

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE SPECIAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 06, 2025 7:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Solicitor Kati Tharp
Interim Village Administrator April McDonald

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Councilman John Lewis

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Yarko Kuk
Larry Nameche

Citizen Comments

Mr. Nameche is advocating for the roadway to be blocked at the end of the driveway of the village building entrance to stop people from using it as a shortcut. He shared non-residents are speeding through the parking lot and it is a safety issue. Mayor Thompson inquired whether the eastbound traffic on Bancroft heading south on Richards is a common occurrence, as this could explain the shortcut. Mr. Lewis, in response, asked where Mr. Nameche would prefer the blockage to occur, which he clarified would be at the driveway entrance. Mayor Thompson stated it is not a public right-of-way, it is property owned by the village. Mayor Thompson thanked him for bringing it to the councils' attention.

Council Action

A motion was made by Mr. Wimmers and seconded by Mr. Lewis to nominate Mr. Shimborske as Vice Mayor. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Wimmers to re-adopt the council rules. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis presented the income tax figures for the year, which totaled just under \$4.3 million, about 2% or \$75,000 above the budget. He expressed satisfaction with the results, especially given the transition to RITA, which included a lag in collections that is reflected in the final amount. Ms. McDonald noted that the January 1st deposit of \$218,000 represented December collections, which were delayed and not received until 2025.

Mayor Thompson remarked that, to his knowledge, there have been no complaints regarding the transition to RITA. Ms. McDonald added that while she occasionally helps individuals with questions about who to contact or where to send their information, she has not received any formal complaints.

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Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

No report

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

No report

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

No report

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske mentioned that there had been several meetings regarding the City of Toledo's interest in the Secor Road Project and a small parcel of land in Ottawa Hills. He explained that after the committee raised some concerns, the City of Toledo decided to pursue a different approach and will no longer be utilizing any land from Ottawa Hills for the project. Mayor Thompson stated the City of Toledo will move forward with their project, on their own.

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

The committee met on December 17th, and a representative from CourtSmiths attended to discuss the tennis courts. The committee has decided against a complete tear-out and will instead seek bids for a mill and fill approach, without new drainage, which should reduce the cost substantially. Mr. Lewis pointed out that the initial estimate was around \$208,000, while the latest quote came in at nearly \$540,000.

Mr. Wimmers clarified that the revised project would follow a six-week timeline, and the village would likely contract with an asphalt company rather than CourtSmiths. Mayor Thompson noted that the village would be meeting with the engineer to update the project specifications, as the current plans still include drainage and fence considerations. With the simplified approach, the project timeline should be shortened, and the village is working to determine the best time to carry out the work to minimize tennis team disruption.

Mayor Thompson recently met with the foundation to discuss potential improvements to Hardman Field, such as raising the backstops and adding awnings over the stands. The meeting was primarily informational, focusing on what the foundation plans to pursue. Before any work can begin, they will need to present their plans and designs to council for approval.

Mr. Wimmers also shared that Mayor Thompson, Ms. McDonald and the Service Department have met with two contractors regarding White Field and its remediation. There is one more contractor to meet with before more discussion on how to proceed with the project. Mayor Thompson added that any remediation efforts will involve moving a significant amount of dirt. He noted that the companies they've met specialize in dirt-moving and were consulted to provide their input on the best approach for the project.

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

No report

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Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald expressed her gratitude to Mr. Nameche and the board for providing lunch to Village staff during the holidays.

She also noted that the financial packet was not included in the council packet due to the year-end tasks, including the need to close many purchase orders. She anticipates that the council will receive the financials in the next couple of weeks, giving an update on the year-end status.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson announced that Mr. Bishop, a member of the Zoning Commission, has passed away. The vacancy on the commission is filled by a mayoral appointment. Mayor Thompson has reached out to a few individuals about filling the position, but no commitments have been made yet. He also noted that another vacancy may arise in the near future.

Mayor Thompson stated that efforts have been made to simplify the walk path project. For the walk path from Manchester to Hempstead, lights need to be installed. He clarified that the village will be managing the project but not performing the work itself. So far, one quote has been received from the electrical company, and another is expected shortly. The goal is to have this portion of the project completed within the next four weeks weather dependent.

Regarding the other two walk paths (Brookside and Indian), the village has secured a state grant for the project. This will also be managed by the village, but as it is starting from the beginning, it will take longer to complete. Mr. Wimmers inquired whether any engineering work would be required. Ms. McDonald responded that engineering has already been completed in 2022. The village has all the necessary specifications and is now waiting for the return of some survey work. Once that is received, quotes will be obtained from contractors for the required work.

