with SafeBuilt. If you think about what you already paid them a year. It wasn't even part of any type of contract. You already pay them \$50,000 a year. **Gottschalk:** Yeah, that's for inspections. **Matlock:** No, to have all what you needed to have done. Your basic inspections and things that went on in this city. Wouldn't have been \$300,000, matter of fact, approximately how much was that actual contract? **Gottschalk:** That's what it will be with SafeBuilt being there full time. **Matlock:** No, no, no, no, no they came in and they discussed it. They came in and they discussed what it would cost for full time for inspection service and it was not \$300,000. **Gottschalk:** (inaudible) price of dollars per hour. **Matlock:** When we asked SafeBuilt to contact the Law Department and talk... Mr. Climer, when the director of SafeBuilt contacted you to go over that contract. Did you guys not talk? **Climer:** We did not, I was asked to review the contract and give comments. **Matlock:** Okay, on that contract did they specify any amount? **Climer:** Hourly rates, yes. **Matlock:** Hourly rates, okay, and how much was that did they have on there? **Climer:** They vary depending on... **Gottschalk:** For \$65-\$110 an hour. **Matlock:** Well, my thing is, when you add up all of the salaries that we had inside of that Building Department. Plus the \$50,000 that we gave SafeBuilt... **Gottschalk:** All of this will be discussed in the reorganization discussion with Council and myself regarding the reorganization of the department. **Matlock:** But this is what we're talking about you. We are willing to sit down with you and discuss the Building Department. And you know, you have been sick and we have empathy for you being sick and being out. But that's something that should have been discussed

with the Building Departments. So, it could have been a fresh flow that goes on with that Building Department and with Oakwood. You know we could no longer continue with, we are not getting no inspections. Even the reports that was supposed to have been sent to Columbus from our Building Department. Guess what? They never showed up in Columbus. Columbus ain't got a report from Dan in about five years. Who's being held accountable for it? **Gottschalk:** SafeBuilt has been giving me what has to be done. I am waiting on their response in terms of what they expect to be charging for five days a week, eight hours a day. **Matlock:** So, when we come in on this special meeting with you and Council. I don't want to hear dan report. I don't want to hear no report. I need you to bring us proof, in fact, have SafeBuilt in here. Run the numbers and tell us exactly what we need. **Gottschalk:** That's what their working on. **Matlock:** That's what we need to know. Because what I already been explicit about is, we do need one person in that office. To open up that door whenever any contractors, whoever come in. I don't want to close that whole office down for SafeBuilt. If they have a person for 9 to 5. Guess what? Let it be one of our people from 9 to 5. Okay. But they can train with SafeBuilt on what their responsibilities are with their company. And from that point, have them do our what, our architectural board. There are certain things that you can task them with in the office. Cause you just said you really don't have that many. **Gottschalk:** There's no need for SafeBuilt to be at the ARB board. **Davis:** But the board has been asking. **Gottschalk:** When there's issues of importance, most of the time...**Davis:** They're on call... **Gottschalk:** Mary, most of the times there's no need for that. **Davis:** Well there are a lot of times we have needed it. And there has been no representation from our Building Department. I was on the planning commission for years, 12 years. And we had a lot of times the last 4 or 5 years of nobody there coming to our meetings. **Gottschalk:** You have Ross Cirincione there. **Davis:** Ross 99% of the time does not have the answers. He says, I'll get back to you in the next month, it was frustrating because... **Gottschalk:** Anybody say anything about a lack of beautification and landscaping in Oakwood. Your eyes aren't... **Davis:** I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about the Planning commission. The Planning commission, and the ARB board works together. Same night meetings, same time. And they needed it for the planning commission meeting. They needed the Building Inspector to come and ours refused to come to many meetings, to any meeting. **Gottschalk:** Again, SafeBuilt will be providing what their costs are so we know... Again, understand the charges that you see. If it's only a ten minute job, you're still charged by the hour. **Hill:** So, that's not actually accurate. **Gottschalk:** But it is accurate, (inaudible), please. **Hill:** I did speak with SafeBuilt. SafeBuilt Reached out because they stated that the Mayor asked for a meeting at his personal residence. With their president, himself, and the building official. And they said they were not comfortable with meeting in that environment. They did state that the Mayor requested they send some numbers. They asked if they continue could continue working with Council to move forward. Because they weren't comfortable with some of the requests they were receiving. They stated that the requests for the budget they received seemed very... I forget the word they used, astronomical in the request. And that they didn't believe it to be an actual budget that we would actually have for a Village. So, they requested not to complete it. Because they didn't believe it would hold any weight in what they would actually provide as services for the Village. So, that was directly from SafeBuilt. And they also stated that they cannot begin any work here in Oakwood Village. As they have stated for several months without a signed contract from the Mayor. And they are still awaiting that. **Gottschalk:** I'm waiting for their response to what was given to them. Regarding five days a week, you know, eight hours a day. **Hill:** And they stated they were not going to complete that because that was never our discussion. Our current CBO is

