

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Manager, Campbell  
Village Clerk/Assistant Manager, Rutkowski  
Village Attorney, Ryan  
Public Safety Director, Torongeau

**ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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 led by Emilio Benavente, Troop 1024 and recited by those in attendance.

**AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA/APPROVE AGENDA**

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

Motion passed.

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Emilio Benavente, Troop 1024 provided an update on his Eagle Scout project. He successfully installed 18 bird houses at Beverly Park and Riverside Park. He thanked the Parks & Recreation Board and Village Council for their support.

The Council congratulated Benavente and thanked him for his work.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Karen Gilbert, Amherst, commented on sidewalk deficiencies in her neighborhood. She said the Village should fix the sidewalks on the east side before installing more.

Ben Larson-Wolbrook, First Presbyterian Church Beverly Hills, introduced himself to the community and said the church would be hosting neighborhood hangouts every Wednesday in the summer and all are welcome to attend.

Tim Luke, Nixon, thanked Administration for their service to the community. He thanked the Whites for the contribution to the community. He said residents should have a say in how Village money is spent and that it is like dividing a pie that is finite. He said civility in the Council Chambers has dropped dramatically over the last two meetings.

Molly Borgon, Pebblestone, said she would like to switch the negativity to positivity surrounding the acquisition of the Wendbrook property. She thanked the Whites for their generosity. She said the ability to create park space in the region is rare. She encouraged the Village to acquire the land.

Mike Huddlestun, Orcutt Court, said he loves Beverly Hills and looks at the Wendbrook property as a conservatory with its nature and animals. He said the Village has an opportunity through local benefactors who put up \$1 million. He said there are too many deer in Beverly Hills. He said parking along Evergreen near Douglas Evans is dangerous and noted there would be parking

available and accessibility at Wendbrook. He thinks the Village should move forward with the acquisition and take advantage of the generosity.

April Mitchell, Warwick, said she supports Wendbrook and thanked the Whites for their generosity. She commented on the importance of green space, clean air, and the Rouge River watershed.

John Luscombe, Woodhaven, said he thinks the Wendbrook property is a good location and opportunity for a park. He compared the space to other Village parks. He stated that the City of Royal Oak has 51 accessible parks. He commented on change vs. the “as is” attitude. He said the rude behavior needs to stop.

Bill Eisenman, Valley Ridge, said the Village holds responsibility to the Villagers of the future. He said acquiring Wendbrook is a rare opportunity to protect land for the future. He noted that the community is now celebrating Beverly Park’s 100<sup>th</sup> year because others had the foresight back then. He said people in the future will use Wendbrook. He described it as an opportunity for habitat conservation and native plants. He noted that he is a volunteer for Friends of the Rouge and the fish need our help. He thinks all should support the acquisition and be thankful to those who made it possible.

Suzanne Grimm, Vernon Drive, supports accepting the grant and donation for Wendbrook. She said it was baffling that some initially supported it and are now blocking it. She said the grant does not require development of the property. She said the responsibility of Council is to be thought-leaders and problem-solvers to better the community. She talked about the quality of life and that Beverly Hills is a desirable place to be, so property is valuable. She said the Village’s \$10,000 investment in the grant application was good and had a return on investment. She said the acquisition would be a common public interest. She was so grateful to the Whites for their donation and vision.

Amanda Shelton, Coryell, said the acquisition of Wendbrook is an amazing opportunity for the community now and in the future. She said weighing the facts, benefits, and costs, that this would be the right choice for the Village and its families. She thanked the White family.

Kathleen Tootell, Beverly Hills, noted she is a Master Rain Gardener and that nature is very important. She commended the White family for their donation. She said there are so many valid, unanswered questions. She said the Village should maintain what it has. She expressed concern about people getting injured in the water. She asked if Wendbrook fits in with the Master Plan. She said she appreciates everyone’s efforts and suggested having a Village-wide meeting at the high school to answer questions.

Jennifer Gilchrist, Riverside, noted that Wendbrook would not be a competing park and that it is much different from Riverside Park and Beverly Park. She said it would take pressure off of Douglas Evans. She said it is important to preserve the river wetlands.