Mrs. Dunbar inquired about the deadline for the state grant funds. Ms. McDonald responded that the deadline is June of 2026, but the goal is to have the project completed in 2025. Ms. Phillips mentioned that only a couple of things were left to finalize, such as the exits. Mayor Thompson added that they discussed this earlier that morning and noted that decisions will need to be made regarding those aspects of the project. He also stated that these questions will be brought to the Building and grounds Committee soon for further discussion.

Old Business

Mrs. Dunbar asked for clarification on the current status of the Secor Road project, specifically regarding the installation of a sidewalk. Her understanding is that the City of Toledo will extend the sidewalk on their side if the village moves forward with installing a sidewalk at Gallatin, creating a continuous path. Mayor Thompson responded that he does not believe the City of Toledo will extend the sidewalk immediately if the village moves forward with its portion. However, he noted that when the City of Toledo undertakes the Secor Road project, they would align their sidewalk with the village's. Mayor Thompson emphasized the need to meet with the City of Toledo to ensure the placement of the sidewalk aligns with their plans.

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Mayor Thompson stated that there is money in the budget for sidewalks if it becomes a priority. Mrs. Dunbar stated that often, other entities collaborate on projects, and the village could align with Toledo's project in 2026. Mayor Thompson agreed, stating that the village could either collaborate on that project or move forward with the sidewalk work when they undertake the walk path sidewalks.

Mr. Lewis mentioned another walk path at Sulphur Spring in conjunction with the sledding hill project. He also inquired if there is still \$50,000 in the budget for walk paths that has been allocated over the past couple of years. Ms. McDonald confirmed that the funds are still available in the capital improvement budget, which includes \$150,000 for 2025, as well as an additional \$175,000 specifically for walk paths.

Mayor Thompson stated that before committing to any additional projects, the first priority is to focus on the walk paths between Brookside and Indian. He noted that no quotes have been received for this project yet. Mr. Lewis suggested that it would be helpful to get some pricing for the Secor/Gallatin walk path extension. He also mentioned that the sled hill walk paths might be a larger project due to the challenges posed by the hill and the issue with a resident who built a driveway and retaining wall four feet into village property. Mrs. Dunbar reminded the council that they can request grant money for walk paths from the capital budget every two years.

Mrs. Dunbar mentioned Mr. Nameche's earlier discussion about closing off the driveway entrance. She pointed out that the council has discussed closing off roads in the past and introduced the concept of tactical urbanism, which means trying out changes on a temporary basis before making permanent decisions. Mrs. Dunbar highlighted that there are grants available for these types of projects, such as installing temporary barriers or changing road striping. She noted that she has information regarding these opportunities.

Mayor Thompson responded that the village has tried something similar before, such as when the road at Innisbrook was temporarily closed to test how it worked. He acknowledged that there was some objection when that closure took place.

Ms. Phillips noted that many of the items Mrs. Dunbar mentioned had already been discussed during strategic planning. She then inquired about the status of reconvening to review priorities and establish a clear focus for the committees moving forward. Mr. Lewis responded that there will hopefully be a finance meeting prior to the February council meeting to discuss some of these items.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mrs. Dunbar to approve the payment to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$1,113.00 for the period of November 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by Mrs. Dunbar and seconded by Mr. Shimborske to appoint Mrs. Holdren as designee for newly elected officials training. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Phillips provided an update regarding the meeting with Mrs. Ford, TARTA board trustee. She mentioned that TARTA offers a summer student pass, allowing kids to ride the bus for free. Mrs. Ford will be creating materials for Ottawa Hills students that detail the pass, local bus stops, and interesting destinations that kids might enjoy. This information will be provided to the school for distribution.

Ms. Phillips shared her thoughts about the sled hill project, mentioning that some of the fields are being disrupted afterward by kids. She observed that a common theme is that tweens and teens, who are not on the elementary playground, lack a designated space. She suggested that this should be considered when reviewing priorities and possibly providing a space for these kids.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-1:

Resolution 2025-1	Authorizing the hiring of legal counsel for the Village of Ottawa Hills Consistent with the provisions of section 733.48 of the Ohio Revised Code, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:

Motion –	Ms. Phillips
Second –	Mrs. Dunbar
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion –	Ms. Phillips
Second –	Mrs. Dunbar
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion –	Ms. Phillips
Second –	Mrs. Dunbar

Yeas (5) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske
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Nays (0) –	
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Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-2:

Resolution 2025-2	Authorizing a 2025 contract with the Nature Conservancy for services related to implementation of the environmental
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strategic plan and other functions, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive three readings:

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Second – Mr. Lewis
Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion – Ms. Phillips
Second – Mr. Lewis
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Ms. Phillips
Second – Mr. Lewis

Yeas (5) – Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers,
Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis,
Mr. Shimborske

Nays (0) –

Executive Session

At 7:51 pm, Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee. Mr. Wimmers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

At 8:10 pm, council return to regular session.

Next Meeting Date

February 3, 2025

Adjournment

8:11 PM



Mayor Thompson