not here five days a week, eight hours of day. **Gottschalk:** Of course not. **Hill:** So, we didn't request them to do that either. **Matlock:** When do you want to have this meeting so we could clear all these issues with the SafeBuilt and the Building Department. So, we can move forward. As far as a meeting, the meeting will be here. Because I'm going to tell you, I wouldn't have a meeting at my house. You shouldn't have a meeting at your house. **Gottschalk:** The meeting was just to discuss privately, just the 2 or 3 of us, that was it. But the point, however, is, again, I need two things. One, think of a day and secondly, I need permission to bring in a non employee for 20 hours a day at \$20/hour for maybe a week. **Nikolic:** Okay, Mayor have you spoken with the Law Director to draft legislation for us to approve? **Gottschalk:** (inaudible) all in one night, that would be the next meeting? All I want from you is that you will be doing it. So, I can bring the lady in when I do need her. The non employee to cover when Dan is out on assignment. **Matlock:** What time is this for? **Hill:** Is this legal or ethical for us to give an okay verbally? **Gottschalk:** (inaudible). **Matlock:** But what time do you need that individual? **Gottschalk:** About 6:45. **Davis:** No, she's talking about hours that you're asking for. **Gottschalk:** Eight hours a day. **Matlock:** Okay, is she trained to answer those phones? **Gottschalk:** What she'll be doing is, again, we've had very good response from whether it be Mr. Hladky, Mrs. Flag, or someone from the Service Department. All they do is take the name, the number, and the interest for what they need, the one and what you want, and then it gets to Dan. So there's no need for any extra experience at all. **Climer:** If I understand correctly in the March budget. Funds have been appropriated for Building Department for employees. The Council has in the past said that or recently said that they want to have approval of the name of the person being appointed if the funds are appropriated. I would suggest that the Administration has the authority to put somebody in that position. In terms of Council approving that particular person in that position. That does not need to be legislated. **Hill:** We don't approve, that was not the question. **Climer:** I'm sorry, I misunderstood. **Hill:** We don't approve the hire. That's not our function, we're legislative and they're administrative. **Climer:** Right. **Hill:** They need to do their own hires. What we do approve is the budget. **Climer:** Yeah. **Hill:** And what we have created as legislation is that there be a pay ordinance for every new hire. So, if he is hiring someone that is new to the Village. Which it sounds like he stated three times, this person has not been working. Then he needs a pay ordinance. So what my question was is, is it legal or ethical for us to give a verbal thumbs up without the legislation. When our legislation says you should do it? **Climer:** Because I believe that the pay ordinances required by law to name a specific person in that position. It approves a position that can be filled by the Administration. **Davis:** But we don't have that as a job description just to answer phones in building. We have nobody listed, the job descriptions that we have are for the employees that were there. There's nobody there listed as a job description just to answer phones. **Climer:** Okay. **Hill:** We have already approved within our compensation schedule. They are to have specific job descriptions. We have nothing that fits that. That was additional point I wasn't even thinking of. But the legislation still says there must be a pay ordinance. So, I'm trying to really understand how you're saying he can supersede that. Because if he can superseded in this instance, then you're saying the legislation is ineffective. **Climer:** If the position has not been funded, he's got the authority to hire anybody. **Davis:** But we don't have that position as a as a position. The ones that we have now, the pay ordinances are not even for specific people. We don't have somebody just to answer phones. **Climer:** You're saying there's not a position? **Davis:** No, there's not a position just to answer phones. So, we don't have any of that. **Gottschalk:** I pay out of my own pocket. Since it wasn't approved for the first week. The eight hours that Ms. Flag has been there, out of my own pocket. **Nikolic:** Well,