Jason Mush, Georgetown, said the Georgetown subdivision is an amazing place to live and its residents are very social. He said he and his neighbors talk about sidewalks and parks and that everyone in the sub is on board. He said Wendbrook is a golden opportunity.

Bob Daykin, Buckingham, said Wendbrook offers a classic opportunity to take yes as an answer. He said these things do not come along often. He supports the project moving forward and thanked the Whites for the donation.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Review and consider approval of minutes of a regular Council meeting held June 6, 2023.
2. Review and file bills recapped as of Monday, June 19, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (7-0)

### **BUSINESS AGENDA**

#### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VARIOUS BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

Campbell provided an overview. Several board and commission members' terms expire on June 30, 2023. Announcements of these vacancies were made at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> Council meetings as well as published on the Village website, Facebook page, and in the weekly emails. Applications were due Friday, June 9, 2023.

Pursuant to Council policy, a subcommittee has been formed for each board/commission to review the new applicants and those members who wish to be considered for reappointment. Subcommittees met on the evening of Tuesday, June 20, 2023 prior to the regular Council meeting.

A summary was provided regarding the vacancies and applicants for each board/commission whose application was received by the deadline.

As a reminder, the policy for determining eligibility for reappointment is a 70% attendance requirement for scheduled meetings over the previous term; length of service; special expertise required by this Board, which can either come from outside experience in the field or from years of experience actually working on the Board; recommendations from other Board members and Council members; opening up opportunities for new people to serve.

Motion by Hrydziusko, second by O’Gorman, the Beverly Hills Village Council appoints Molly Borgon, Matt Goodrich, and Greg Ross to the Parks & Recreation Board for a full term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

Motion passed.

Motion by O’Gorman, second by Abboud, the Beverly Hills Village Council appoints Charles Copeland, Robin Dillard-Russaw, and Elizabeth Koreman to the Planning Commission for a full term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

Motion passed.

Motion by White, second by Mooney, the Beverly Hills Village Council appoints Timothy Makar, Leslie Rott, and Scott Beach to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a full term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026. Further, the Village Council appoints

Mark Barron to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member for a full term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026. Furthermore, the Village Council appoints Joshua Denzler to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member for a partial term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

Motion passed.

Motion by Mooney, second by Kecskemeti, the Beverly Hills Village Council appoints Christopher Dobies to the Birmingham Area Cable Board for a full term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

Motion passed.

Mooney reminisced about a time when outgoing ZBA member Jan Gatowski helped fix a plate on the baseball diamond at Beverly Park.

The Council thanked the applicants for applying and wished the outgoing Board/Commission members well.

George called a recess at 8:31 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:37 p.m.

#### **UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON THE SIDEWALK CONNECTOR PROGRAM AND THE RELATED TAP AND SRTS GRANT PROCESS**

Campbell presented an update on the Sidewalk Connector Program, Transportation Alternative Program, and Safe Routes to School awards. A copy of the presentation was provided in the meeting packet. The goals are to promote safety, build an attractive system, and provide a useful and connected system in the Village. He went over the funding sources, preliminary construction cost estimates, budget, and proposed timeline.

Adam Jenks, Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator, was in attendance via Zoom to answer questions.

Brad Shepler, Hubbell, Roth, and Clark, Inc. was present.

The Council and Administration discussed potential changes to the scope due to the increased concrete costs. Whether the 4' wide sidewalk in front of Groves High School would need replacement would have to be determined by MDOT.

The Council and Administration discussed the timeline further. It was noted that tree removal can only take place between March and November due to potential presence of endangered species. An environmental review will need to be conducted.

Mooney clarified with Administration that there would be enough money in the General Fund to cover the match of this project.

Shepler stated that some of the unknown costs are for the easement/right of way acquisitions.

White asked if there would be a contribution from Groves' budget. Campbell stated that he would ask Groves about easement access and a financial contribution.

Kecskemeti asked if SRTS was a one-time grant. Jenks said that it is not necessarily a one-time grant and that it depends on infrastructure needs.

Mooney said it is important to make Beverly Hills a walkable community and commended George for doing a lot of the leg work for these grants. He said it will cost a lot of money.

