

Present: President George, President Pro-Tem Hrydziuszko; Members: Abboud, Kecskemeti, Mooney, and Peddie

Absent: O’Gorman

Also Present: Interim Village Manager/Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski via Zoom
Village Attorney, Ryan
Public Safety Director, Torongeau
Finance Director, McCarthy
Assistant to the Manager, Blenkhorn

President George called the regular Village Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers located at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, to approve the agenda as published.

Motion passed.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kurt Jones, Village of Bingham Farms Trustee, is the SOCWA representative for Bingham Farms and he spoke about the City of Highland Park and GLWA’s unpaid water bill case. He suggested SOCWA communities escrow a portion of these payments like other communities in the region have done.

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, asked if the Village of Beverly Hills participates in SEMCOG’s Water Infrastructure Task Force that she saw in the newspaper.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mooney, second by Peddie, be it resolved, the consent agenda is approved.

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a special Council Budget Session held April 18, 2022.
2. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held April 19, 2022.
3. Review and consider approval of minutes of a Closed Session held April 19, 2022.
4. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, April 25, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (5-0)

BUSINESS AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO BE ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL

President George opened the public hearing at 7:41 p.m. No one wished to be heard, so the public hearing was closed at 7:42 p.m.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS TO BE ADDED TO THE TAX ROLL

Each year a public hearing is held to review and confirm the unpaid assessments and billings that are to be added to the tax roll. Mooney read the categories of subject charges and amounts that were prepared by the Treasurer as listed below:

<u>Description</u>	<u>No. of Properties</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A. Delinquent Water	83	131,955.88
B. Stafford	11	6,931.27
C. Southfield Rd. Maint.	4	1,364.93
D. Misc.	1	879.75
E. Weed/Yard Maint.	3	3,199.20
	Total	\$144,331.03

Motion by Abboud, second by Hrydziusko, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the unpaid assessments and billings to be added to the tax roll as outlined above.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (5-0)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED 2022/2023 BUDGETS FOR GENERAL FUND, MAJOR & LOCAL ROADS, WATER & SEWER OPERATING, AND OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

President George opened the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, commented on the Beverly Green landscaping line item.

No one else wished to be heard, so the public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

Mooney commented on the anticipated sewer rate increases. He would like a better means of communication to notify residents, so they are not ambushed by increases when they get their water bill. He said the budget presentation and adoption process this year was not the same as it had been in the past.

George noted that two members of Council were going to be absent or late to the May 3rd meeting, so the budget presentation and adoption was pushed back to May 17th when everyone was planning to be in attendance. He said that he did not think this was a radical departure from how things were done in previous years.

DISCUSS THE 2022/2023 RATE SCHEDULE FOR WATER CONSUMPTION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

McCarthy provided an overview of the rate schedule history and the proposed changes. There was a debt service increase from \$20 to \$40 and a \$150,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Water Fund proposed in the draft budget. This increase is to cover the debt incurred by the Evergreen-Farmington agreement. McCarthy noted that there was uncertainty with WRC's cost estimate.

George stated that WRC's estimated amount is mushrooming. He commented on the monthly sewer charges per WRC. He would like to find a way to not have to make transfers from the General Fund every year.

McCarthy and Blenkhorn went over a schedule of different options and amounts to cover the debt. They noted how the increases would show up on the water bills as rates and flat fees.

McCarthy proposed an average amount of \$45 be charged over the next several years instead of changing the amount each year.

Kecskemeti arrived at 8:37 p.m.

Mooney stated that the Village is charged certain rates and does not have control over the price of water. He said a 10% increase on water bills will be required to cover the cost of water. He gave background on the Evergreen-Farmington agreement between district communities who agreed to pay back the amount over 20 years. The estimated cost of the project has increased since the agreement was signed. He noted this is a regional problem. He said a short-term solution to pay back the debt would be to increase the debt service charge on water bills. He also suggested having a millage as a tax deductible option to pay the debt. He said it is going to cost some money, but the Village has to pay it. He agreed that we should not be dipping into the General Fund every year to cover this cost and suggested a \$25 increase as a short-term solution.

Peddie agreed with the \$25 suggested increase. She inquired about switching to monthly billing instead of quarterly.

The Council discussed the timeline for the budget and passing the rate increases. The budget must be passed by the second meeting in May and the rate changes would take effect in July.

McCarthy planned to make these adjustments for the final budget to be presented at the next regular meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER ANNUAL CONTRACT WITH NEXT TO PROVIDE SENIOR SERVICES

Rutkowski gave an overview. Next is a non-profit organization that works to identify and meet the needs of older adults by coordinating community resources to provide education, recreational and social programs. Next provides supportive outreach services and volunteer opportunities to seniors in the Village of Beverly Hills and greater Birmingham School District community. The Village of Beverly Hills does not provide the services provided by Next on its own.