Mayor, there's no legislation before us to approve. **Gottschalk:** Law Director was saying it would be hard tonight just putting something on the agenda to get it passed. So, again, I'm asking you, I mean, I can inform her that she will be paid the \$20 an hour. The most it'll be is five days, but it will only be that. So, you're looking at \$800. **Matlock:** What we're saying is, and I understand what you said about Ms. Hicks. Hicks already has a job description down there. She won't go back into that job to answer phones? **Gottschalk:** Again, you're talking about a lady that has been there for 24 years. **Matlock:** Exactly. **Gottschalk:** No raises, told that she wasn't getting paid and that's all she had. **Matlock:** Well, who told you that she wasn't getting paid? Who told her that she was not getting paid? I would like to know who starts all these rumor mills in Oakwood. That says she's not getting paid? **Gottschalk:** You don't have to go very far for the people to be very unhappy. **Matlock:** But this is what I'm talking about. **Gottschalk:** (inaudible). **Matlock:** Well, I know you're not, but I'm saying... **Gottschalk:** I tried to call but she wouldn't answer my call. **Matlock:** I'm trying to say, who is starting all these rumor mills that she is not getting paid? She was getting paid. **Gottschalk:** The last piece of agenda she saw was the... **Matlock:** Has anybody talk to her? Has anybody talked to anybody in that office? **Gottschalk:** She's not returning the calls. **Matlock:** I'm saying before this took place? Did anyone talk to any of those employees in that office before they left you or went there? What did Dan tell them? He's the director... **Gottschalk:** And she's not returning his call either right now. (inaudible) frustrated. **Matlock:** She shouldn't be frustrated is what I'm trying to say. She should not be frustrated. Dan should have just told... you are in communication with Dan. That didn't have nothing to do with Lillie. **Gottschalk:** We've tried to get her back and as I say, she's very, very distressed. **Matlock:** Well, my thing is we need to find out a way to get Lillie back in that office. Lillie should have never left. **Gottschalk:** Well, in the meantime, we need somebody to answer the calls. **Matlock:** Okay, I can answer them, I'll answer for free. **Davis:** I have a question, Mr. Climer. If we passed legislation at the last meeting to have SafeBuilt start and the Mayor vetoes it. Is anybody on council notified? Like the president or the pro-tem, are they notified that it was vetoed? Because I assumed SafeBuilt was in there as of January 6th, that's what I thought. **Hill:** We overruled the veto. **Davis:** So, I just found out that they didn't start on January 6th. And I found out from a resident whose husband is answering the phones. Telling her all this information about what's going on in our Building Department. And I was very upset because that's how I found out about this Building Department was not even finished. But if we pass something here and it's supposed to go into effect at a certain date. And it does not go into effect, how do we get notified or whatever before the next meeting? Is there a way? **Climer:** My understanding is that the contract has not been signed by the Mayor. **Davis:** Okay, right. **Climer:** My understanding of his reasons are he wants to have a meeting with Council. To coordinate this matter going forward. And that is all the information that I have on that. Ordinance has been passed but the mayor has not signed the contract. **Davis:** Right, but as Council at the last meeting we went to, we have this passed. And not knowing that it was didn't go in effect. How is a Councilperson supposed to know that the thing was not signed yet or whatever? Because it had a date when it was going to start, and we just assumed it did. I mean, is there anything where a Councilperson representative is notified? **Climer:** I don't think there's any provision for notification of that. I just learned of this situation. Well, not just now, but within the last several days. **Nikolic:** So right now, I think maybe what she's asking is if legislation isn't signed within 30 days, it takes effect. Maybe she's asking you about because she's asking about recourse. I didn't see a veto on the SafeBuilt legislation. **Climer:** There was an override of the veto. **Davis:** So, why isn't it automatically put into place then, if it is done? If the legislation was done and we

