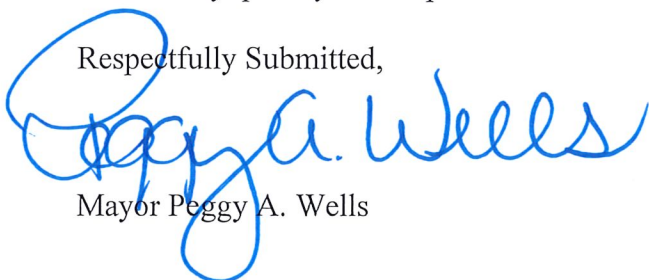


**BLV Mayor's Report**  
**February 11, 2019**

1. At tonight's council meeting, we will be administering the Oath of Office to three new part-time fire department personnel: Kyle Clark-Firefighter/Advanced EMT; Phillip Strzalkowski-Firefighter/Paramedic; and Roger Komandt-Firefighter/ Paramedic.
2. The Licking County Prosecutor's Office has requested that Police Chief Wardlow re-open/investigate five sexual assault complaints initially reported to our department in the past.
3. Police Chief Wardlow and Code Enforcement Officer Rex Adkins have been requesting for several months that council adopt the Ohio Basic Code in order that they have the legal basis required to do their jobs. We need an ordinance from council.
4. We are still working with the local bank to work out the financing for a new police vehicle.
5. Personnel Committee Chair Bill French and I traveled to the Columbus office of Isaac Wiles Law Firm to interview for our vacant village solicitor position. Attorneys Brian Zets and David Moser of Isaac Wiles are attending tonight's personnel committee meeting.
6. I've submitted to the Licking County Auditor's Office eight applications for property tax exemptions on property owned by the village and one application to appeal the valuation on a property the village owns. We are hopeful that we will get refunds for previous tax payments made on tax-exempt property.
7. We need to get the roof repaired on the municipal building. We've discovered a major leak in the vacant former chicken restaurant unit and a minor leak near the front counter of the police department.
8. There has been some good and bad news on the OPEC-HC litigation front. The Stark County General Health District group (35 entities), with support from our group (19 entities including the Village of Hebron, Licking Township and Union Township), appealed last May's decision in Franklin County Court of Common Pleas appointing a receiver for OPEC-HC. While we were successful in getting the original order amended to authorize the receiver to only pay outstanding medical bills, both groups challenged whether Ohio law even permitted a council of governments (OPEC-HC) to be placed in a receivership. Our concern was at the some point the receiver may be authorized to pay other debts such as Frank Harmon's attempt to get an additional \$200,000 in commissions, his brother-in-law's law firm's effort to collect more than \$300,000 in claimed legal fees and so far one attempt by a Benovation subcontractor, ClaimDoc, to collect \$680,000 in fees. Our fear was realized on December 18<sup>th</sup> when the retiring Franklin County judge expanded the receiver's authority to include all debts. With OPEC-HC's resources basically exhausted, the receiver could assess former members to pay these additional debts. Last week, the 10<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals (Franklin County) dismissed the appeal on procedural grounds. There was no determination on the merits of whether a council of governments could be put into a receivership. That's the bad news and it could cost us an additional \$2-4,000, depending on how many claims are ultimately filed with the receiver. The good news is that Jefferson Health Plan's (JHP) offer to settle their claim to be repaid the approximately \$9 million that JHP loaned to OPEC-HC is looking more and more like a real settlement. If our attorney (Mark Stemm) is convinced that JHP would not be able to attempt to collect the rest of the money, our liability to JHP would be about \$9,000. JHP has also offered a payment plan for the Stark County Health District group. Our attorney believes that he can get the same deal for us. The payment plan would require four equal installments payable 6/30/19, 12/31/19, 6/30/20 and 12/31/20. I may have to act very quickly to accept the settlement and will do so on the recommendation of our attorney.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mayor Peggy A. Wells