Next has provided a contract for services for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. For the services provided under the contract NEXT is requesting funding in the amount of \$43,375 from the Village, which is the same amount as last year. Village Administration has included this funding request in the draft FY 2022-23 budget. The annual contract and funding request were included for Council's review.

Motion by Abboud, second by Mooney, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves and authorizes Administration to execute the annual contract with NEXT for

senior services in the amount of \$43,375.00. Funds for these services are available in account #101-747-891.00.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR WEST NILE VIRUS FUND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Rutkowski provided an overview of the annual West Nile Virus Fund expense reimbursement request. As part of Oakland County’s program, limited amounts of mosquito repellent are provided to residents at no charge.

The following resolution was offered by Peddie, seconded by Hrydziusko:

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Oakland County Executive, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has established a West Nile Virus Fund Program to assist Oakland County cities, villages, and townships in addressing mosquito control activities;

WHEREAS, Oakland County’s West Nile Virus Fund Program authorizes Oakland County cities, villages, and townships to apply for reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred in connections with personal mosquito protection measures/activities, mosquito habitat eradication, mosquito larvicide or focused adult mosquito insecticide spraying in designated community green areas; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Beverly Hills, Oakland County, Michigan will incur expenses in connection with mosquito prevention and control activities believed to be eligible for reimbursement under Oakland County’s West Nile Virus Fund Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Council authorizes and directs Village Administration, to the extent provided under Oakland County’s Board of Commissioner Resolution, to request reimbursement of eligible mosquito activity under Oakland County’s 2022 West Nile Virus Fund Program.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER AWARDED 14 MILE ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ASPHALT SPECIALISTS, INC.

Rutkowski provided an overview. The Village published a request for proposals on MITN/BidNet on for the 14 Mile Road Improvement Program which includes resurfacing 14 Mile Road between Lahser and Evergreen Roads and sidewalks along the south side of that stretch. A public bid opening was held at the Village Office on April 14, 2022.

The lowest bidder was Asphalt Specialists, Inc. with a combined amount of \$1,537,816.30 for the road and concrete sidewalk. The bid tabulation was provided.

Hubbell, Roth, and Clark’s office has reviewed Asphalt Specialists, Inc.’s submittal and performance record and has found it to be acceptable. Administration and HRC recommend

awarding the bid to Asphalt Specialists, Inc. in the amount of \$1,537,816.30. Capital improvement funds have been budgeted for this and next fiscal year out of Fund 202 (Major Roads).

HRC noted that the Village is receiving a good, competitive price for this work and that the costs came in around 5% below their estimates. They feel this pricing is in part attributable to the sidewalk project being combined with the roadway project and commended the Village for talking the initiative to pair the two together.

Mooney was disappointed the Village did not receive a grant for this project. He commented on notifying residents about this project.

Motion by Peddie, second by Hrydziusko, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council awards the 14 Mile Road Improvement Program to Asphalt Specialists, Inc. in the amount of \$1,537,816.30 as outlined on the published bid tabulation. Funding for this project is available in Fund 202 (Major Roads) in Fiscal Years 21-22 and 22-23.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6-0)

REVIEW AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION FROM PARKS & RECREATION BOARD TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL BIKE FIXTATION AT BEVERLY PARK

Rutkowski provided an overview. At their April 21, 2022 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Board discussed installing a bike repair station at Beverly Park next to the bike rack. Board members obtained quotes and compared different repair stands and air pumps.

The Parks & Recreation Board unanimously recommended that the Village Council approve the purchase and installation of the Saris Bike Fixtation at Beverly Park in an amount not to exceed \$2,250.00. This amount includes a public work stand, pump, tools, installation of a cement pad next to the bike rack, and labor.

The specifications were provided for Council's review.

Mooney stated that this is a small improvement and other, larger, projects should be looked at such as fence replacement or baseball field improvements.

Hrydziusko noted that the Parks & Recreation Board, which is made up of volunteers, is working on several larger projects such as the Beverly Park playground replacement, planning for Beverly Green, and the 5-year Recreation Plan revision. She thinks the bike pump will be used regularly by biking groups, people who utilize the bike path, and people who participate in slow rolls.

Motion by Hrydziusko, second by Kecskemeti, be it resolved, the Beverly Hills Village Council approves the Parks & Recreation Board's recommendation to purchase and install the Saris Bike Fixtation at Beverly Park in an amount not to exceed \$2,250.00. Funds for this purchase are available in Fund 208 (Park Improvement Fund – Park Equipment).

Roll Call Vote:
Motion passed (6-0)

FIRST ANNOUCEMENT OF VARIOUS BOARD/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Rutkowski gave the first announcement of various Board and Commission vacancies.

The following is a list of board members whose terms expire on June 30, 2022. All of the members listed below have been notified of their term expiration and asked to submit an application if they are interested in reappointment. Council agreed in November of 2008 to make these vacancies open to the public as well as the currently seated member.