did override. **Climer:** As I said, the Mayor has not signed it. **Hill:** But I don't think you're answering the actual question. It is supposed to go into effect no matter what without signature in 30 days. **Climer:** The ordinance is most certainly in effect. **Hill:** The ordinance attachment is the contract. It's part of the legislature. **Climer:** Authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract. I, quite frankly, need to search for recourse. If he fails to do that. **Hill:** I think what's happening here in many of these departments. Is we are just all at a standstill. Like we're making legislation, you're telling us they don't even have to do pay ordinances. **Climer:** No. **Hill:** Pass the legislation, he's not signing the contract. **Climer:** That's not what I said. **Hill:** We have companies out here waiting to start. We've lost two Building Officials that they had ready to start. **Climer:** That is not what I said. **Hill:** But it's what's happening to us. What's happening to the village. **Climer:** I think Administration and Council needs to sit down and work some of these out. I have advocated for that. **Matlock:** Council President, when can we meet with the Mayor to get this information all together? So, we can get SafeBuilt started in the Building Department. **Gottschalk:** Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday? What's good for you? **Nikolic:** Okay, so we can move on. Why don't the Clerk, if you could coordinate and poll Council for which day would be best. This will be your meeting Mayor, and you can present whatever it is that you want to present. And we could discuss the contract, the signing, and everything at that meeting. **Gottschalk:** Understand, me not signing this has nothing to do with SafeBuilt. There was still supposed to be there. And I'm not signing anything until I know what it's going to cost. And you people for certain don't know any clue of what it's going to cost. That's why you're putting together the information. So, we can put this together and see what we could do in terms of reorganizing. And in the meantime, I need somebody answering the phones. **Nikolic:** We hear you, and with that, please get with the Law Director to draft the ordinance. It's been legislated that we need a pay ordinance. In the meantime, continue to do... **Gottschalk:** So, what about tomorrow? **Nikolic:** The same thing, whatever, what happened today? What ever was happening today. **Gottschalk:** I'm not paying anything more out of my pocket. You got Ms. Mary talking about she was unhappy with she found out something. Dan called up the owner, the real estate agent. The real estate agent said no problem. They can get a temporary occupancy permit. And so her husband's coming down there tomorrow to get it. **Davis:** Yeah, but the problem was that the person answering the phones down there. Was tattling to his wife, and that wife is the one that was calling, telling me all about it. And complaining that we had no nobody down there. So, it was... **Gottschalk:** Dan made the call, the real estate agent made a mistake of not informing the homeowner. **Davis:** How do you even know he (inaudible). **Nikolic:** Okay, all right, Mayor, we're going to move forward with the meeting. Our job is to legislate, your job is to administer. So, from today going forward, we leave it to you to organize what's going to happen in the Building Department. We'll wait for the legislation. And once we have, we will move forward. Does that conclusion report Mayor Gottschalk? **Gottschalk:** Again, so I'll bring somebody in as a non-employee for maybe at the most one week. **Nikolic:** Any any other questions or comments for the Mayor? **Hill:** I don't understand what's happening. We're not telling you yes. Whatever has been happening, if you've been paying this person for a week. You had a week to get to the Law Director and ask for legislation to be created for us to pass. **Gottschalk:** I was waiting for SafeBuilt... **Hill:** That is fine, but we are not approving you to hire anyone tomorrow without a pay ordinance. **Gottschalk:** See this is what (inaudible). **Hill:** Yeah, because this is not a mom-and-pop shop. This is an actual government entity. **Gottschalk:** It's \$900, if you want... **Hill:** If it's \$5, it's taxpayers dollar. **Nikolic:** Okay, I think we know what the solution is. **Matlock:** Let me ask you a question. I keep hearing one thing. You said we're going to be paying SafeBuilt a

quarter of \$1 million for what we're doing. Are you planning on having this meeting and then sit down telling us, no. I'm not going to have SafeBuilt come in? **Gottschalk:** No. **Matlock:** Okay, I need you to be upfront with us on what you're planning to do. **Gottschalk:** In fact we need SafeBuilt to check the house on Garden Road. **Matlock:** We need them not only to check the house on Garden Road. There's a lot of other things that we need to have done in the community. And I'm telling you, it's been a while that I even came up with three different residence areas myself. And they have not even cited these people. But if you go down a street, you can still see the stuff it's still there. But in all due respect, with this meeting that we're going to have. I don't want to hear, okay, no, we're not going to have SafeBuilt in here they are too high. We need a clean solution. **Gottschalk:** No, SafeBuilt always was going to be doing inspections. There was never... **Matlock:** They always did is what I'm telling you. They do the inspection stuff, they are here. So, what is the problem with just adding on to that? **Gottschalk:** Adding on to it but they're giving you, they could be doing something for five minutes. But they're going to charge you by the hour. **Nikolic:** Okay, does that concludes your report Mayor Gottschalk or did you a... **Gottschalk:** So, you're saying that you'll allow me to bring in Ms. Flag here for the five days? We will probably get some other people to do it, their employees. **Matlock:** But why can't we? That's a good idea. Why can't we? Why can't we move an employee to the Building Department for just a week for eight hours? I mean, we need to start learning how to move our employees. **Gottschalk:** That's what we did with Mr. Hladky. That's what we did with the Service Department. But now that the weather is not going to allow for them to be sitting there. When they should be on the street? **Matlock:** What about Carlean? She can't go over there? She's already in the recreation center. I mean, we have to start thinking kind of how do we move our people, you know. Because some of our people are sitting here, they could be moved. I'm quite sure those phones are not ringing off the hook for eight hours a day in the Building Department. **Nikolic:** Right, so, Mayor, there are options for you to pursue. We've unequivocally stated that we will wait for the legislation. So, whatever recourse you have at your disposal to staff the Building Department before that legislation is passed, do that. But to hire a new person requires legislation. Does that conclude your report? **Gottschalk:** Well, again, your answer does not answer the question. Right now, we don't have any personnel working to begin with, all right. And so you're again, talking about other than the Service Department. Who else could we have down there? **Davis:** Carlean. **Gottschalk:** Carlean couldn't even get out of our own house today because of the storm over there. **Davis:** Okay, they got three inches out there in Mentor. Because I just talk to my grandson. **Nikolic:** Does that conclude Your report, Mayor? **Gottschalk:** Yeah. **Nikolic:** Moving on to agenda, item number seven, Ward reports.

