



## **RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:** Beshara, Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Philippbar, Stoppenhagen and Waszak.

### **WORK SESSION TOPICS**

#### **Mayor's Court**

Assistant Finance Director Kevin Edwards said the city of Akron is charging the village \$5075 per year for processing approximately 157 misdemeanor traffic tickets and 16 felonies. Akron will not charge the village anything for 2010-13 but will charge that price for 2014-17. The cost for 2018-2020 is a total of \$112,000. Richfield's overall proposal is \$47,211, while Akron's is \$137,000. He and Finance Director Sandy Turk talked to Akron's finance director, who said Richfield must pay their price or they will not prosecute village cases beginning on Feb. 1.

Edwards said Richfield should not be charged for the 80 percent of tickets that are waived because the driver sends in the money. Beshara said Richfield should not bring back its Mayor's Court, especially during the COVID pandemic. Wheeler and Law Director Cortes said court proceedings could take place online.

Richfield would spend \$34,668 to Akron by staying with the current system. Bring back Mayor's Court would allow the village to gain \$21,345. Wheeler said he would take an online class about mayor's court tomorrow. Lyons and Cortes agreed that the magistrate and prosecutor cannot be the same person.

Waszak and Wheeler said it would be easier for the police and residents to go to court here in Richfield rather than traveling to Akron. Beshara said we would have to pay a police officer to be there, and it would be better to revisit this idea next year. Boester said he would like Mayor's Court to return. Stoppenhagen asked about computerization costs. Edwards said the cost is built into the fee for the ticket. Turk added that the village has \$24,400 in a fund for Mayor's Court computerization.

Wheeler said Cortes could serve as prosecutor, and the mayor is looking at some possibilities for magistrates. The mayor said the court could return between Feb. 1 and 15. Lyons said the \$50,000 swing between having court here or in Akron compels Richfield to bring back mayor's



court. Waszak agreed. Beshara said there was no rush, and the village should get through COVID first. Domanick asked how the police feel about Mayor's Court. Wheeler said Police Chief Swanson asked him to bring it back.

Beshara said the village should not seek to profit from Mayor's Court. Lyons said the village was simply reducing the cost of a set expense. Cortes said Council did not pass an ordinance to stop Mayor's Court, so it does not need to pass an ordinance to bring it back. Turk said the budget is ready, aside from settling up with Akron for the past. Lyons said the consensus was to bring back Mayor's Court, and Wheeler said it should start sooner rather than late.r

### **PCI Rating for Street Paving**

Explaining the change to the PCI system, Service Director Chris Papp said the previous PCR system used a simplistic numeric approach. The key is to predict how much you must spend to maintain an average PCI. The village can keep its rating in the high 70s by spending \$1.4 million in the first year and \$600,000 in each of the next four years. Wheeler said paving four or five of the village's 70 streets each year would keep the rating up.

Papp said it is less expensive to keep up good roads than to pave bad roads. Beshara asked if crack sealing is possible until roads can be paved. Papp said yes, but we had a bad experience with county not doing a good job. Papp said crack sealing can be done in-house.

Papp recommended resurfacing Hawkins Road, Amelia Drive, Richlawn Road, Wheatley Spur, Olde Orchard Trail, Rainbow Lane, St. Nicholas Drive and Regency Woods Trail. Wheeler said all of Hawkins should be done this year. Other roads that could be paved include Seven Oaks Trail and Circle, as well as Gelding, Creche, Buell, Sorenson, Southern and Revere. Papp said March is the best time to go out to bid.

### **Water line extension (center of town)**

Planning and Zoning Director Brian Frantz talked about the Heinle property and the corner of Broadview and Streetsboro roads. In 2017, the agreed assessment price was \$250 per lineal foot. Cleveland would be paid back by Year 20, then the village would control the lines for the next 50 years. Frantz said most customers would connect to the water line rather than using a well.

The Doug Out is a property that has two frontages. Frantz asked if they should pay for both, use a blended rate, or if the village should help. Also, the cost for village properties is \$239,000, and the village has \$300,000 in the budget for that purpose. Wheeler asked if TIF funds could be used. Frantz said not yet, but perhaps in the future. The Doug Out will pay the entire frontage, but there may be a way to offset the cost in the future. Stoppenhagen said it would be hard to sell corner lots in the future if the owner must pay both frontages. Lyons said there may be an alternative in the future.



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Frantz said the village should think about bringing water to Richfield Woods park.

Lyons adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeff Gorman  
Clerk of Council

Mike Lyons  
Council President