Birmingham Area Cable Board

Gilbert Gugni
Shane Henry

Parks & Recreation Board

Sara Bresnahan

Planning Commission

Robert Stempien
Patrick Westerlund
Benjamin Wilensky

Zoning Board of Appeals

Reanan Maxwell
Jon Oen
Susan Robbins

All terms are for three years beginning July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2025. All interested and eligible residents of Beverly Hills are encouraged to apply. Descriptions of each Board/Commission can be found on the Village website by selecting “Boards/Commission” under the “Government” tab. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, June 8, 2021. Applications are available on the Village website or by emailing the Village Clerk at krutkowski@villagebeverlyhills.com. A blank application was also included in this packet.

This constitutes the first announcement of the vacancies with appointments scheduled to take place at the June 21, 2022 regular Village Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, commented on Village communications and suggested using the weekly email blast to notify residents of the upcoming rate increases. She also said that this information should be posted on Next Door and the resident-led Facebook page.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Election Inspectors Needed: The Southfield Township Clerk’s Office is looking for election inspectors to work the upcoming elections. Applications are available on the Southfield Township website: <http://southfieldtownship.org/>

Memorial Day Personal Care Product Drive: After the success of last year’s Memorial Day clothing drive, the Parks & Recreation Board is hosting a Personal Care Product Drive throughout the month of May to collect toiletries for Soldiers’ Angels - Detroit, a non-profit organization that helps veterans in need. A flyer with more details, such as drop-off locations, is included in this packet.

Memorial Day Parade/Carnival: This year, in lieu of a single Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade, we will honor all Beverly Hills health care workers for their tireless work over the past two years of the pandemic. If you are a health care worker, you are invited to walk in the Memorial Day Parade with fellow health care workers on Monday, May 30, 2022. Line up begins at 10:30 a.m. at Groves High School.

Please let us know if you plan to participate in the parade by signing up at the following Signup Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F44A4AF2FA46-memorial>
If you have any questions, please contact the parade organizers at hmemorialparade@gmail.com.

Villager Newsletter: The May edition of the Villager Newsletter has gone to print and will be arriving in mailboxes soon. Included in the newsletter is a copy of the 2021 Consumers Annual Report on Water Quality.

Abboud stated that he liked the idea of having health care workers as the grand marshals at the parade and suggested extending the opportunity to educators as well.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Kecskemeti apologized for being late to the meeting. She thanked Mooney for his straightforward explanation of the Farmington-Evergreen debt. She suggested thinking about a big picture infrastructure and funding plan.

Peddie commented on the Highland Park bill payment escrow idea that was mentioned during public comments. She gave an update about the Planning Commission's discussion about the Fence Ordinance and the 200' rule as a standard for review and said perhaps the review should go to the ZBA for review. She suggested putting this item on an upcoming agenda for Council discussion.

Abboud commented on SEMCOG's walk/bike/drive safe campaign. He noted he has a meeting with MML's Road Committee coming up. He commented on short term rentals popping up and suggested it may be a business licensing issue instead of a residential zoning issue. He served on the committee to select the Donald and Patricia Greening Scholarship awardees and said the Village received outstanding applications from Grace Alkatib, Adiev Alexander, Dylan Brown, Abigail Caza, Jack Handzel, and Gavin Zacharias.

Mooney said he thinks it is Council's job to explain to the residents why the taxes or rates increase. He noted that his suggestions are not criticisms. He said it was an honor to serve with Peddie and Abboud on the Greening Scholarship committee. He said all of the applicants demonstrated outstanding community service. He noted that one of the most difficult decisions he has had to make was selecting winners this year. He congratulated Grace Alkatib, Dylan Brown, and Jack Handzel for being awarded the scholarship. He said both Brown and Handzel were Eagle Scouts and essentially equal in the scoring, so both would be receiving a scholarship this year.

Hrydziuszko reminded everyone that the Birmingham Public Schools Student Art Fair would be held at Beverly Park on Saturday, May 7 and they are still looking for volunteers. She reported that one art sculpture has been installed at Riverside Park. The Park Clean Up & Tree Planting event will be at Beverly Park on Saturday, May 14. She said she sought feedback from residents regarding parking at Douglas Evans Nature Preserve and most people she spoke with were in favor of a parking lot. She reported that all said that having a sidewalk there would be beneficial. She commented that removing parking on Evergreen Road without providing somewhere else to park would cut people off from the Nature Preserve altogether.

George thanked the scholarship committee. He said the new Village Manager begins on Monday and having an additional person will allow other staff to shift focus and improve communication

efforts. He said he received questions about masking at meetings and said that it was optional. He noted that the Public Services Director position has been posted. He reported that the Planning Commission was investigating short term rental policies. He gave a big shout out to Village staff for working hard on many things while being short staffed over the last few months. He has an update scheduled regarding Safe Routes to School and sidewalks and said it is looking good.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Motion passed.

John George
Council President

Kristin Rutkowski
Village Clerk