Ward Report

Councilwoman Hill: No report at this time.

Councilwoman Davis: No report at this time.

Councilwoman Matlock: No report at this time.

Councilwoman Hardin: No report at this time.

Councilperson Scruggs: No report at this time.

Committee Report

Fine Arts Committee

Councilwoman Scruggs: The Fine Art Committee is going to have our circuit community engagement session tomorrow, Wednesday, January 15th, at the community center. Our first one was held in November. We had a great time with our residents where we shared ideas about fine arts and community engagement. And so the meeting tomorrow, we will Report out on all of the wonderful Ideas that we came up with. For all of the different demographics, ages zero, all the way up. There are seniors and we are going to plan out and report out on those things that we did back in November. So, we look forward to any resident to come out at 6:30 p.m., from 6:30pm to 8pm. And we're going to work to try to put some things on the calendar for 2025.

Utilities Committee

Councilwoman Matlock: No report.

Environmental Committee:

Councilwoman Nikolic: The Environmental committee, we're having a climate action plan community engagement meeting. That's on January 29th at 6:30pm at the community center. We're going to continue with our discussions with the community. This meeting will wrap up the other four meetings that we had. And there'll be subject matter experts there to talk about tax incentives for residents, the possibility of apprenticeships for solar install jobs, solutions for the Village and ways you can better make your home and contribution to the Village sustainable. So, please show up for that that conversation. We'd love to have you all there. It's a learning process and we'd like to continue educating and learning together to protect our climate. So, you know, it's two degrees and that hasn't been two degrees for a while. So this is a climate plan issue. You don't want to wait until your bed is floating down the street before we start talking about climate action plans and change. So, I just wanted to notify you all that we'd love to have your participation. January 29th at 6:30pm at the Community Center.

Health Care Committee

Councilwoman Hardin:

Economic Development/Grants Committee

Councilman Warren:

Safety Service Committee

Councilwoman Davis: no report

Tax Incentive Review Council Committee & Finance Committee

Councilwoman Hill: Finance Committee, we approved a quarter budget for the 2025 permanent appropriation. So, we'll be reviewing the budget again shortly. And we are awaiting closeout numbers for 2024. So, we can give you a report on where we end of the year. And we are still

working through our budgets for the departments. That is the end of the Finance Committee report, our taxes, and our review council committee. We were reviewing some information in regard to Trescal which is on the agenda. I did miss a meeting, and it sounds like there's been some other discussions about a tax credit we can give a company that's already her in oakwood Village. So, once I check into that and hear where Council is at I will have more information. That's the end of our committee report for tax incentives.

Nikolic: Okay thank you, Council. Moving on to agenda, item number nine, the floor is now open for residents. Please step to the podium. State your name, and we're giving five minutes so they'll be an alarm. And please know after the five minutes, discretion will be provided for anything beyond the five. But please try to stay within your five minute allotment. Thank you for your house.

Open Floor Comments

Karen Howse, I'd like to say to make a comment. It would be nice to have a nonpartisan comment and reflective talking about the current administration on the federal government. When you just look on display how disorganized and dysfunctional this Village has been ran. As a result, we spent almost 20, 30 minutes on the Building Department. Passions were flying around. He's saying he's paying people out of pocket, which is a liability. It's a service and all of this blame about.. I heard last Council meeting employees came in and they're like, you're going to do this, you're going to do that. And what I find interesting is the core of the problem is not Council, it's administration. It is not being ran an organized way. And this is why you guys are sitting here spending all of this time talking about how the Building Department should be ran. And I wish the passion was just as strong about the finances. Because at the end of the day, if your finances aren't in check. All of this discussion that you're having is a mute issue. And I'm not saying, putting out there that there is, you know, there's a catastrophe going to happen. That's not what I'm saying. I'm talking about running this Village like a business and not a circus. It has gone on too long. These conversations did not just come up just today. I come in here randomly it's the same topic. Not functioning properly, and yes, I'm empathetic. People do get sick and that happens. But a need in the meantime, the Village doesn't shut down. And at the end of the day Council when I'm looking at this. You are only a body of seven. The Mayor was elected to run this Village. The Mayor appoints department heads to make the Village right. He can't do this by himself, but he holds none of these department heads. Fortunately, we have good department heads. Who have knowledge to say, I'm going to run my department. I can't be responsible for the front office. But the truth of the matter is how many employees have come up here to your Council meeting. And said, we have a problem with getting things done in the front office. None, you guys receive ordinances late and they want you to pass them on an emergency. And you sit here just like Candace, and I'm going to say it out loud. Candace is one person, each one of you are one person and you vote your own conscience. Can't expect everybody to say everybody is going to vote the same. But if you just look what is happening here. We're counting on you guys. You're elected to handle each section and then you report what's happening to this Village. I've got one newsletter and nothing in there about what's happening and what goes on. There's no visual audio to show what's going on. This is a mess, it's a mess. **Gottschalk:** We're talking about a lady that resides in a community that has an 18% higher tax rate. When Oakwood Village despite us having these issues. Even now... **Howse:** You just can't help yourself Mayor.

