Buckeye Lake Village Mayor's Report - August 27, 2018

- 1. Our sympathy to Fire Chief Mason and his family on the loss of his brother, Jeff Mason.
- 2. We received our first bed tax payment from K.O.A. Campground; it was \$884.94 for the month of July 2018. As a council member, I had been suggesting we pursue this possibility for years. Last year, I spoke with Licking County Auditor Michael Smith to see if it could be done. He said KOA pays the county a three percent bed tax direct and that the village could also collect another three percent. This tax only applies to the rental of their mini cottages. Camping spaces and any campers on wheels are not taxable.
- 3. Finally, some good news about our former health insurance. A previous employee had over \$300,000 in medical bills that have finally been paid by the receiver for OPEC-HC.
- 4. Our intervenor group attorney (Mark Stemm of Porter Wright) participated in a nearly two-hour conference this morning with Judge Cain in Franklin County Common Pleas Court with the receiver currently paying unpaid OPEC-HC healthcare claims. So far, the receiver has resolved \$5.66 million in claims for \$1.43 million plus a 20 percent commission on the savings. The receiver estimates that funds will be exhausted in 7-14 days, with a significant amount of unpaid bills still outstanding. We still owe a \$9,000 invoice for possible run-out claims (services provided in 2017; but billed in 2018). I will consult with Mark Stemm before we make payment. Once funds on hand are exhausted, the receiver is expected to seek authority from the Court to assess former members (all OPEC-HC members are now former members) for additional funds, first to pay the rest of the medical claims then to address other claims for payment. Our group (about 14 entities) will strongly oppose giving the receiver assessment authority. The most recent \$500 payment to Porter Wright is our fixed share for our group to join the Stark County Health District's group's (about 24 entities) efforts to dismiss the receivership.
- 5. Police Chief Wardlow has been working in overdrive to audit and document the department's current processes and status. It's been an overwhelming and time-consuming task and her effort has been stellar. Once council approves the PD budget, the chief will be able to order a uniform for herself and she will be able to respond to all types of calls. Without a uniform, her own safety could be at risk.
- 6. An IT expert who is also a retired police officer has been working with Chief Wardlow in restoring softwall records operations. This will assist the department in dealing with older cases as well as current cases.
- 7. Thanks to City of Whitehall for the donation of 10 computers, five of which were delivered last week.
- 8. Council President Kitty Zwissler met with the Fiscal Officer, the Police Chief and the Mayor for a very productive and enlightening meeting regarding the current work product of the chief; the needs of the department along with the supporting budget. Several council members have also met with the Fiscal Officer to ask specific questions about the police department's immediate needs and to get a better understanding of the budget process.
- 9. Our bootstrap renovation of the police department continues. New drywall, new paint and a new laminate floor have been completed. New bathroom fixtures and a new HVAC system will also be installed.
- 10. Police Chief Wardlow attended the Licking County Chiefs' meeting this month. She is attending a required (as of 1/1/18) one-week long course for all new chiefs at OPOTA's main academy in London. That's why she isn't here tonight.
- 11. Fire Chief Mason has appointed retired Columbus Division of Fire firefighter and resident Doug Sanderson as our department's Safety Officer. He will be sworn in at tonight's meeting. The chief is unable to attend due to a previous commitment.
- 12. Chief Mason was able to get the Licking County 9-1-1 Center to implement a significant change in how EMS calls are dispatched for us. If our medic is already on a run, the 9-1-1 Center will immediately dispatch the closest available medic without waiting up to six minutes for Buckeye Lake to respond. Our medic will be notified that mutual aide has been dispatched. This will eliminate any built-in delays in responding to EMS calls.

- 13. We had a productive meeting with Licking County Planning Commission officials regarding procedures and processes for permitting subdivisions. Attending from Buckeye Lake were the Mayor, BLV Zoning Officer, BLV Planning Commission Chair and Vice Chair, and our office person who handles most planning issues.
- 14. We've met twice this month with the development team for The Landings at Maple Bay.
- 15. Work will begin tomorrow on redoing Hunts Landing Road. The road will be closed to all traffic on Tuesday, August 28 and Wednesday, August 29; and to commercial traffic until Wednesday, September 5, to allow the new base to cure. In preparation for the closure, our street department cut a wider path along the emergency access point at the end of Slocum and brought in asphalt grindings to improve the base. The detour route has been clearly marked and all affected residents have received letters from Toby Miller. The developers of The Landings have created a temporary road for their residents to access the detoured route.
- 16. Street Supervisor Randy Bucy cut down the brush along the West side of the drive-thru building and power-washed all four sides of the exterior. We'll be painting the exterior so that we can control the color of the building and the quality of the paint applied. This project was planned to take place in June but was delayed due to other priorites.
- 17. The first batch of surplus property offered on govdeals.com ended on August 24. Many of the old desks are left and will either be donated or thrown away. Another batch of surplus property was posted online today and will extend for 10 days. An open house to view the surplus property was hosted by the Mayor on Sunday, August 19, from 2-4.
- 18. The street department has been patching potholes around the village.
- 19. Buckeye Lake Village was on the route for the second annual Tour De Buckeye Lake bicycle ride. The Mayor volunteered as greeter at the Winery where the event began and ended. Officer Ritter's shift was adjusted on Saturday to monitor traffic conditions in the village and keep riders safe. About 200 riders participated without incident.
- 20. Thanks to the village web administrator Crystal Davis for revamping the police department's Facebook page and to Chief Wardlow for her postings.
- 21. We've been playing the role of "squeaky wheel" with the Licking County Prosecutor's office to move forward a long-awaited foreclosure for 90 Leroy Street. Prosecutor Bill Hayes has stepped up and personally committed to handle the case personally. He has graciously listened to our concerns about the property which has been facing a Sheriff's sale for two year. He has followed through with four updates in the last ten days. This morning, he made a personal visit to the property to take photos in an attempt to expedite a court proceeding. Many thanks go to Bill Hayes for expediting the process to get this nuisance property sold and cleaned up!
- 22. A long-time nuisance property on Rosebraugh collapsed last Monday night during a heavy rain storm. Our zoning officer has been working with the owner of this vacant property, but Mother Nature ran ahead of the owner's schedule for demolition. Another liability is a vacant house on Tanner which is leaning toward the neighboring house. There are several other structures that pose safety concerns and require immediate attention. The mayor will propose adding a second code enforcement officer in order to work through all the properties that need attention.
- 23. We plan to install a few speakers on either side of the council chambers to amplify the microphones. Many residents have complained for a number of years regarding the inability to hear the discussions at council meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mayor Peggy A. Wells