

**VILLAGE OF OAKWOOD
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
2024-2-13**

ATTENDANCE

Erica Nikolic, President	Gary V Gottschalk, Mayor
Johnnie Warren, President Pro Tem*	Tom Haba, Service Director
Taunya Scruggs, Ward 1	Brian Dirocco, Fire Department
Eloise Hardin, Ward 2	Mark Garratt, Police Department
Paggie Matlock, Ward 3	Matt Jones, Village Engineer
Mary Davis, Ward 4	Daniel Marinucci, Chief Bldg. Official
Candace Williams, Ward 5	

ABSENT

Dave Tapp, Fire Department	Carlean Perez – Recreation Director
Ross Cirincione, Prosecutor	Brian Thompson, Finance Director
James Climer, Law Director	

* Arrived after roll call

Meeting opened at 7:00pm by Nikolic
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call taken

Nikolic: We have the minutes from January 22nd, 2024, special meeting minutes. I'm requesting that we abstain to move the meeting minutes until next week. So, everyone has sufficient time to review them. That would just require that we all abstain so that it can move to next week. May I have a motion to table the minutes of Jan. 22nd, 2024, Council meeting.

Motion to table the Council meeting minutes of Jan. 22nd, 2024, made by Hardin seconded by Davis
YES VOTE: Williams, Davis, Matlock, Hardin, Scruggs, Nikolic
MOTION PASSED

Nikolic: Could we please have the clerk correspondence? **Joseph:** There was a letter for you, and Ms. Scruggs. I also provided correspondence that we received from the Village Engineer, Ed Hren, regarding the road program. That's all that I have. **Nikolic:** May we begin with the departmental reports? May we have our first report from Mayor Gottschalk.

Departmental Reports

Mayor, Gottschalk| Gottschalk Thank you, Madam Chair. It isn't a day that goes by where at least two or three people come to me and ask, well, what's going on with Kroger? So, I'm going to read off what was presented to them about two weeks ago. "As you are aware, Kroger and Oakwood Village executed a Development Agreement for the creation of a fulfillment center in March of 2022. Since that time, the Village has worked diligently to fulfill its end of the bargain.

On March 7th, 2023, an extensive planning meeting was held involving numerous officials from Kroger, the Village, Team NEO, and others. At which time Kroger expressed a desire to move expeditiously to carry out the project. That is, the last communication of any substance in the Village has received from Kroger. This delay is, needless to say, disturbing and it has unduly delayed numerous financial contributions Kroger committed to make under this Agreement. Under the agreement, \$45,000 in 2022, \$50,000 in 2023, was to be donated by Kroger to Oakwood youth (for education programs in our summer camp and after school programs). Also, the existing mound to screen the construction site before 2024 year-end would be maintained with invoices supporting the expenditures provided by Oakwood. A local 501(c)(3) organization has already expended \$7,000 for eight-foot-high nylon netting around the evergreens and arborvitae to protect them from the deer. Under section one of the Agreement, Oakwood would provide invoices for landscaping and watering expenses occurred in 2023 and anticipated in 2024, totaling \$65,000. Finally, Kroger has acknowledged that it owes professional fees incurred by the Village for which invoices have been provided in the amount of \$42,201.10 and which now exceed the maximum of \$45,000 provided for in the Agreement. Given these delays, the Village demands that Kroger promptly make the payments outlined above. Additionally, Oakwood requires that Kroger provide a firm date in writing by which it will commence this project prior to 2024 year-end. If Kroger doesn't choose to proceed as outlined above. The Village requests that it sell the Oakwood property back to Premier Development. (I am holding a letter from Premier expressing its desire to buy the property back and assume all the above expenditures). In the absence of an agreement to these issues, Oakwood Village is prepared to take the steps necessary to enforce its rights under this Agreement.” That was given to Kroger, I have yet to have a response from Kroger in two weeks. Now regarding the company from France, they're on track to become located in Oakwood Village, April of this year. Starbucks construction will begin again in May. They anticipate serving coffee by Thanksgiving. The last bit of economic development. I've been meeting for the last three weeks with a firm out of the West Coast. That was hoping to relocate here in Oakwood Village. I met with their new owner twice here. This will have significant implications. Not just for Oakwood but for Northeast Ohio as well. This will be covered heavily if this does happen. So, keep your fingers crossed on that. Now we'll get to the agenda, the pay raise. The annual pay raises over the last three years, in 2021 it was zero, in 2022 it was 2%, and 2023 is 3%. Despite any pay raises, the employees took home less because of the cost-of-living increases. So, whether they were groceries, whether they were insurance, whether they were property taxes increases. No matter what the pay increase was, they were bringing home less than they had done before. This is what we are hoping to eliminate here. The significantly small number of people that we do have on staff. Has a great work ethic, virtuous in the culture. I say that because many of these people now don't even care or want to work more than 2 to 3 days a week. And our employees do, team Oakwood walks by faith, not by spirit. And not to be disrupted by conventional or traditions of man on earth. Oakwood Village is a hub of high tech, life science, and medical research. By connecting with Jesus, the city has been blessed. Jesus has poured his spirit out and touched us here in Oakwood Village and our staff. So, let's move forward and pay what our blessed employees have earned. But as I say, because some things have not been presented to Council. They can't make a decision now, but it's retroactive to the beginning of the year. You have my assurance on that. So,

when this is approved it will be retroactive to the beginning of the year. It is going to be based on what the discretion of your supervisor or your director has to say with my approval. And at the same time, Council in an executive session will be alerted about this as well. So, with that, I am finished. **Nikolic:** Any questions or discussion for the mayor? **Davis:** Premier, did they say what they want to do with this? **Gottschalk:** They haven't mentioned names, but these are substantial companies. Where people would be coming to work. That's the whole key of everything. That's why most of these other cities are just struggling with finance. Because many of their buildings are no longer with employees. People are staying at home and paying taxes where they live, rather than where they work. **Davis:** So, are you talking about an industry? or are you talking about office buildings? I mean, give us a hint, because that's in my mom's backyard. **Gottschalk:** Particularly, medical research, high tech, and life science. There are no smokestack industries we are talking about at all. **Williams:** I think we set a very dangerous precedent for people not to work together. And we're providing some misinformation about the budget. It is Council's authority to approve the budget. And so, if you say that you're going to make it retroactive, and we haven't discussed that and made a decision. You're making a promise that people are waiting for that we haven't even discussed and decided on. **Gottschalk:** I don't do the talking unless I do the walking and it will be retroactive. **Williams:** So, we have to appropriate that first. I'm not going to have a back and forth with you. Because the fact is, that is our authority to do that, and we have to appropriate it before you can spend it. I just want to make sure it's on public record. So, that our employees can read it and understand that that's putting the cart before the horse. When you say you can do that without us approving it first. **Warren:** One of the things is that whatever the percentages are. I wouldn't do anything but support retroactive, whatever the percentages are, but it will be retroactive. I'm sure that this Council realize it has always been that way. Whatever the percentages are, I'm not saying the 5% or whatever, but it should be retroactive. **Nikolic:** I agree with Johnny and the Mayor that it should be retroactive. In any employment stance, I would expect my pay raise to be retroactive. So, I agree with that, although we can discuss it further. But just as an overall view, I agree with retroactive and yes, we will have to approve it ultimately. But I think about how I would view with myself and retroactive is how I would appreciate it. The other thing is, I would just like to say, with the 5% raise. Speaking to the employees, to give the new Council persons the grace and the respect to catch up. This is a very in-depth decision that needs to be made. We just started, so, if we have the time to do our jobs properly. Then we can look at everything and once Mr. Thompson has given us the documents we need. We will be able to make a methodical decision. Nothing's going to be rubber stamped. So, we do need the time to look at everything appropriately to make a decision. So, just asking for the grace and the understanding of the new Council people as well. So that's one point I wanted to make. **Hardin:** I'd like to say this. This Council is going to be fair. Any undermining of the process at this point should stop. We're going to do this with accountability. We're going to do it with the honesty and the integrity that we have always operated under. I am truly surprised at the techniques that are being instituted. I didn't crawl from under a cabbage patch yesterday. I think I know where this is coming from. But just like the president has asked for, grace. We want you to understand we need numbers. We don't just pick these numbers out randomly. And yes, we agree that the majority of the employees perform their jobs. They come every day, and they do an excellent job. This has nothing to do with your day-to-day operation. It