George thanked Jenks for being an incredible resource.

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM HRC FOR THE PORTION OF THE SIDEWALK CONNECTOR PROGRAM RELATED TO THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM GRANT**

Campbell and Shepler provided an overview. To move forward on the Sidewalk Connector Program, the Village needs to conduct engineering design work before we can bid out the sidewalk connector project. There are two separate design engineering proposals for your consideration. A proposal associated with the funding received from the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant was provided. The TAP portion of the sidewalk project includes the installation of sidewalks at the following locations: 14 Mile Road (Robinhood Drive to Lahser Road), 13 Mile Road (Old Stage to Evergreen), Evergreen Road (14 Mile to Embassy) A map of the Sidewalk Connector Program and HRC's was provided for consideration.

Shepler noted that federal grants require much more paperwork and administrative work. He also noted that some of the costs were for observation and project management.

Abboud asked about graduate engineers. Shepler stated graduate engineers have 1-4 years of experience.

Kecskemeti said since the Village is receiving free money, it is worth moving forward with this project.

The Council and Administration discussed outreach, especially when properties begin getting staked.

Motion by O'Gorman, second by Mooney, be it resolved that Village Council approves the proposal from HRC to move forward with the design engineering for the Transportation Alternative Program portion of the sidewalk connector project. Funding is available in account no. 401-900-974.05.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (7-0)

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES FROM HRC FOR THE PORTION OF THE SIDEWALK CONNECTOR PROGRAM RELATED TO THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT**

Campbell and Shepler provided an overview. To move forward on the Sidewalk Connector Program, the Village needs to conduct engineering design work before we can bid out the sidewalk connector project. There are two separate design engineering proposals for your consideration. A proposal associated with the funding received from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) portion of the grant and a map were provided for review. The SRTS portion of the project connects gaps in sidewalks throughout the Village.

Motion by O’Gorman, second by Abboud, be it resolved that Village Council approves the proposal from HRC to move forward with the design engineering for the Safe Routes to School portion of the sidewalk connector project. Funding is available in account no. 401-900-974.06.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (7-0)

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATION TO ENTER INTO AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH PLANTE MORAN FOR AUDITING SERVICES**

Campbell gave an overview. The Village’s contract with its auditors, Plante Moran, is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2023. Plante has submitted an extension letter addressed to the Village Manager for the Council’s review. For reference, for the FY 2022 audit, the Village paid an audit fee of \$44,240. Plante is proposing a six-year extension with the following increases on a yearly basis:

FY End Village Audit
June 30, 2023 \$43,500
June 30, 2024 \$45,300
June 30, 2025 \$47,100
June 30, 2026 \$48,900
June 30, 2027 \$50,700
June 30, 2028 \$52,500

The proposed price at the beginning of the extension is less than we paid last year. Over the period of the extension, the proposed annual increase for the Village audit fee is \$1,800/year. If we were to go out to bid, the price from Plante and other similar auditors would likely be greater than the price proposed in Plante’s proposal. Campbell confirmed this statement with other companies that perform municipal audits in this market. Based on cost, the ability to transition to another auditor at this time of year, and the Administration’s satisfaction with the services provided by Plante, the Administration would request that Council approve a contract extension of the services provided by Plante Moran.

If the Personnel committee and/or Council wishes to recommend the Village go out to bid in 2025 or 2026, Plante will honor the prices set forth in the extension letter. Thus, if the Village wants to go out to bid in 2025, the audit fee cost will be \$43,500 for FY2023 and \$45,300 for FY2024. The Administration would request that the Council consider extending Plante’s services be extended through June 30, 2025.

The Council agreed that a 5-year extension would be appropriate.

Motion by Kecskemeti, second by Mooney, be it resolved that the Village Council authorizes the Village Manager to enter into an extension agreement with Plante Moran for professional auditing services through June 30, 2028. Funding is available in account no. 101-248-810.09.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (7-0)

### **REVIEW AND CONSIDER FISCAL YEAR 22-23 BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

Campbell gave an overview of the proposed FY 2023 Village of Beverly Hills Budget Amendments. In the General Fund there are various revenue amendments including amendments to adjust to actual property taxes received as well as opioid settlement monies received. Expenditure amendments include salary and benefit adjustments and additional maintenance around the Village. The net effect of the amendments is a net fund increase of \$134,410.

