SEVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 1, 2010

Mrs. Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8PM.

Present: Mayor Carter, Barbara Schwartz, Kathy Rhoads, Rick Stallard,

Roger Kilgore, Richard Barbera, Fiscal Officer Jim Carrick

Absent: Jim Lovejoy

The minutes from the Feb. 16, 2010 were approved. Motion by K. Rhoads seconded by R. Stallard. Aye votes all.

The budget for 2010 is complete. Adjustments were made for unemployment. Mrs. Schwartz advised the committee that as a governmental entity we do not pay into unemployment, we are self-insured. The benefits are calculated and we are billed accordingly. Adjustments were made in the parks and mayor & administration budgets.

Streets and parks wages were adjusted based on anticipated time to be spent in each department. This was a \$35,000.00 adjustment. BOPA is also allowing for streets workers, which amounts to \$5000.00 directly off of street wages.

Urban will retire effective 3-1-10, and his unemployment will stop at that time. R. Barbera discussed variances in unemployment and it was determined that there is no money available to budget for something that may not occur. Police wages in the budget were reduced as previously discussed.

- R. Stallard complemented B. Schwartz and J. Carrick on the effort spent on the budget and that the goal has been accomplished. We need to stick to it. R. Stallard made a motion to recommend the budget to council for approval. Seconded by K. Rhoads. Aye votes all.
- B. Schwartz advised Council that it is not too soon to start thinking about next year's budget. She would like committee meetings in March to start the process. She requested that by August committees be able to bring preliminary budgets forward, followed by two months of discussion. Council

would have time in October, November and December to have 3 readings and have the 2011 budget approved by the end of the year 2010.

J. Carrick presented numbers for revenue and expenditures for January 2009 vs. 2010. Revenues are down. We will have monthly reports all year.

Al Pipa had a question about BOPA funds. Specifically electric.

K. Rhoads discussed having goals. B. Schwartz suggested the process start with committee meetings. After discussion, it was decided to start from the bottom up. Such goals could be returning to the previous way the kilowatt-hour tax was handled which was a benefit to village residents and businesses as well as regaining the financial position necessary to offer reciprocity for the $\frac{1}{4}\%$ Village income tax, which was removed via council vote and ordinance several years ago.

- R. Kilgore talked about street equipment concerns and their related costs. R. Stallard asked about any major street projects. Streets have to deal with street sign compliance and ADA compliance at crosswalks.
- B. Schwartz advised the committee that we have the paperwork on the properties that we did not file for exempt status. Paperwork to be completed and hopefully we will get refunds. Amount of approx. \$3,000.00.
- B. Schwartz discussed with the committee the upcoming new Cloverleaf district K-4 building that is targeted to be completed by December 2011. The buildings under consideration to potentially be closed are Lodi, Westfield or Seville Elementary. Two will be closed and one will remain open and become a 5-6-grade building. Seville Elementary is a "business" that pays income taxes from employee wages to Seville. They are in our top 10 of largest businesses. Schwartz urged the committee that we have to be proactive in campaigning to keep our school open. We will prepare a letter for the School Board and Superintendent highlighting Seville's positive points. Schwartz would love to have a unified letter writing campaign by the town to present to the Cloverleaf School Board. Schwartz does not want to be blindsided. K. Rhoads offered to do a PowerPoint.

In December 2009, Seville Village was #10 in the top ten employers in the Village, with a payroll of over \$95,000.00.

Schwartz shared with the finance committee that our tax-exempt number from the state is known by several and has been used for at least one personal purchase. The statement is for informational purpose for all members of the committee, so they are aware. A memo will be sent to all employees advising them of the guideline.

Schwartz brought up properties that we want to look at to sell. Giauque was purchased in 2007 for \$60,000.00. R. Stallard thought the value would be about \$25,000.00. This property is zoned local commercial. Habitat for Humanity option was also discussed. Also brought up was the parcel by the post office that we purchased for \$30,000.00. It is unclear what can be done with this parcel. We also discussed the land we bought from Ben Wetter. We paid over \$60,000.00. This land has no frontage. It has never been cut. Several options were discussed for raising revenue or at the very least providing the residents some benefit.

Schwartz stated that the budget cuts were made possible because we now have a working mayor and a working council. J. Carrick has also absorbed duties of two positions. The budget works, because we work.

David Johnson stated that we need to emphasize the loss of revenue. Schwartz stated that the new village hall and its related expenses (\$203,000 in the bank and the yearly expenses of ~\$120,000.00) would define the budget for years. It is a current expense that we inherited.

Schwartz stated that zoning wants the downtown to remain vital, but the biggest offender to the downtown is the Village itself. The village hall was moved north of the downtown and all of the BOPA foot traffic moved north also. The downtown businesses are still stinging from this loss.

The committee discussed having a town hall meeting. We will combine the topic of the garbage pickup. Budget will be discussed. This will be scheduled soon. Mr. Pipa stated that this council is very communicative.

Motion to adjourn made by K. Rhoads, seconded by R. Barbera. Aye votes all.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Schwartz

Finance Chair