has everything to do with the expenditures here and how this money is spent. And we're going to do that. We're going to do our jobs and we're going to be fair like we always have. The fact that we're not getting what we need. This is the one time that we're going to wait until we get what we need. It's for the benefit of this community that we're going to wait, thank you. **Davis:** I just wanted to add, we have been asking for figures from our Finance Director. For a couple of months now. It has been since we started in August, when we asked for everybody to start doing their budgets. It is now February of the next year, and we still haven't got all the answers that we've requested. So, he has put us in a bind, and also that bind also passes on to our employees that are part of our city. Which is sad, because we know they got wonderful people in this city that are our employees. We are thankful for that. But we have to have, like Ms. Hardin said, the numbers. We have to have something in front of us before we can allow everybody just to spend money. That we have not yet received. So, until we receive those things, we have to wait. I'm sorry, it's put on us, but it's not from us that we're having a problem. So, we will definitely get to everybody as soon as we can get our numbers into us. **Nikolic:** One last comment, just to put things in perspective. At our meeting last month, our final meeting. I requested items from the Finance Director. Last Friday, I stopped into his office to speak with his staff. So previously there was some concern that there was not a fully staffed department. We currently have a fully staffed department. When I go in to ask if any documents have been left with his staff. Or if there had been any follow-up to get the documents to us. They had not heard of anything that had been discussed. So, no one in his department knew of anything that we had requested. So, he needs to utilize his team, delegate so we can all work together to get these things done. But now that he's fully staffed, our expectations are going to go up. Because now, without having these documents, we are in a predicament. So, that's the last comment that I need to make anyone else come into discussions and families. **Hardin:** The buck stops with the Mayor. We have asked for it and Mr. Mayor, we're going to ask you to expedite it. **Gottschalk:** You will have those numbers, he'll be here Thursday, and you'll have it by Monday or Tuesday the latest. **Hardin:** That's public record. **Gottschalk:** Anything that you requested, you're going to get. **Hardin:** By what day? **Gottschalk:** By Tuesday. **Hardin:** Thank you. **Nikolic:** Just to summarize what we have requested. We did request recommendations from managers and directors for their input on pay raises. I've also requested at the last meeting to have a cost per employee so we can understand what each employee is costing us. And so, Councilwoman Scruggs and I can understand who is in which department. We've also requested an overall assessment of salary ordinances. Who received raises when last. So, we can look at maybe someone needs a base pay raise. Someone may need an overall raise. So, these are a lot of things that we'd like to look at one time, together. So, it's not just the pay raise we'd like to look at several different factors together. So, there's a lot of information that we're waiting on and once we have it will make that decision. **Williams:** There are additional documents that were requested prior to January when you all started. So, we will send just a list of everything so that we get everything we requested. **Warren:** I'll make a suggestion that Mayor when Brian returns. I think that you should present that list to him. Let him tell you when he's going to get it, without you making a commitment on his behalf. **Gottschalk:** Even if he has to be here eight days a week, to get it on Tuesday. You're going to get what you requested. **Nikolic:** Okay, if no other further discussion. May we have our report from our Service Director?

Service- **Haba** | **Haba**: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just two things, I know we asked a lot of questions about streetlights in the last few months. We went street by street; we're just about done with the Village. We got a couple small little areas left. We've turned those all in to the Illuminating Company. I know they were quick to respond on Broadway, last week and check out those streetlight problems. Secondly, Ms. Joseph brought to my attention, two weeks ago. There was a grant possibility from the State of Ohio. We jumped on it, we only had like a week. So, we did apply for that grant. It's for a new covering for our old salt pen, which was falling apart. With Ms. Joseph's help and the Engineering Department, we got the grant in on time that day. We will get approval from Council to that grant if we do get it, that's all I have. **Davis**: Mr. Haba, I want to thank you for your call to the Waste Management. They have been cleaning up. I have seen two times this week, the bypass along the freeway. Because I remember I talked to you about the all the garbage that was thrown from their trucks. They were out yesterday again picking up. They had three guys going down that road. **Haba**: We picked it up sometime last week because some of it is Oakwood stuff. But one thing mentioned before. The County prisoners do it, but that's not on the list. But they don't seem to have gone down there much of last year. But they were on Broadway a few weeks ago. **Davis**: I mean, they were working nicely, and really thank you for your department also. **Warren**: I would also like to thank the Service Director. But, also to focus on the Council Clerk taking the initiative and incentive to look up the grant and be the one that gets this grant opportunity off the ground. So, to Ms. Joseph, we appreciate your due diligence in this effort. **Haba**: Yeah, it would give us something we really needed. Something we would have had to spend money on next year, too. So, it would be great if we could get that. **Matlock**: Question, County prisoners, I did see them out on the roads picking up trash. Is there some way we can either submit something to say, do they pick up on the state streets? **Haba**: It is our streets they pick up. Every year, every January, I give them a list of what streets we would like. It is up to them, we don't pay them anything, they are just doing it. So, I have a list of streets we'd like them to address every year. **Warren**: They probably do the main streets work. **Haba**: Yeah, we always give the Fair Oaks, Oak Leaf, Forbes Road, Broadway, etc. They are not going to do all of ours. **Matlock**: What about Tryon? **Haba**: Tryon, I will hit that by the end of the week. There's that one section that gets bad. **Matlock**: Yeah. **Haba**: I don't believe that is on there. They are not going to do all of our streets. **Matlock**: I know they're not going to do it all. I just thought maybe it was just something we can request. **Haba**: Next year we can put that on there. **Matlock**: Ok. **Nikolic**: I had a quick question. Here in the budget, we have litter pick up wages. Have we ever appropriated anything for that or have in the past? **Haba**: I am not sure where that's from. We haven't used that in years. It has in the past sometimes; I had a group of kids. I used to do it sometimes, right there on North Lane. We bought the bags and give them material stuff like that. That could be from that, I believe. **Nikolic**: Okay. **Haba**: We helped out Waste Management and the County. **Nikolic**: So, it was some type of a youth program. **Haba**: Yeah, sometimes it was asked, it was on and off. Clean up Oakwood day, stuff like that. **Nikolic**: Okay, that might be something to bring back if we continue to have issues. **Haba**: I think the kids, we're usually free. I believe last few times that we'd have supervised, we paid a little bit. **Nikolic**: Any other questions or discussion? Can we have a report from our Police Chief?