In the Major Road Fund and Local Road fund there are amendments adjusting to the projected year-end balance of Act 51 monies as well as increased interest income. Other amendments reflect the 14 Mile Road asphalt project projected to be \$60,000 under budget. The net effect of the amendments is a net fund increase of \$129,100 in Major Roads and a net fund increase of \$80,500 in Local Roads.

In the Public Safety Fund there are amendments to adjust to actual property taxes received and increased interest income. Expenditure amendments include salary and benefit adjustments as well as overtime adjustments due to open positions. There are amendments to capital purchases to the expected level at yearend. The net effect of the amendments is a net fund increase of \$268,772.

In the Park Improvement fund there is an amendment to adjust the Beverly Park playground equipment budget to the down payment to be paid in FY23. There are other amendments to properly reflect projected expenditures for capital. The effect of the amendments is a net fund increase of \$28,503.

In the ARPA Fund there is an amendment adjusting contributed capital to the level of FY23 expenditures. There is an amendment to reflect the timing of the Federal Infrastructure grant now expected to be received in FY24. Expenditure amendments per HRC are to adjust to projected expenditures as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The net effect of the amendments is a net fund increase of \$0.

In the Capital Fund there are amendments for the final payment for the Administration generator and engineering expenditures relating to the sidewalk projects. The net effect of the amendments is a net fund decrease of (\$72,337). All of these proposed FY2023 Budget Amendments have been reviewed by the Village Administration and are recommended for approval.

Motion by White, second by Hrydziuszko, be it resolved that the Village of Beverly Hills Council authorizes Village Administration to transfer or adjust monies reserved in the General, Major Roads, Local Roads, Public Safety Fund, Park Improvement Fund, ARPA Fund and Capital Fund as reflected in the June 15, 2023, memorandum from Finance Director, Sheila McCarthy.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (7-0)

**REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPOINTING WENDBROOK FORUM FOLLOW UP COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE**

This item relates to discussion at the June 6, 2023 Village Council meeting regarding the establishment of a subcommittee to address questions related to the Wendbrook Forum that occurred on May 20, 2023.

George said the goal was for a 3-member subcommittee to work to answer questions regarding Wendbrook and bring back to Council.

Mooney confirmed that no Village funds would be spent on the subcommittee, besides Administration's work.

The Council discussed the timeline. O’Gorman said some questions could be answered immediately and some would require more research.

Abboud suggested putting the questions and answers on the Village website. O’Gorman agreed that transparency is important.

The Council talked about the potential timeline for the grant project agreement, accepting funding, and acquiring land.

Motion by Mooney, second by O’Gorman, the Beverly Hills Village Council recuses Council member White from the discussion due to his interest in the subject property.

Motion passed.

Motion by Hrydziusko, second by Kecskemeti, the Beverly Hills Village Council forms a Council subcommittee for the Wendbrook Forum Follow-Up consisting of members O’Gorman, Kecskemeti, and George.

Roll Call Vote:

Abboud – no

George – yes

Hrydziusko – yes

Kecskemeti – yes

Mooney – yes

O’Gorman – yes

White – recused

Motion passed (5-1)

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**1. RIVERSIDE BRIDGE**

Campbell gave an overview. In the summer of 2021, Council approved a proposal for repair work on Riverside Bridge. At that time, the Administration was instructed to go out to bid for the work. For whatever reason, the proposal did not go out to bid. On several occasions over the last six months, Council expressed its desire to move forward with this work. Since a significant amount of time has passed since the previous proposal was approved, the current Village Manager requested that HRC review the previous proposal. HRC then submitted a subsequent proposal with



estimates that reflect increases related to the cost of materials and labor associated with the repairs to Riverside Bridge. The current proposal is significantly higher than the previous proposal.

