

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim Village Manager/Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski  
Village Attorney, Ryan

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**

None.

**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 regular Council meeting held January 4, 2022.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Tuesday, January 18, 2022.
3. Set public hearing date of February 15, 2022 to review and confirm 2021 Special Assessment Roll for the Southfield Road Business Assessment District.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**VILLAGE MANAGER SEARCH UPDATE**

Joyce Parker, Executive Recruiter from the Michigan Municipal League, was in attendance via Zoom to provide an update on the Village Manager search. She stated that the advertisement period closed on January 14<sup>th</sup> and she received 28 applications. She noted that 22 applicants are from Michigan or have experience in Michigan. Parker is reviewing resumes in more detail and will begin interviewing potential candidates. She will provide the Council with a detailed summary of candidates and a short list of those she recommends move on to the next step by the beginning of February. Due to confidentiality, each candidate will be assigned a number. She said there were good candidates in the pool. Parker stated that she was unavailable on the date of the next Regular Council meeting, so February 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> would be better for a special meeting for Council to decide which candidates to interview.

Kecskemeti asked about background checks and references. Parker stated she would be doing those prior to presenting candidates to Council.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

George gave an overview of the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) and the resolution of support that was approved at the January 4, 2022 Council meeting. He referred to the map on the SmartBoard that highlighted proposed sidewalk routes that would allow students to walk safely to their schools.

Adam Jenks, Michigan Fitness Foundation (contracted by MDOT), was in attendance to speak about safe transportation for students. In his role he helps communities present competitive and eligible grant applications to the committee. He spoke about infrastructure funding and education program funding for schools. Specifically, the installation and infill of 5-foot-wide sidewalks.

Kecskemeti asked about a minimum width requirement. Jenks commented that the Federal Highway requirement is at least 5’.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT ON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATION**

William Wegert, 32420 Westlady, stated that there was a lack of transparency on this topic and that he had heard the paths were to be 8-10 feet wide.

George clarified that the Village is simultaneously applying for two grants for pathways/sidewalks. The Safe Routes to School program up for discussion tonight requires a minimum width of 5 feet for sidewalks.

Wegert asked about a buffer between the sidewalk and road along 14 Mile Road. He inquired about engineering and water and how it will impact residents. He also asked about communication.

Genti Heqimi, Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc., clarified that there is a minimum 2’ buffer required.

George stated that residents received a letter and map in the mail for the first application process and once this map is finalized, letters regarding SRTS will go out.

Jason Mush, Georgetown, said his neighborhood abuts Bingham Farms and oftentimes feels landlocked from the rest of the Beverly Hills community. He and his neighbors are appreciative that the Council is taking this on. He said more sidewalks would be great for families.

Ryan Switzer, Amherst, said that he is a new resident and would like more walkability and the ability to bike to Birmingham or Woodward. His daughter goes to Detroit Country Day School and he would like her to be able to safely get to school. He thinks more sidewalks would be good for property values in the village.

Mike Nehra, Stone House Lane, thanked Council for their efforts. He asked them to consider mature trees and the impact on property owners.

Clive Catchpool, 13 Mile Road, stated that he does not want his property altered or taken away for sidewalks. He asked that the Council please keep him informed about the progress.

Antonia Grinnan, Riverbank, said this program would benefit quality of life, property values, and safety. She commended Council for considering adjacent neighbors.

Randall Stranz, Riverside, stated that the neighborhoods without sidewalks are unsafe, especially on nights like Halloween. He was used to sidewalks in other towns and would like to see more in Beverly Hills.

George said he appreciated everyone's input and that there is money allocated for each school through SRTS. He thanked Jenks and representatives from HRC for attending.

Hrydziusko said she grew up on the east side of Beverly Hills and loved the connectivity there. Now that she lives on Evergreen, her children's lifestyle is very different due to the lack of sidewalks. She wants this project to be something that the whole community can be proud of and she is committed to working with residents.

### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER RELEASES FOR NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

Ryan gave an overview of the National Prescription Opioid Settlement. There were several lawsuits started against various manufacturers, distributors, and providers of opioid products. The State of Michigan joined in two lawsuits against distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen and one manufacturer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its parent company Johnson & Johnson (collectively, Janssen). There has been a recent monetary settlement announced of which the Village of Beverly Hills qualifies to receive its own distribution of funds based upon population.

The exact amount of funding is unknown, but if there is 100% participation, then the Village could expect to receive around \$82,000 over a period of 18 years. It is ultimately Council's decision whether to accept the money. Ryan went over how the money could be used to address the care, treatment, or public education programs dealing with opioids and opioid addiction.

This money, should it be accepted by the Village Council through execution of these agreements, would be placed in a special fund for only these purposes and by accepting the money, the Village would release these entities from any further liability that would be taken by the Village for and on behalf of the Village on these issues.

Mooney stated that the State of Michigan will receive roughly \$800 million over time, but not necessarily the same dollar amount each year. He suggested using the funding for education for first responders, NARCAN, or educational programming as it related to opioid addiction. He thought it was in the Village's best interest to enter into the release agreement.

George agreed that it made sense to execute the release. He referred everyone to the Attorney General's website for more information.

O'Gorman asked about the payout timing requirements. Ryan said he would not recommend sitting on the money for very long since the opioid crisis is an urgent issue.

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby authorizes the Village Council President to execute the settlement participation form and formally release according to the terms and conditions of the distribution settlement binding the Village of Beverly Hills to the terms and conditions of said settlement as same

applies to the settlement funds as a participating government entity and the same applies to the Distributors (McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen).

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, the Beverly Hills Village Council hereby authorizes the Village Council President to execute the settlement participation form and formally release according to the terms and conditions of the distribution settlement binding the Village of Beverly Hills to the terms and conditions of said settlement agreement as same applied to the use of the settlement funds as a participating government entity and the same applies to the Manufacturers (Janssen).

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Buckthorn Treatment at Beverly Park and Riverside Park**

The Village's contractor, GEI Consultants, has notified us that they will be performing buckthorn treatments at Beverly Park and Riverside Park beginning the week of January 24, 2022. Work is expected to take 3-4 weeks depending on weather. GEI will be using a cut-stump treatment method where they cut down buckthorn and daub the stump with solution. The Village is responsible for chipping the material. As you may recall, the treatment area has expanded at Beverly Park to include the sides of the sled hill, the fence line along Allerton, and a portion of the fence line on the south side of the park. GEI will post signs when chemical solutions are used and we ask residents to keep off the treated area for 24 hours after treatment.

### **Winter Taxes**

As a reminder to residents, winter taxes are due to Southfield Township by February 14, 2022 without penalty. Please refer to the back of your tax bill for more information or contact Southfield Township at 248-540-3420.

### **Ice Rink**

Comeau is working on flooding the ice rink area at Beverly Park for resident use. Please be safe by paying attention to the weather and the condition of the ice prior to use.

### **Joint Council/Parks & Recreation Board Meeting**

The joint Council/Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

### **Joint Council/Planning Commission Meeting**

The joint Council/Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Council Chambers.

Mooney asked about the missing fence panel at Beverly Park.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Abboud talked about an intergenerational group in the Senior Advisory Committee. He talked about Next’s Strategic Plan. He stated that the Council ARPA Subcommittee is meeting on Thursday and will report back. He said that with COVID in full force, he would like to entertain the option of installing temporary partitions at the Council desk. He discussed a short-term rental study and vacation rentals’ impact on residents. He discussed amending the Master Plan or Zoning Ordinance to address vacation rentals and regulatory enforcement. He wants to protect health and safety, parking, and limit noise.

Mooney commented that on a cold day 30 years ago he made the best decision and it has been the best part of his life since then.

Hrydziuszko thanked residents for their input during tonight’s meeting. She stated that during the pandemic many people have put off going to the doctor for routine care. She encouraged people to take care of themselves and said the whole community wants you here.

George thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He is trying to find as many funding opportunities as possible. He appreciates everyone’s patience and support.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Motion passed.

**John George**  
**Council President**

**Kristin Rutkowski**  
**Village Clerk**