Police- Garratt| Garratt: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to bring up something. We have been taking a lot of reports. Usually this time of year, with the tax return, identity theft and issues with that. Emails, people open up emails that are fraudulent because they know they are waiting for tax documents. They put all their information in and unfortunately that is usually the problem. There's a sheet that we are going to put on our website, it might already be up. But, a lot of times, especially the taxpayers this time of year. They're very intelligent, they deal with this fraud, with identity theft and get people. Especially if they can, the elderly, because they're not computer savvy. They kind of fall for some of the scams and some of the some of the phone calls. We haven't had any phone calls here. But Oakwood Village had a lot of e-mail ones. So, if you could, direct people to go there would be great. There's a bunch of information right up here to help make you aware. We can always take a phone call, call up here and talk to one of the guys in our bureau or one of the Officers. We can help anybody out if you have questions, concerns, or any about emails or phone calls. The IRS never calls you ever, for anything, period. So, don't ever believe any of that. The other thing I want to talk about was the legislation. As I talked to you guys before the last meeting, the canine has been sitting. That's why we wanted to act kind of quick on this. Geauga is trying to buy the dog from us. Again, that's a nine-year-old dog next year. The average work life of a dog is 7 to 9 years in canine. They are willing to give us \$2,000 for the dog because the handler is going over there. So, we could act, that dogs have been sitting there for a couple of weeks. He kind of needs to get working again. So, if you could entertain that I would appreciate it. **Nikolic:** For the dog warden, there's a \$13,000 line item for the dog warden. Will that be necessary once the dog is sold? **Garratt:** Yeah, that's the dog warden. **Nikolic:** What is that? **Garratt:** That's for like, calls that we've got loose dogs. **Nikolic:** Oh, okay, that's for picking up dead animals and everything like that. **Garratt:** Well, not the dead ones. They pick up the ones that are trapped, dogs running loose. **Nikolic:** So, is there any other line item that will be removed once the dog goes? **Garratt:** Yeah, there's a canine expense for \$2,500, maybe \$3,500 that's in my budget. We're not going to remove it because I don't know what we're going to do with it. But the only time we utilize it is if we do pickup another canine unit. **Nikolic:** Okay, so now we do not have a canine unit. **Garratt:** That is correct, we do not have a canine. We still have the car and the outfit for it. How it works when you get a new canine unit, it's a six-week training. You pick out the dog, the officer and the dog go for six weeks of training for basic training for canine. Then they come back to work. So, it's a pretty big commitment and we're low on guys right now. We have some young guys that are going to be really good I think in that position. So, they need just a little more seasoning before we're going to entertain that. The Captain and I have been talking about it. I think we're going to let it ride for a little while, and when it's time, we'll make that decision together. **Hardin:** When you mentioned budget, we won't have one. We'll leave that line item there and that's just for feeding the dog. But have you included a cost of purchasing a dog and that training in this last budget that you submitted? **Garratt:** I haven't because I didn't know the dog was leaving. Frankly, I didn't know the Officer was leaving until two weeks before. **Hardin:** Based on what's going on. I would suggest that you submit a memorandum just in case before the end of the year, what you might want to do. **Garratt:** I appreciate it. **Davis:** So, the officer has gone? **Garratt:** Yes, and the two options were, as I mentioned before. When you disband a retired K9 unit. By state law,

the handler has an option to buy the dog for a dollar. This one worked out because he wants to work the dog for whatever the time was left of the dog. And Geauga County wants to give us \$2,000. So, it's either a dollar or \$2,000. That goes into the general fund, thank you. **Nikolic:** Thank you Chief if there's no further questions or discussion. May we hear from our Fire Chief.

Fire-Dirocco| Dirocco: Good evening, thank you Council President. January has been off to a pretty busy start for us in the Fire Department. A lot of calls coming in. We have also switched our software company. So, it is a big learning curve for everyone. It was something we had to do because the company we were with, they're retiring the software. So, we had to make a switch. On February 1st, we had a very difficult house fire down in Walton Hills. The firefighters in Oakwood, along with mutual aid partners from Bedford, Bedford Heights, Macedonia, and Valley View helped put it out. No one was hurt, homeowners got out, the animals got out. So, some damage to the house, but no one was hurt. We've been busy in the community, starting up teaching CPR classes to some of the businesses. And, actually, everyone in Glenwillow Village has requested teaching their whole staff, Police, Service, and regular staff members. I know back last year, Ms. Hardin, we talked about trying to find a way to teach and give CPR instruction, starting with the Village employees. The Fire Departments kind of taken care of that, Police Department has it. So, next would be anyone that's willing or able to from Council, from the regular office staff, Service Department. We're more than happy to put on a class day, night, or weekend. I know last year we set a whole bunch of dates, and we couldn't find anything that worked. But I'd be happy to do that again if you guys would like to look into that. And that's all I have if you have questions I can do that. **Hardin:** You know, I left a message for you last week regarding that. Did you get it? **Dirocco:** Dave said Ms. Harin left a message, and he said he was going to talk to you. **Hardin:** You know what? I really see you coordinating something like that with maybe even the Mayor's group that meets. Because so many of some of these people are getting older. **Dirocco:** Last year we did have the Rec Department. They were the only ones that were able to really kind of work into that. The Rec department put together a group, Ms. Perez. I think I had two different classes. We had about two dozen people go through it. **Hardin:** Okay, well, I didn't know anything about that. Can we do it again this year because it wasn't advertised. **Dirocco:** So, it's up to you, who would be the point of contact to schedule that? I could reach out, obviously, to all of you if you would like it. **Hardin:** How about if you deal with our Clerk? **Dirocco:** I'll be happy to do that. I will send her some dates, and she could forward it your way and let me know what works. Like I said, if you guys or any of the department heads, it's good for everyone to learn. Any other questions? Thank you. **Nikolic:** Hearing none, may we hear from our Building Department?

Building-Marinucci| Marinucci: Thank you, Madam President, it is my pleasure. A statement that's not part of the Building Department, but I want you to be aware of. It really hit home, and it really is serious. And especially since the population is older, and you have grandchildren. Maybe Chief Garratt knows more than I do. The gang is out of Florida, and the name of the gang is Felony Lane. The way they got the name is after the event happens. They go to the furthest line at your bank. Because the camera images that are taken in that thing, are not very clear. But two weeks ago, my wife works in the prosecutor's office, Lake County. They focus on daycare

centers. But the woman lawyer dropped her baby off at the daycare. From the time she got out of the car and brought the child into the daycare center. The car got hit, everything was stolen. The banks were hit within 35 to 45 minutes after the event happened. But Lake County got the people who did it. The Sheriff in Lake County has posted it. I've been telling everybody about it. It happened really, really fast. They are targeting the daycares. So, I thought you should be aware of it. My understanding is that group is all through Northeast Ohio, all over northeast United States, but it's here. The second thing is, I'm looking forward to having the budget meeting with Council. Because there's some issues with the Building Department that have to be addressed. We will address them when we have that meeting. Because I did talk to Brian more than once. So, when we get there, we will. I'm here for questions, if you have any questions, **Gottschalk:** Answer to the point regarding what I asked you to do regarding the facility over there on Macedonia. **Marinucci:** Yeah, I've been in touch with Jim Climer on this issue. So, we are working together on it. Here's the issue, the issue is do we have the authority. They want ordinance supplied, and what they can do. So, I've been working back and forth. **Gottschalk:** They cannot be doing what they are doing. **Marinucci:** I understand. **Gottschalk:** So, what I've asked you to do is, you've taken pictures there. In the next two or three days, have a citation prepared. **Marinucci:** Mayor, we are working on it, to do it right. **Gottschalk:** We'll give him three days in which to clear that thing up. Or there will be a court date which they have to appear. **Marinucci:** Yeah. **Gottschalk:** All right. **Nikolic:** Okay, for clarity's sake, can we be can we specify what issue we're talking about and location? **Marinucci:** I don't know the address, but there's a lot of cars there. I know what the game plan is, I understand the game plan. I'm just trying to make it right, so, we're not on the opposite end of this thing. We have to be on the right side of it. So, it starts with the zoning. It may be of dual use; I can't figure out the zoning yet. I thought they were a construction company initially; it doesn't appear that they are. But there's some construction things there. It's not a used car. There's a sign up that says, something of a classic cars. **Davis:** Gray Brothers Classic Cars. **Marinucci:** There's provisions in our ordinance that says A, B, C, and D, I'm trying to get it all right. **Matlock:** Is that on the corner of Broadway and Macedonia? **Marinucci:** Yeah, right there by Drake Road. We've dealt with this issue before in different areas. And part of the ordinance says what they are allowed to do... I don't know if they qualify yet, I'm confused. But indoors they're allowed to do things. You could be like a used car dealership as long as no cars go outside. So, if you have a car and you meet the general the definition, you could do it. And also, to sponsor the ordinance that allows for screening. I'll be honest the Mayor and I talk about this. I don't know how you can screen. **Gottschalk:** No, there's not enough room. Again, we don't even tolerate this on Broadway. DCOMM has to put up a mount. There's no room even for a mount over there. Additionally, people at reflections, can look down at that site as well. It's intolerable... **Marinucci:** I'm working with Jim on this to get this done. This is going to be a joint effort to do it right. It might be done by Tuesday. **Gottschalk:** Alright, all I'm asking for is a citation so that we can have a court date. And not just going there to warn them. **Marinucci:** I'm going to personally meet with the owners and try to get them to clean this up. **Davis:** When they came in front of planning, what did they say? **Marinucci:** I don't think they went in front of planning. **Davis:** They had to come in front of planning... **Marinucci:** No, the Planning Commission doesn't determine who goes in. If they're going to alter the building, yea. But there's no altering of the building. But they would have to go for the