Gottschalk: Because that's the point. So, what are you talking about? **Howse:** You're just deflecting what the issue is. That's what you're doing. The issue you're just talking about, why are you (inaudible) still higher? **Howse:** What does that have to do with the Village itself? **Gottschalk:** Because there isn't a problem. **Howse:** There's no problem, and we spent 20 minutes, are you kidding me? **Gottschalk:** No, the problem is not the money. We have the money for the for what's going on. **Howse:** That's not what I said.

Mrs. Goode, Good evening. I just came in talking to some of our neighbors and some of our residents. And in light of the situations that's going on. We were wondering if there were collaborative efforts taking place to collect donations and send them collectively. I don't know if there's a fund or if there's a line item for something like that. For example, the fires that are taking place in California. That's what I'm here to ask. **Gottschalk:** It's a very worthy thought. And I don't think anybody would have necessarily a problem other than. The first have to get their own act together in terms of bulldozing down the brush (inaudible). Let's clear the matter up with just the administration and the governor. (inaudible) would be glad to be giving some money out. (inaudible) and the United States. You give money to these countries. There's no answer for that. (inaudible) that's exactly what's been happening in California. **Hill:** Mayor, people can say the same thing is happening here in Oakwood. I don't think that was a good response to what her request was. Like, we're talking about humanity. We're not talking about politics or government. We're talking about people losing homes, livelihood. **Gottschalk:** Exactly, and now we're asking... **Hill:** Politics has nothing to do with it. **Gottschalk:** There should be some accountability in how it's going to be spent. **Hill:** We can say that about Oakwood Village. **Howse:** Exactly. **Hill:** Like don't talk about where someone else is from and what's going on there. Without looking at your own Village that you administrate over. That's not fair or appropriate. **Nikolic:** So, maybe, Law Director. This will be new to me, I don't know and I'll open it up to other Councilmembers. Is there a history of collecting or fundraising for events, Catastrophes like that, Law Director? **Mrs. Goode:** For clarity, let's just say that there are 30 residents who are sending items. And instead of sending one, it would all come. I like we would donate here. I don't have all the logistics. We're going to have a cite. We would have a shipping cargo or what not. And we would send it all together. **Gottschalk:** The Red Cross or something. **Matlock:** Is there something we could put out stating that this is going to be the location. And we're going to collect water or clothes or something like that. **Mrs. Goode:** Clothes, furniture, everything. **Matlock:** Once it's done everything, we can send it to them, you know, like a community effort. **Mrs. Goode:** Yes. **Matlock:** To send it on, that's all we need to do. I mean, that's what we could do.

Jared Goode, been a resident for 17 years. And now with the question. Which is, is there anything that we are doing? **Matlock:** No, we haven't yet, but that's a good gesture. And we can probably brainstorm it and get it going. **Nikolic:** Is there a history of having done that or is this something new? Law Director is there anything? **Climer:** i don't think municipal funds can be donated directly to the charity. **Mr. Goode:** But even if there were items? Let's just say we were just taking items. Like everyday furniture, (inaudible) especially with Spring cleaning coming up. **Climer:** I will also say that a lot of the charities involved in distributing aid to these areas. Request funds instead of items in-kind. Because it could be hard if there are a lot of just sticks and fire. Getting furniture out there, getting into the right places, finding who needs what. You know, and all of that. Certainly I don't believe there's any prohibition against for instance, having

a donation center located in a parking lot or anything like that. But frankly, it's a new thing to me and I need to do a lot of research on it. **Gottschalk:** You know, it's a shame, too, because although, you know, this has been one of the wealthiest areas in California. Many of these, many homeowners, bought these homes 50 years ago. And they don't have that much money. And then, you know, it's just risen in price. So, they're the ones that are really suffering, and particularly with no insurance. Besides, they are in desperate need of help. And so there's many that, as I said, are not happy. Although they might be in a wealthy area. But again, they bought their homes 50 years ago. If you lived in California like I did at the time. Home value, 3 or 4 years later, it's entirely different. **Mrs. Goode:** Just to share the most recent data that was put out. There are certain percentages of renters that are in historical areas. They're surrounded by and that would be our target demographic. I don't know what, that one area has 22% renters and the other half, 80%. So, then when you break that down, you're looking at the other demographics within there. And so, I know that this is unique to what we could do. But it is the effort that we're looking at. People are going to need furniture. They are going to need; we should do something to help with the recovery. **Mr. Goode:** And it would be good to have something that is sustainable. Something that triggers in the event of a disaster anywhere, not just here, anywhere. **Mrs. Goode:** Thank you.