The Administration also requested HRC outline the individualized cost for each separate repair to the Bridge if the Council wishes to spread the cost out over a longer period of time. The current proposal and previous proposal were provided for review and consideration.

Shepler noted that the bridge has deteriorated more over the last two years and there is an unpredictable bidding climate right now, so the new proposal is a bit higher.

The Council discussed repairing or replacing the façade.

Abboud asked for examples of other bridges. He also asked about maintenance.

Shepler noted that the bridge improvement is a relatively small, specialized type of work. He said there were at least four different types of concrete used for the bridge, deck, and railing.

The Council discussed the safety, structure, and aesthetics of the bridge.

Kecskemeti asked if the proposal would come with a long-term maintenance plan.

It was the sense of Council to instruct Administration to prepare a comprehensive list of options to repair Riverside Bridge and to bring back an actionable item to Council as soon as possible.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Sculptures in the Parks Slow Roll/Stroll** – On Wednesday, June 21, 2023, the Village is hosting a tour of the ten sculptures that are featured in the Beverly Hills Sculptures in the Parks program. The Village's Parks and Recreation Board members will act as docents, telling you more about the sculptures at each stop. The tour will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., leaving from Beverly Park (18801 Beverly Road) with a guided "slow roll" bicycle ride to Douglas-Evans Nature Preserve and Riverside Park. This is a slow-paced 2-mile ride suitable for adults (18+). Everyone is required to wear a helmet. When we return to Beverly Park, we'll stroll to seven additional sculptures located throughout the park. If you would only like to participate in the strolling part, please arrive at the Beverly Park Pavilion by 7:00 p.m.

**Offices Closed and Trash Delay** – Village offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Independence Day. Tuesday trash pickup for residents west of Evergreen will be delayed one day and will occur on Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Regular Council Meeting on Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.** – In observance of Independence Day, there is no regular Council meeting on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Regular Village Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

**Fireworks Regulations** – As a reminder, fireworks can be legally used on the day before, day of and day after recognized holidays until midnight. For this July 4<sup>th</sup> season, fireworks could be used

on the days of Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, or Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Please be safe and considerate of your neighbors in the use of fireworks.

July Newsletter – An extra Village Newsletter will be going out in July that will explain the required increases to the Village’s water rates and debt services, informing residents of these changes. We will also include links to the information on the Village website and Facebook.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

White said he appreciates everyone who came out to attend the meeting. He thanked everyone who volunteered to serve on a Board or Commission.

Keckskemeti thanked the folks who attended this long meeting. She said she appreciates the engagement. She said much more needs to be done with the sidewalk repairs and replacements.

O’Gorman congratulated those who were appointed to Boards/Commission and thanked them for volunteering to do a lot of work.

Abboud thanked the volunteers who serve on Boards/Commission. He commented on two bills the MML was reviewing regarding water and flushable wipes. He said there was a SEMCOG meeting coming up this Thursday. The Senior Advisory Council is working on a dashboard directory. He said Next is looking to share the YMCA building in Birmingham. He said the welcome sign subcommittee will report back to Council in July.

Hrydziuszko thanked the Board and Commission applicants. She was happy to see so many qualified applicants. She said the Sculptures in the Parks Slow Roll/Stroll will take place on Wednesday, June 21. She thanked the Parks & Recreation Board for their hard work organizing the event and sculpture program. She thanked the Public Safety Department for positive interactions and relationship building with the community. She thanked residents who attend meetings.

George thanked volunteers who applied to serve on the Boards/Commission. He encouraged everyone to attend meetings. Regarding Wendbrook, he said there is a lot of runway between now and when the Council has to make a decision. He said there is more discussion to be had. He agrees that the tone of Council should be better. He said he struggles with untruths and attacks on the character of others and thinks we can do better. He said there will be a 16% increase to the water and sewer rates in the next fiscal year, noting that the water and sewer fund does not have enough funding to do all of the projects that need to be completed. He said the Village has the opportunity to learn from history and move forward more intelligently. He said he hopes everyone enjoys the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. He said he presented the Greening Scholarships at the Groves convocation and he was especially grateful for the opportunity because he has watched that class grow up over the years.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mooney, second by Abboud, to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

Motion passed.

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

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