signage, and they did not. I didn't even know about that particular sign. We went out and took pictures after we got your email to expedite this. I'm on the Mayor's side on this, don't get me wrong. I don't think jurisdictions, the Village have allowed this kind of stuff. I just wanted to be right. What I do know about it is, the people running that business have a lot of money. I don't want to get too involved in the lawsuit. I want to make sure it's done right. **Warren:** May I just suggest that you don't talk to them before, take the action first. Because if you talk to them, they're going to say, oh, well, give us a week or two weeks. Then they're going to delay it even further. If you get the action started and then they want to talk, then let them do it. But at least get the action started so that we document and we're there in court. Or we got at least the legal steps taken. **Marinucci:** I've been reading all the sections of the code all day today. I'm going to be in touch with Jim and say, let's move on to this provision. I want to have an agreement here. Then if he says, yeah, then okay, that's how we're going. **Warren:** You can always site more than one violation, too. **Marinucci:** Yeah, I'm looking where it says multiple cars. I'm looking everywhere, I started in the general business, and that's what takes you down what I just said. Because if you're a used car dealer, you're allowed to do it. Even though we don't want it, it can't be outside. There's a guy that's a used car dealer, but none of the cars are outside. He might have fifteen cars or something like that. I've been there four, five times already, and they're all indoors. All right, so, I know that this was resurfaced. I'll drive by tomorrow to make sure that, and can I just say. I don't know what this corporation is, I'm trying to classify it. There is construction there so maybe, it's a dual occupancy. I don't know, do you know how this might be? Construction policy matter, It has to be screened. The screening is part of the reason that I think I can't get everything together to where we are able to make the citations. Where we can have a court date, and only then are they enforcement. I won't talk to them, but that's what I'm doing. I want to have the jump on it. **Davis:** Because he has cars there also. **Warren:** Not to belabor this, but Councilperson Davis brought up a good thing too. They have cars without license plates. That's why I say they should be cited for everything. Not just for the one thing. But cars without license plates should be cited for noncompliance. **Marinucci:** Now, that's part of what I'm doing. But, you don't have to have a front license plate, right? **Warren:** You got to check the back of it. **Marinucci:** Now you have to go on the property. **Warren:** Well, I see what you're saying. If you can't, I'm just saying that if it's obvious that the vehicles don't have plates. And according to law it's required, then you could move forward. **Marinucci:** I could say this, and the reason why I say they can't go on a property. When they first moved in, I don't know if you're involved in it. But we had a complaint kind of thing and there was an issue there. When I called them, they were pretty rough with me on the phone. So, it leads me to believe that this is going to be one of these. And it's okay, it doesn't scared me at all. But I want to be right on it. I don't want to cite something and then find out we made a mistake. I think Tuesday, I going to try my best with them. If Jim says, hold on, we will hold on. But if Jim says, go for it, we're going forward on it. **Hardin:** Did the Building Department change its hours of operation? If so, when did you do it? **Marinucci:** A while ago. **Hardin:** And why? **Marinucci:** Because it helps the contractors. When we thought of it, I contacted the other Building Departments, and they were doing that. So, it gets the contractor in and out quick. And really, if you look at the times, a lot more is done in that department in the morning than it is in the afternoon. **Hardin:** I want to go on record, what with the number of complaints regarding the customer service from your department. Dan, I'm going

to say this, this last one. See, they never know who they're talking to, that's number one. Number two, everyone deserves respect and courtesy. That's all that's required. **Marinucci:** Yes and I agree. **Hardin:** And to talk to people like they just fell off the back of a wagon or condescending; that has to stop now. You made the comment that you're going to talk with us when we get to the raises. You can do it however you want to do it. But I'm telling you, that if I get one more... Mayor, it's terrible how they talk to the people over there. Some of them, it's unbelievable and it has to stop. **Marinucci:** I'm not aware of about the issue, but we can talk whenever you want, we can meet on it for sure. **Hardin:** We can meet on it, but in the meantime, I need you to give them a heads up, okay? **Marinucci:** When I'm there, because I could overhear a lot of them. I think it's pretty running smoothly. **Hardin:** Not so. **Marinucci:** But I could also tell you that. I do know that this goes down a lot, hypothetically. Debbie would take a phone call phone call and would say A, B, and C. Well, that person doesn't like me A, B, and C. Sometimes it goes to Lillie, the same person, same issue. Then I said I'll take it, and I say the same thing A, B and C and then it's okay. But a lot of times, they don't like what A, B, and C are. **Hardin:** So, as a result then what do you do? **Marinucci:** Nothing. **Hardin:** You're tell me... but that's ok, we are not going to debate this here. All I'm saying to you is, it is terrible and it's getting worse, it has to stop. If they don't have the patience to deal with the general public, then do what you do. You take all the calls because... **Marinucci:** Well, that isn't happening. **Hardin:** Well, I'm going to tell you tonight what is going to happen. This is part of what happens here. They will never, ever be allowed to talk to another constituent the way that they have talked to some of those people. **Marinucci:** I'm going to put a stop to that. **Hardin:** Thank you. **Marinucci:** I don't understand, we should never be disrespectful. But when you said to me, what do I do. I'm trying to think of an exact example. A person called and they wanted it to go to the Planning Commission on a specific issue. I think your family member is involved on it or something. But you can't get there without having a survey. For what this particular issue was. Debbie tells them you need a survey. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, but then they filed the paperwork, no survey. So, we're going back and forth on it. So, then Lillie said, we need a survey to get it through planning. So now it comes to me and, and I said, we need a survey. If we don't get the survey, I can't do it. This is not being disrespectful. This is saying, hey, I don't write the ordinances and I don't deal with his office. His office is the one requiring the survey. We're implementing the survey to do it. So, when I say no, it's not going without the proper paperwork, that is not being disrespectful. **Hardin:** Well, let me just let me share something with you from the old world. I'm an old telephone employee. The first thing you are taught, and I want you to take this back to your crew. **Marinucci:** I am. **Hardin:** It is called tone of service. If they want me to come over and give them instructions on what that really means, I'll be glad to. The only picture I have of an individual when it's a phone call involved. Is what you say to me and how you say it. And believe me, when people hang up from your department, they're not happy. The tone of service is ridiculous. **Marinucci:** I'm going to deal with that at the employee level. But let me tell you about me. When a contractor comes in here and he does the job, he does it without a permit. He knows he has to have the permit. You know what? If he calls you, you're going to say fire Marinucci. Because when I nail this guy and I'll tell them you're never going to do any more work in Oakwood Village. If you're just totally disrespecting the process. So, I had a guy that did something, the cost of the permit was \$35. All the work is done, and they want Oakwood Village