Nikolic: Thank you, the floor is still open for comment. Hearing none, the floor is now closed. Moving on to agenda item number ten legislation.

Floor closed

Legislation

Climer: Proceeds to read legislation:

2024-128
Introduced 10-22-24

By the Mayor and
Council as a whole
1st read 10-22-24
2nd read 11-4-24
3rd read 11-26-24
Tabled 11-26-24

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH
FINANCIERE ESTEREL d/b/a TRESICAL, INC. FOR THE PROVISION OF A JOB
CREATION
GRANT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

2024-129
Introduced 10-22-24

By the Mayor and
Council as a whole
1st read 10-22-24
2nd read 11-4-24
3rd read 11-26-24
Tabled 11-26-24

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH
FINANCIERE ESTEREL d/b/a TRESICAL, INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF A NON-
REFUNDABLE
NET PROFITS TAX CREDIT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

2024-137
Introduced 12-28-24
Council as a whole
1st read 12-28-24

**AN ORDINANCE TO PREPARE FOR TRANSITIONS IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT
OCCURRING AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025 AND REQUESTING THE MAYOR PROVIDE
ADEQUATE NOTICE TO ALL BUILDING DEPARTMENT POSITIONS AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

2nd read 12-30-24
3rd read 1-14-25

Nikolic: This legislation last, there were some provisions that needed to be made. Were there any revisions made to this and resubmitted Council Clerk? **Joseph:** No, I do not have any revisions. **Nikolic:** Okay, is there any status on this?

Motion to table 2024-137 made by Hill seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill
MOTION PASSED

Garratt: I don't know if you discussed the dog ordinance. Animal ordinance that we brought up in two months ago. But we need to, it is expired now. I don't know if you brought it up. But maybe we should address that come up soon. **Nikolic:** Right, we didn't have enough Council members to have the work session today. So, we couldn't move anything from the work session. We had two that are out sick and some who had other obligations. So we just started a little late, but... **Climer:** I'm sorry I didn't request to be moved, but I would. **Garratt:** I appreciate that. **Nikolic:** I thought we had voted on it. **Davis:** Mr. Thompson, by Monday, can you give us all the line items of everything from the Building Department's budget for 2024. For what we spent for each item, please. We need that information, before we have the meeting with the Mayor. I have one more thing. There is an employee from the Service Department that left this year. He was a long time employee. I would like to know, Claudio something. What his final payout was. **Haba:** There was no total payout on that. **Davis:** He took time on whatever it was? Because he had a lot on the books. That shouldn't have been on there. **Haba:** He had worker's comp claims. He had just had about five of them now. And now we have a lawsuit. So he was paid, he lost his last three appeals. So, he was paid out his vacation and sick time. He had a doctor's note, but he didn't get the worker's comp. So, there was no total payout. He exhausted his sick time. **Davis:** So that was all used up? **Haba:** All used up as of I think it was early August. **Davis:** Okay, can you verify that, Mr. Thompson, please? **Thompson:** Okay. **Davis:** Thank you. **Hill:** I requested the last two years of vendor payments for A&S animal contract. **Garratt:** Mrs. Davis, you asked me about the three officers who were at the house on Alexander. **Davis:** Yes, that's correct. **Garratt:** A lady was walking her dog. Saw the back door was opened, the house with the blue tarps. The officers searched the house and secured it, just so you know. **Davis:** Okay. Thank you very much. **Matlock:** The phone services inside that office. Can you transfer those calls? Like from the Building Department or whatever? **Scruggs:** Forwarding? **Thompson:** We can take a look, there's capacity with the system. **Matlock:** Is there any way that you could have that individual, whoever it is. Take those calls and direct it to whoever for the Building Department? **Davis:** They can't be that many call. **Matlock:** It shouldn't be that many, but it should be a way that you can forward those calls up to that front desk. Then they could dispatch or get in contact with whoever, Dan or whatever in the meantime. So, there is no flaws between that Building Department down there. **Thompson:** I can take a look. **Matlock:** Okay. **Davis:** Does somebody still have a credit card for the building? Anybody in the building? **Thompson:** She turned it in to me. **Davis:** So, we have all phones collected from them? Because they had three cell phones and three cell phone lines. **Thompson:** I don't have all the phones, I have all the credit cards. **Matlock:** So, where did she get this information from that she was reporting back down there?

