

SPECIAL REVIEW & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2022

A Special Review & Oversight Committee meeting was held on October 4, 2022, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

PRESENT: **Committee Members:** Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Paul Marnecheck, John Nickell; **Council:** Linda Barath, Joanne Krejci, Mike Wos, Dawn Carbone-McDonald; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Wastewater Superintendent Mark Smith, City Engineer Justin Haselton, **Other:** Joe Pavlick, Joel Spatz, Michael McDonald.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Creation of a Jail Committee

Ms. Barath began by stating it is a good time to bring up a potential, future oversight on the jail. She has learned a lot, as a member of the Jail Committee. She went on to say that there are a lot of factors involved in increasing the price per cell, and it is not one factor in particular. Competition and usage rates are also facets that we must look at, including the fact that we are one of four full-service jails in the county. As an accountant, she felt that we should make certain to regularly look at this topic, because it is a large piece of our budget; it has not been looked at since it was built. She is proposing that every five years, Council arrange a committee. At that point, analyze the cost, discuss the status of the condition of the jail, and get all of the necessary information in order to make an informed decision; on what is going to happen in the future.

Ms. Krejci wanted to clarify that if we were to do it every five years, whether it would preclude the Mayor and the Police Department from doing anything with rates in that five-year period; if they were to decide that they need to increase the rates. She wanted to know if this would prevent them from doing so. Ms. Barath clarified that it would not prevent them from doing so at all.

Mr. Marnecheck made a suggestion of perhaps, doing it in less than five years. Ms. Barath stated she was negotiable on the idea of the time frame; however, she did not want to strap Council into having to do it every two years. She would be fine with three years as well. Ms. Barath expressed that she merely wanted to review this; and it not be shelved. Mr. Marnecheck inquired if Ms. Barath was comfortable with the way it was done, to get the report this time. She indicated that she was very comfortable. Mr. Marnecheck brought up the idea of doing it in a Committee of the Whole perhaps, as well as a time frame of every three years. Ms. Barath commented that we can do it in Council committee. She continued that we do not necessarily have to do it as we did this time, which is incorporating the community in that. We can just do it in Committee of Council. Mr. Dietrich was in agreeance. Mr. Marnecheck asked for more clarification on Committee of Council. Ms. Krejci mentioned the Safety or Finance Committee. Ms. Barath explained her desire was to just have a few members of Council sit down with the jail etc., and go through things. Mr. Marnecheck added the idea of perhaps bringing someone from the outside again. Ms. Barath concurred. Mr. Marnecheck's understanding was that Ms. Barath wanted to look into putting in place the structure we used this time, and perhaps making it more formal. Ms. Barath agreed. Mr. Marnecheck indicated that he was okay with the time frame of every three years.

Mayor Antoskiewicz made suggestion that if you do so, to do it with a Council Committee, because it can go a lot of different ways. He continued that first you discuss it with a Council Committee or with Council. He discussed the process, whereas Council would sit down, it would go on the committee agenda, and be talked about. He went on to say it may be as simple as, in three years, everything seems to be moving along well; and that would be the extent of it. Or it could go another way, that we need to look at this even stronger, and get another independent person if that need were to arise; to do another study. However, Council could make that decision as they discuss it. He felt that the key is to just let Council look at it, and ensure they do so on that third year.

Mr. Dietrich inquired if it was the intent of Ms. Barath to just make it “official” that we meet every three years. Ms. Barath agreed. Mr. Dietrich agreed 100%, especially if there is no study needed to be done. He believes something needs to be structured, whereas nothing is in place; he supported it.

As discussion ensued, Mr. Nickell suggested having it every two years; so that every new Council can perhaps review it. He would like to see it every two years, however not doing a study per say. He mentioned the Safety Committee. Mr. Dietrich, as the Chair, wanted to suggest keeping it in the Finance Committee. Mr. Marnecheck stated that he was comfortable leaving it in Finance Committee. Mr. Nickell was flexible.

As discussion ensued, Ms. Schroeder noted that we could just add a different line item under the Safety Committee, or committee chosen. Mr. Kelly agreed on adding a line item, if everyone was in agreement on which committee. Ms. Krejci stated that she would be okay with every two years, that way it is getting touched every two years. She added, as long as what we are doing is put on our agenda. The Mayor agreed, as well as Ms. Barath. Mr. Nickell pointed out that it would not get forgotten for future Council. Ms. Barath wanted us to stay on top of it and did not want it to get lost.

Mr. Dietrich agreed to take this off of the agenda and he felt it was a successful conversation.

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

Mr. Dietrich moved to draft legislation for discussion on creation to meet about the jail under the Finance Committee, seconded by Mr. Marnecheck. Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Mr. Nickell to **adjourn the October 4, 2022 Special Review and Oversight Committee meeting.** Yeas: 3; Nays: 0. **Motion Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.