to give them a final. And I go, how dare you do this. **Hardin:** Let me tell you something. How ever you choose to do it and he chooses to leave you on a payroll, that's one thing. When an employee in your department talks to an individual. In other than total respect, because you're not entitled to be condescending. No matter what I say or do. What you're supposed to do and the right thing to do. If it's something that I have just frustrated you to no end. You know what, Mrs. Hardin? I will get back with you and tune it out. But to give the kind of service that your department gives, it has to stop. **Marinucci:** If it's that bad, I'll get it to stop. **Hardin:** It is beyond... **Marinucci:** When I'm there, I could hear phone calls. **Hardin:** Then they drop down to condescending, people are not stupid. They know when you're talking to them like they're an idiot, and it's got to stop. **Marinucci:** Yeah, I would like to know the issue. But I'm going to talk... this has to come from Aaron is what I am thinking. **Hardin:** Wherever you want to pick it out from, it needs to stop. **Marinucci:** I will have a meeting tomorrow morning on that specific issue. **Davis:** Activity logs, you said as of the January meeting, we would get it the next day. The last activity log I have in my email is from September. **Marinucci:** That can't be, we must have a wrong email. I sent that to Council Clerk and everybody. Because you mentioned that you didn't get it and I sent that again. **Marinucci:** I'm going to send an email and make sure you get it. **Nikolic:** Okay, one quick thing, just a gentle reminder of sidebar conversations. This is an open and public meeting, so every conversation that should be had should be open to the public. **Hardin:** I apologize. **Nikolic:** It would be a violation of the sunshine laws. It should be open, so it may be documented. Unless it's to find something in a document. If we could, have all of our comments made open to the public so everyone can hear what's being said. And it can be properly documented in the meetings, that would be greatly appreciated. Anyone else have any comments for the Village? **Matlock:** By the way, since you drew me into this situation. Debbie is very, very knowledgeable and she was only helping with the situation. And she did resolve it. **Marinucci:** She's knowledgeable, but she's not compliant. **Matlock:** No, but I'm just saying, during the time that we were in there, she was. **Marinucci:** She knows what she's doing. **Matlock:** She knows what she's doing, and she just got the information that was needed. And she informed, matter of fact, the person you want is that one right there. But that information was very knowledgeable. Because it just told her what she needed to do to go to the next step. **Marinucci:** This has been going on a long time. **Matlock:** But that was something that she didn't know about. I wanted to say also, that Building Department as far as communication. **Marinucci:** Well, I could tell you the issue you're bringing up has been ... **Matlock:** No, we're not talking about Debbie. We just talking about some of the individuals that work in there. **Marinucci:** Well, that's what we have. We've been down one person for over a year. **Matlock:** We have a meeting with them afterwards, right? **Davis:** Work session. **Nikolic:** You would just need to request, would like the Building Director to stay? **Marinucci:** Not today. **Matlock:** Excuse me? You said you wanted to talk to us about something, correct? **Marinucci:** I got to go a long way. **Matlock:** But you said you want to talk to us about the budget. **Nikolic:** No, he didn't mean today. **Matlock:** Well, I'll get with you personally because there are some individuals. Then you just mentioned something that I want to ask you about. You said there is a clerk in there digitizing the information that you have in there. Is that all she does? **Marinucci:** Right now, yes. **Matlock:** Okay, so how much more of that work has to be digitized? **Marinucci:** A long way, a lot. **Matlock:** So, we're saying a long way. What is a long way and what is a lot?

Marinucci: She's doing 20 to 30 years of digitizing, and she works every day. It's just getting through it, and it's working out really nicely. Because when we get a request, I just went in and grabbed an icon, and I can send it out. So, it's working, but we didn't even start the drawings. To get all the drawings done is going to take over a year. I'm expanding her services and, and what does that mean? Things are getting tighter, so I'm expanding her services. I want her to do Zoning Board of Appeals. Because if Debbie leaves, we're going to be shorthanded. So, I'm expanding her services agenda in certain areas. **Matlock:** Will she be answering the window? **Marinucci:** Not yet I'm not ready for her because she doesn't know much about the activities. No, I don't want her answering the window or answering the telephone. If she had to answer the phone calls, she couldn't answer. She doesn't know what the zoning codes, not yet. When Debbie answers, she knows the zoning code. When Aaron answers, he knows the zoning code. When Lillie answers, she knows the zoning code. **Matlock:** We're going to have a discussion with you later, right? **Marinucci:** Yeah. **Matlock:** Okay, that's all that matters. **Marinucci:** The other thing is, that phone rings nonstop. If she's answering the phone, she's not going to be able to do the digitizing. **Warren:** One of the things that I would caution us to do. Is to instruct the directors how to utilize their staff, we can evaluate it. If we got one person doing digitizing. I would say that would be something that they would just stay and do. If I was a director, I would do the same thing. Everybody has a job to do, and everybody's assigned a job to do, and they get proficient in their job. I just think it's a chance that we are stepping beyond. We can recommend by him to consider it. But if it was me in that position, I would have one person doing one thing. I would have one person assigned to a different task. One person is answering phones, doing paperwork, and the other one is assigned to the desk when people walk in. But one thing that I wanted to suggest, just for you to consider. When you say it's 7:00am to 3:30pm, I think that it should at least go to 4:00pm. **Marinucci:** We have 4:00pm covered. **Warren:** But you said it is closed at 3:30pm. **Marinucci:** I'm sorry, the correct answer would have been flex. Lillie stays long after 4:00pm. **Warren:** So, what time does the Building Department close? **Marinucci:** 7:30am it opens and then the Building Department closes after 4:30pm. Lillie is there now, I'm sure she's getting ready to leave. She answers the phone well after 4:30pm. **Nikolic:** And Lillie is one that has knowledge of the code in the zone. **Marinucci:** Yeah, she has been there for 20 or 30 years. I think she was involved right when Mayor first became part of the Village. It kind of works really well. Because early in the morning, this is the effort. And then, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, it's kind of slow. Lillie catches all the calls and answering them. We have a lot of issues going on with the port of building standards and stuff like that. So, there's a lot of stuff like that, that's taken all my time. It gets really hard. I know, Councilperson Hardin, when you said I'll have to answer the phone. If I went and answered the phone there, because it rings all the time, no work would get done. And that's not being disrespectful that. **Warren:** You mean the work that you do? **Marinucci:** Yeah, the work that I do, trying to get everything. We're working pretty hard right now on the board of building standards, filing and stuff like that. I think the operation is running smoothly. I respect the issue of maybe the tone and maybe the shortness. That's what I'm thinking it is and I'm going to work on that. **Scruggs:** Is there a way that a resident can submit a formal complaint? **Marinucci:** Yeah. **Scruggs:** If they have experienced something not pleasant, is that in writing towards your department? **Marinucci:** Yeah, we always implement it in writing. But I think we stop it because of the resident feeling uncomfortable. So, if a phone

call comes in, we deal with it. One example is she sent me an email and I forwarded it immediately. But there's times phone calls would come in and Lillie would call me immediately. If I am not in, I get a phone call immediately and we deal with it. **Scruggs:** So, I guess my question would be. Since you say yes, is there a place where those complaints are stored on the employee file? So, when you're going back to do the performance review, you can look at those? **Marinucci:** No, not that kind of complaint. If we get a written complaint, on a property owner of a personal parcel number. **Scruggs:** No, complaint towards employee. **Marinucci:** Oh, a complaint against an employee. I didn't expect this kind of thing. I didn't know about it. But no, nobody's called in to answer your question. **Gottschalk:** I'm getting some calls about that. **Marinucci:** If I get a phone call and Debbie's on the line, which never happens. It will definitely be put into a file. I'm just thinking because Aaron's more of a construction type guy. Everything with him is quicker and short lived. That would be part of it, I thinking. That's the only two people, and Lillie is a doll on the phone. **Matlock:** Do you still send out a report of individuals that moved into the area? **Warren:** New residents. **Matlock:** Like a report of new residents that come in? **Marinucci:** No, they never do it, I've never done that. **Williams:** Yeah, you did. **Marinucci:** What it would be, which is the same thing, is point of sales. When a point of sale comes in. We know that the specific piece of property, that would be tied into a point of sale. The way point of sale works, historically here, is the buyer comes in and assumes the violations. Now they have to get a certificate of temporary occupancy to do this. That's why when you tie it into to that, you had all the information in there. This software is the worse software. We used to have the greatest software. But they keep on working out the negativities on them. So, maybe we can expand it. **Hardin:** One quickie, whenever we have a chance. I'd like to meet just with you. If you've been following Cleveland. All of the new legislation that's in place based on the point of sale. I know you've been keeping up with that. I'd like to go over some of that with you. Was the Police Department able to serve? **Marinucci:** No, I sent it to the legal department, I sent them both to Jim and Ross. They have to take over that. We cannot get service to process. But let me tell you, since this happened, since we spoke. Captain Freeman went out to do the service or process, and he came back, and he could not get it. So, he calls me up, and I said ok and sent them over to legal. Because they don't live in Oakwood Village, I sent it to the lawyers. Something's not right about that property. Why we should start the roofing operation and then stop in the middle of the roof. But we spoke to the neighbor, and the neighbor said. When they started the project, they ran out of money. Which is what I believe, and they stopped the project. The house cannot be condemned. But we have not been able to reach them with the arms of the law right now to do it. So, I sent, and not only did I send it by email to both Jim and Ross. I sent them text messages, and in one of the text messages. I explained the conversation that we actually had with the neighbor. I didn't have it, Lillie did. I let them know that their money is an issue and that's why they stopped it. Maybe health is an issue too. It is not adding up in my mind. What I'm trying to get them to do is get them to sell the property. That's my main plan and all of this. We believe that there was a real estate agent involved. But when you go out there to the property, there's no real estate sign. **Hardin:** No. **Marinucci:** So that's the status of that. If I knew how to do it, I would do it. I don't do that stuff. **Hardin:** Well, I will talk to legal. Because we can't go an additional year with that house sitting there looking like that. **Marinucci:** Yeah, and my game plan after talking with Captain Freeman. Is to let them go in and tell the judge they