who gave her that information? If she turned in their credit card... **Thompson:** I'm not looking to entertain like who's saying what. But there is legislation in place for dissolution of the Building Department. That's some of the criteria's they were looking at. **Matlock:** So my thing is, you said they were looking at it. So, did they talk to anyone about that? Did anyone communicate with them about anything that was going down with that Building Department? **Thompson:** They just followed suit with what the legislation is telling them. **Thompson:** It's basically in their what it's telling them to do. So, my question is, no one, no director, nobody talked to them. To say, stay on this job until all this stuff that's resolved? No one took charge and I'm just saying that because you want to know something. A lot of this is getting out of place. Or getting to a point where I know is administrative and I know we have a budget. But we have been talking this over and over and over again. Communication is the number one key. Were any of those employees out there. You have some directors who communicate very well with their employees. you have other ones don't communicate at all, they're in limbo. And you have a communication meal that's going out there that is crazy and is not correct information. If I told you something, I guarantee you if you go to Tanya the next day. You're going to distorted that information from what Tanya had. Tanya going to tell somebody else and guess what? A part of that conversation I have from you is going to be distorted. Then again, whoever she told, go to somebody else. If some information I told you is going to get left out and then everything is just blown up and it don't have to be. We are small community, we are small Village. And we're finding out this is just absolutely crazy. It would never go on in a real corporate world.

Thompson: Council Matlock you're venting at the wrong person. **Matlock:** I'm just trying to figure out how did Lillie get this information that the Building Department was dissolved and she is not to report? **Haba:** I think she was told that. I mean, I had talked to her. She knew about it like a couple weeks ago from the ordinance, I believe. I understand what I heard at the last last meeting. I believe I was told for a second time to get the cars, bring it back to city hall, I said, okay. And I said, what about the building? And Mr. Warren said that SafeBuilt was taking over Monday. And they were using the building. But Lillie knew before that. **Matlock:** Because that's what I was trying to figure out. Did she get the information from Dan? Because Dan is a director and Dan had been talking to the Mayor. So, there was should have been no reason because there was no smooth transition over at all. Even if, SafeBuilt came in, she still would have to stay. SafeBuilt is just not going to come in and know how to run Oakwood office. **Haba:** She didn't really want to do that to be honest. **Nikolic:** Okay, if we have one moment. I think what, you know, 2024- 137, which was tabled this evening, may be the cause for the confusion. There is a line in this legislation that was not passed, it was tabled. So maybe there was some rumblings of this legislation, but it was not passed. It's still a work session. There were revisions that needed to be made. We needed to have the meeting with the Mayor. There was a lot of things that still needed to be done to this legislation. And in that legislation, Section one, it did say beginning January 1st, Council shall not authorize any appropriations for Building Department wages and related employee wages expenses. But this legislation is still in work session, so it has not been passed. So, if there's any if this is what, you know, they read and this is what they're drawing on, this is not passed. We still, as you heard, meeting with the Mayor, the contracts not signed. So, you know, this is probably where the confusion came from. But this legislation is still a work session. It has not been passed. The revisions that needed to be made and it's currently tabled. So, if hopefully that clears up some of the confusion. But that legislation with that language has been tabled. We'll be meeting with the Mayor sometime next week to conclude the discussions. And

hopefully at that point we'll have a clearer understanding of what exactly is happening. Is there any other comments or questions? May I have a motion to adjourn?

Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Matlock

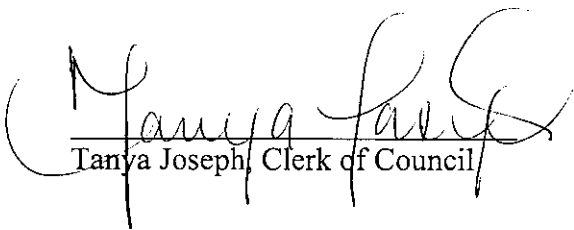
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Scruggs, Matlock, Davis, Hill

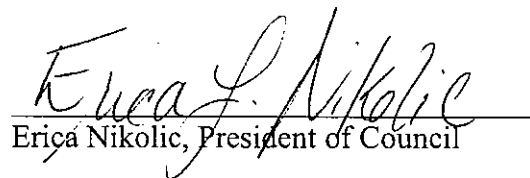
MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 8:43p.m.

Distorted

Approved 2.11.2025


Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Erica Nikolic, President of Council