don't have the money to fix it. That would be the game plan. **Garratt:** This is the house on Somerville, correct? **Hardin:** Yes, sir. **Garratt:** Okay, we sent an officer over last week to University Heights, where the homeowners live. They didn't answered the door, so we left the green card. The green card is a contact card that we were there to call back immediately. They haven't responded to it yet. However, with this violation, it's not criminal at this point in time. So, we can't take it any further. However, I did have a conversation with our Prosecutor Ross Cirincione only today. Who was also talking with the Law Director. They're looking at a way, with our ordinance, that they can publicize it. Then we can cite from there with the building code violations. However, this person is just avoiding us at this point in time and Building Department. But the Law Department is on it. I'm getting a different way around, a workaround for that. We had a three-way conversation, the Captain and I with, the Prosecutor today. So, it is in effect, they're not losing ground on it. It's just that we can't locate this person right now. We can only exhaust so many avenues to do it because it's not of criminal nature at this point.

Hardin: Okay, sir, thank you. **Marinucci:** I'm hoping that the roofer that was doing the job. I hope he rubberized the roof for \$200 the remaining portion. That would prevent water from getting inside of the roof. So, without being able to go inside the house, I can't (inaudible). But I'm hoping it's not that bad, because that would be cruel to open something up and not weatherize it. There are other issues too on that property. **Warren:** May I ask, this is that property that pulled a permit? **Marinucci:** Yes. **Warren:** How long do they get to... **Marinucci:** One year. **Warren:** Has it been a year yet? **Marinucci:** It could be, I don't know. **Warren:** Well, if it has been a year. Then you could cite them for the violations that exist on that house. Because of the fact that their permit has expired. I would send a letter to whoever I'm dealing with, whoever's a registered homeowner. To let them know that they have defaulted on their permit. The permit is being closed. You're moving forward with the violations and taking them to court. Talk to the Law Director and ask them about that. Or you can have him call me. **Williams:** Councilwoman Matlack had asked about the list. You did use to provide us a list of new people coming in based off of that point of sale. **Marinucci:** I'll send you the point of sale. **Williams:** I think you may have stopped providing us that list. But we had tied it to wanting new residents to get a welcome packet. Have you all been sending out that packet? **Marinucci:** No, the only thing we have is point of sale. So, if they come in, and it's not like there's a whole lot of new residents. **Williams:** We don't have to discuss it now. When we have that meeting, we'll go back to them. **Marinucci:** Debbie gave them out when they come in. **Williams:** So, they do get a welcome packet or don't? **Marinucci:** When they come in, if it's a new one. They get a welcome packet, Debbie does that. **Hardin:** No, sir. **Marinucci:** I don't know, we'll bring that up again. A lot of times, the point of sale, they got a temporary occupancy. They don't get that until they clear the violations. Once they clear the violations. Then I guess you have to give them the package, right? I don't know, I will mention it to them. You know what's even better Council? If you give them the welcome packet. They are in your ward; you know who's moving in. You can go in and hand it to them. And that's a good PR. **Williams:** We have had that exact conversation before. You say you guys can do it. But we need a list in order to know who's coming. **Marinucci:** I will send you the point of sales. **Matlock:** That's why we asked for. **Marinucci:** I will give you one tomorrow. But, you know, this is one other problem that we have with the software. We have not been able to correct it. When I go into the software, and you say, residential point of sale. That's

what you want, right? You get everything, okay. You get commercial, point of sales, sometimes you get the permits. The software is not very clear on delineating what we actually need. But anyway, Tom's been working on that. **Nikolic:** Any other discussion? Thank you, hearing none, before we get to our engineer. I would just like to use this opportunity to say that, in support of Councilwoman Hardin's comments. I have also received several complaints about various Village employees. And I think this will be a good opportunity for Council to consider. Similar to CPR training. Once an employee receives a complaint. There should be some training. I've received complaints from bus drivers sexually harassing, the woman that does the senior lunches, all types of complaints. Brian Thompson as our HR head. When I asked about a formal process of filing a complaint. There isn't one that's established. So, as a Council, we should come together and document what we envision. As you know, perhaps there's training or something that they can get. Once there's a complaint made. We can map out what we envision. Because again, this is exposing the Village to litigation if left unchecked. So, while we'll let the managers deal with their employees. I think as Council, we need to come together to map out a plan as to how this HR process should be handled. We can deal with that at another time. But just wanted to point out that it is a problem that we need to address. Because it is exposing the Village to litigation. May we hear from our Engineer?

Engineer- Jones: | **Jones:** Madam President, members of Council, I don't have anything specific to report. Other than I do have ordinance 2024-03 on the agenda tonight. I don't know if you wanted to discuss that now. But I'm willing to go forward with discussion on that now, or I can take questions. **Nikolic:** Any discussion of questions? Hearing none, moving on to agenda item number seven. The floor is now open for comment from Village residents.

Open Floor Comments:

Karen Howe, Address Unknown, Howe: I do have a question on the Engineer. By the way, Chagrin Valley Engineering is an excellent firm, I have to say. But I do have a question, and I don't know if it's been in place like that for a while. But I just grabbed it, and just looking at section one of 2024-03. This is a question for the Mayor. So, section one says Municipal Engineer currently Ed Hren. Is Ed Hren retiring? **Gottschalk:** Not quite yet he is working on it. **Howe:** So, you're paying \$38,000 a year, biweekly as an employee. And subject to PERS (public employment retirement system), employee portion is 14%, which is like \$5,400. Then it says Matthew Jones and the firm Chagrin Valley Engineer. Shall also receive further compensation for the services specified in Exhibit A attached and incorporated herein at the rates set forth. My question is, how is it and? I've seen it where we have a contractor on staff. But why are we paying the PERS and then in turn saying subject to payroll. Then treat them like a contractor. **Gottschalk:** Brian can answer that, but we'll have everything (inaudible). **Howe:** Yeah, because you can't get a W-2, and then a 1099. It's just if you pay \$38,000... not that it hasn't happened. But I've never seen it written in that way. Because not only are we paying \$38,000. Now we are paying \$5400 on top of that, that's the employee share. Plus, flip it on the 1099 side. It says any other services and action that he would be doing, he would also be paid. **Gottschalk:** Matt can you answer that? **Jones:** Sure, and it has been like this for the last couple rounds of our contract. But basically, there are specific services that are included under the

\$38,000. The rest of it would be specific to contracts or things that fall outside the scope of services of the retainer. That actually isn't like a 1099 thing, that's contracted services to us. So, that's not a compensation that I directly get paid by the Village. **Howse:** The engineer gets that. **Jones:** Right, so I'm getting the retainer, I'm on payroll for the retainer. But the retainer only covers a portion of what I do like. **Howse:** So, Ed Hren for 25 years has been getting PERS from us? **Jones:** Yeah. **Howse:** So are there any other contracts (inaudible), for example our Law Director. **Matlock:** The Law Director says no. **Howse:** Ok, I was just curious. I just never seen it written like that. I am not saying it is wrong. I was just trying to clarify it. **Warren:** Just to answer Ms. Howse, It was the same type of contract. Because when Chagrin Valley Engineering went into business in 1996. It has been the same procedure with the lead engineer Ed Hren. To point it out, even when you were Finance Director. **Howse:** As I said before, John, I just asked a question. **Warren:** I just want to clarify. **Howse:** I just looked at the contract and I was just asking a question. Like I said initially, I'm not saying it was wrong. I just was asking that process, does he get a 1099 and a W-2. **Warren:** Yeah I understand.

Pat Malone, Drake Rd., Malone: I really want to thank Mary for going and finding out about the Gray Brothers at the top of our street in Macedonia. I wanted to leave you with this because we've talked enough about that. But thank you, Mary, and Mayor, I guess she got a hold of you. **Gottschalk:** Yeah. **Malone:** Two things, are we Oakwood or Oakwood Village? **Gottschalk:** Oakwood Village. **Malone:** Okay now, the signs are lovely, but they say Oakwood. Did we get these donated? **Gottschalk:** We saved some money on that, I mean, these weren't cheap. But we did get a grant at the same time. We've had good response, interestingly enough, many of the communities are starting to try to do this too. **Malone:** My point is, there is an Oakwood, Ohio in southern Ohio. If you bring it up, and when I was looking for the minutes. It takes you to Oakwood, Ohio and not Oakwood Village. Is there not some way that we can get a like a VIg on there or something? I mean because it is confusing to anybody who doesn't live in the area. The next thing I want to ask, because I know I'm not going to get an answer to that. At one time, when, Kroger and whatever was going in over there. I guess my question is, why is there not a light? A streetlight, not a stoplight or anything, but a streetlight at the corner of Alexander and Fair Oaks? Because if you're not... again, I lived here most of my life. But you got to sneak up on that. **Gottschalk:** By the way, how did you like Fair Oaks? **Malone:** Yes, thank you very much. I'm sorry, I should have said something earlier. **Gottschalk:** I hear what you're saying, I'll get with our engineers on that. But right now, we'd be assuming the cost. Where you here when I read the what I gave to Kroger. **Malone:** No, I wasn't. **Gottschalk:** I explain the whole thing. We are expecting some action, or we are going to take action. Premier is ready to buy the land back, this is going on... **Malone:** Is that an offer that you have to make to Kroger? Because you're telling me Premier is ready to buy it back. **Gottschalk:** Kroger has to sell; they will break the contract if they don't give us something in writing before the end of this year. That they're committed to doing something by the end of the year. **Malone:** So, they have another, what, ten months? **Gottschalk:** Yeah, but in the meantime, I want to see some money from them, particularly in donations to our youth. At the same time maintaining the mound that is already there. That is about \$65,000, we shouldn't have to assume that. Premier will assume all those costs if they're able to buy that land back if Kroger's ready to sell it. **Malone:** Kroger has a year

to decide what they're going to do? **Gottschalk:** We're going to see action within the next three months, or we'll take action. We are not going to wait around until the end of the year. What I gave them is very clear that they have to take action. If they aren't willing to do this and give us a date when they are going to start. Pay us the money we feel is due to us. We are going to do what we have to do. **Malone:** I mean, this has been dragging us for a while. I understand that Covid put a stop to some of it. But this thing with Kroger, you're going nowhere. **Gottschalk:** Again, it's interesting that the Chief Financial Officer of Kroger. This has been in the last few days, has quit. He's now going to be the CFO of their big competitor Costco. And again, shows your Kroger is all discombobulated. It's the idea of nothing but committee problems and decision making. If you haven't changed with the times, look at what we've seen with, whether it be Kmart, Sears, JCPenney, and now Macy's is in real trouble. If you are not willing to make amendments and changes to what's happening in the financial environment. You're going to be lost, and that's what's beginning to happen to Kroger. I don't have the luxury of not seeing that developed, in some way. In the next three or four months. **Warren:** I just want to tell you that this has been going on for a long time. In the middle of that going on. Kroger is now in the middle of merging with Albertson. It's continuing on because it's being challenged by others. So, they don't want to have too many like the Walmart's and everything. They have three major department stores controlling 70% of the market. So, I'm only saying that from my own perspective. I don't expect you to hear anything for the next 2 to 3 months. Because I think that this thing is going to go on for a while. We have no control except for the withdrawal the incentives that we were going to provide. That's the only thing that we have and try to encourage Premier. But, you know, if premier sold Kroger the land for \$1 million. Kroger isn't going to sell the land back to Premier for a million. You wouldn't and nobody else would. So, this is a lot of complicated things. I'm just going to be honest with you, I don't even get my hopes up. Unless we can get them to, and we have no control over it except for the withdrawal of the incentives that we have provided. And that's only if we've given them a date of when this has to be. They have failed because they were supposed to start a long time ago. **Malone:** Alright, don't forget about finding out about the light on the corner. **Haba:** The Engineer Google Earth, and there's a light over there. **Jones:** There actually is a light on the corner. I wonder if it's burned out or something, we'll look at it. **Haba:** It's just off the corner of Alexander's, about 30ft from... **Malone:** It must be burned out. **Haba:** If it's burnt out, I know we went through that area. It should be on within the next week or two. **Malone:** Ok, I live there, and I had to sneak up on it. Thank you and Happy Valentine's Day, everyone.

Sharyn Macklin, 7473 Oakhill Rd., Macklin: This question is more set to Haba. Last year, he needed somebody to help plow driveways. My husband gave up a lot of time. He even gave up Christmas and everything. He did almost over 200 driveways for him. When he got his check was \$218. I just couldn't figure out, if you use that city truck, they pay you so much an hour. If you use your truck, they pay you so much a driveway. If you need somebody to plow and they use your truck or their truck. They should get more than \$218. They had the nerve to send him, whatever it is they sent him. And sent him a tax paper. He is the type of person, If anybody knows him, he'll do anything for anybody. That's the type of person he is. But when you treat him bad, you treat me bad. Fifty-two years I have been with him. He does anything for anybody,

and he's willing to work for you. But he can't work for that price, that's crazy. **Haba:** He got \$25 an hour last year. **Macklin:** No, he didn't, look at his check. **Haba:** I don't know if it was taxes or whatever. **Macklin:** No, it wasn't taxes. When he got that check, it was \$218. **Haba:** Ok, all you have to do is call me and we could go over it. **Macklin:** He even came out for you on Christmas. **Haba:** Yes I know, I appreciated it. I told him he did a great job. **Macklin:** He was out all day and all night. People were requesting him to come back because they like the way he plowed their driveway. **Haba:** He got paid by the hour. And he did use our truck, he didn't use his truck. **Macklin:** Even if you use your truck, \$218 for all those hours he was out there, is crazy. That is why he didn't contact you this year. Because if he's making that kind of money, he could stay home and watch tv. **Haba:** I don't disagree, he was supposed to get \$25 an hour. **Macklin:** He didn't get \$25, if you used your truck it was \$13 a driveway. If you use the city truck, it was it was so much an hour. **Haba:** He should have called, all you had to do was call and we would have went over it. He punched a time clock when he came in. because he is not a contractor, he was a part-time worker. We did that, so if he has an accident, it's cover under our insurance. **Macklin:** I understand that. **Haba:** So, I guess there are taxes taken out, just the law. **Macklin:** Well, if he did all of them hours. And they took off all of them taxes and he has \$218.... **Haba:** We can still revisit it; all you have to do is call and tell me. We can look up the records. **Macklin:** He picked up a lot of senior citizens that wanted him to do their driveway. He will do it and they will pay him. He charges them maybe \$15 because they are senior citizens. **Haba:** He did a good job. **Macklin:** A lot of them requested him back. But I just didn't think it was fair that he gave up all his time and all of this and that's what he ended up with. That's just crazy, what are you going to do with that. That don't even pay the light bill, really? Come on, I just had to say that. **Gottschalk:** I'm glad Tommy was here to answer that. Have your husband give Tommy a call. **Haba:** Yeah. **Macklin:** I'll have him call. **Haba:** I wish he would do it this year. We were having trouble finding people again. Last year we had it twice. We did them a few times ourselves last year. This year we've gone twice. And we did them the first time almost all ourselves. Second time we had a foot of snow. We had a couple of guys that we set up part time. \$25 an hour with our truck. If you use your truck, it's a different story. But his truck broke down last year. That's why he used our truck. **Williams:** Service Director do we need to take a look at your budget there? **Haba:** You know, it's possible, we pay way less than that over the years. We used to pay contractors; we were only paying two years ago. I forget, but it was like probably \$11 or \$12 a driveway. Which, you could make a lot of money because you're getting 70 driveways and you all in the same area. So, you can make good money. If you break down, it is a thousand dollars for a contractor, I know that. So that's why we offer to do it using our trucks as a part-time worker. That seems to be working out okay. We had guys interested but it wasn't snowing yet. A couple weekends ago, when it did snow, they didn't come out. I had two other guys who did a really good job. We helped out, we were out that Saturday night doing driveway after contractors were out. Because they got tired about three or four in the afternoon. We were out there until 8:30ish finishing driveway. **Williams:** Maybe we should revisit it. Could be the possibility or one of the reasons you can't find a multitude of... **Haba:** I agree, but if you want to pay contractor for a driveway. The city is now \$20 per driveway. If you see our list, there are hundreds and hundreds of people on the list. So, if you have a bad winter when you happen to be out ten, eleven, twelve times. It's going to be a big chunk of money. **Nikolic:** The floor is still

open for comment. **Williams:** If we have done all that residence, I would like to just announced that the Bedford City School District board President and board vice President, also resident, are both present if you all have any comments to add.

Boyington, BCSD, Boyington: I would just like to say that I'm glad this is my first Oakwood Village Council meeting of the year. So, I'm glad to be here to see everybody in place. I would like to say that the Board of Education did select the designs for the new buildings. We will also have a facility meeting on Friday the 16th of this week. We are fairly well off with our new buildings. So, I want to thank all of the Oakwood residents that supported the bond issue. Thank you. **Davis:** The Board of Education, they had a new wing. What is a wing? Is that going to be all the administration going to a new building, or is that just going to be one part of a building? It shows in your plans that you send to Council people. All the buildings, what their agendas are, what their dates are, and when they're going to be finished, for each age or whatever. But it also had a Board of Education wing. Because we were never informed about a wing or anything for Board of Education? **Williams:** Yes we did. **Davis:** Well, I didn't receive anything. **Williams:** She's talking about how the Board of Education building will be wherever it's going to be. **Boyington:** It will be with the middle school. **Davis:** It said Board of Education Wing? I never heard of that. **Boyington:** Yes it is going to be in one of the new buildings. Right now, it is slated for the new middle school, which will be on the Chanel property. **Davis:** All of the administration will move over to that, or is it just something else? **Boyington:** Yes, so it is slated for right now. **Davis:** They needed more offices, or is it going to be the same number of offices that you have over at the old building? Just a new building mask. **Williams:** The old building is torn down. **Boyington:** Yeah, the old building is going to be torn down. **Davis:** We didn't know that that's why I'm asking. **Boyington:** Oh, yes, the old building will be torn down. So, the administration building will be at the new facility on Chanel. Which will be the new middle school. We'll be looking at the design, hopefully on Friday. **Nikolic:** I did have a quick, this is a very specific question. In your CTE program, do you have students that are in a teaching track that would be available for tutoring? For credit for students in Oakwood? Is that something that is available that we can maybe work with you on? If there's a CTE track for students that are training to be teachers or something. That they could work with us to do a tutoring program in Oakwood or some way to do an internship program. Is that something we could discuss is do you have a track like that? **Boyington:** I could connect you with the person, which is, Dr. JaTina Threat. She is head of the CTE program. Actually, we have a board meeting this week on Thursday. You can actually contact her. I can have her contact you, and she they give you a list of the CTE programs. I really don't think we have that, but I would like for you to hear from her. So, on Thursday night, I can pass it on to her and she can get in touch with you.. **Nikolic:** Okay, what's her name. **Boyington:** Dr. JaTina Threat, feel free to come out on Thursday at 6:00pm., that is our board meeting. **Nikolic:** Any other discussion or questions for Ms. Boyington? The floor is still open, any other comments from the residents?

Floor closed

Warren: Proceeded to read legislation:

2023-55 **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF
ROSS CIRINCIONE AND JOHN MONTELLO TO THE POSITION OF
ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR/PROSECUTOR WITH THE VILLAGE OF
OAKWOOD**
Introduced 12-22-23
By Mayor and
Council as a whole
1st read 12-22-23
2nd read 1-9-24
tabled 1-23-24

Nikolic: I know this was tabled due to documents that had been requested. Should we leave it tabled? Has everyone had an opportunity to review it? **Williams:** We haven't received the documents we requested. What we requested was job descriptions. **Davis:** He did send me the total amount or whatever. But with reading it, my problem is, Mr. Climer I wanted to ask him. In section two of this ordinance. Salary I understand there are splitting. However, the second paragraph says hourly compensation up to \$5,100. Is that \$5,100 per person, like to Mr. Montello and then \$5,100 to Mr. Cirincione? Or is it total between the two of them? Because at the top with the salary, it does say for each one. But it doesn't say that for the hourly compensation. So, I would like to have that question answered and clarified. If it's \$5,100 each or \$5,100 total between the two of them. **Nikolic:** It does say total billed. **Davis:** Yes, but it doesn't say if it's for each one. So, I would like to make that clear. **Nikolic:** So, we'll leave that tabled.

2024-03 **AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER
INTO A CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING LTD. AND
SETTING FOR THE COMPENSATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE VILLAGE
ENGINEER AND HIS FIRM**
Introduced 1-23-24
By Mayor and
Council as a whole
1st read 2-13-24

2024-04 **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF "ARGO" THE VILLAGE'S
CURRENT POLICE DOG, TO GEAUGA COUNTY FOR USE IN THE GEAUGA
COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR THE SUM OF \$2,000 AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**
Introduced 2-13-24
By Mayor and
Council as a whole
1st read 2-13-24

Motion to suspend rules on legislation 2024-04 made by Davis seconded by Warren
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt legislation 2024-04 made by Warren seconded by Davis
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Motion to enter executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal,
discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of the public employers made by Warren
seconded by Matlock
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams
MOTION PASSED

Entered Executive Session at 8:50p.m.

Exited Executive Session at 9:33p.m.

Nikolic: Can I get a motion to adjourn?

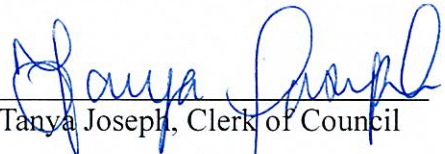
Motion to adjourn made by Davis seconded by Hardin

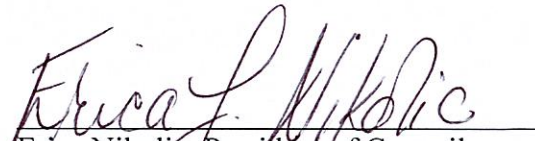
YES VOTE: Nikolic, Warren, Scruggs, Hardin, Matlock, Davis, Williams

MOTION PASSED

Adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Approved 5.28.24


Tanya Joseph, Clerk of Council


Erica Nikolic, President of Council