

Bloomfield Village Association

Annual Meeting

May 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:17pm by President Bob Lenihan. Trustees present were Bob Lenihan, Jason Weintraub, Andrea O'Donnell, Susan Ferrari, Jim Fielder, Trish Saulnier, Brian Garmo, Chris Wzacny and Geoff Hockman. Trustees absent were Jim Kendall, Mike Mulroy and Ken Perry. Also present were Village Manager Art Atkinson and Village Attorney Tim Currier. President Lenihan introduced special guests including Leo Savoie - Bloomfield Township Supervisor, Geof Gaudard - Bloomfield Township Police Chief, Dan Devine – Bloomfield Township Treasurer, Janet Roncelli - Bloomfield Township Clerk and Dave Piche - Bloomfield Township Fire Chief. Also introduced and thanked for service were members of the Village Police Department and the Village Fire Department.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting were approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Art Atkinson presented Treasurer Ken Perry's report. There were no significant events to the operating budget in 2013. The additional assessment amounts collected in 2013 and 2014 have re-established our reserves to a sound operating level, so we can expect future assessments to be lowered. A successful settlement outcome with the lawsuit against Arch Insurance Company had the net effect of +\$40K to our reserves. The Auditor's Report for 2013 fiscal year is available for review.

VILLAGE REPORTS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Commissioner Tom Parker provided report.

Tom Parker is new Police Commissioner and Jim Kendall is new Deputy Commissioner. Website www.BloomfieldVillage.net has new link for vacation notifications as well as new link to radar run request form. He advised members to submit requests online for an area that is seen to be a problem. He also reported a new Ford Explorer vehicle is in the process of being delivered. A recent break in at a home happened while owner was away at a funeral. To prevent such tragic events from happening again, he asked any member leaving a home vacant in which it may be publicized to notify the Police Department. Officer Roger Hurd will be the new Sargent. He also advised members to continue reading The Village Bulletin with safety suggestions and follow as much as possible.

Bloomfield Township Police Chief Gaudard discussed this break-in, stating that there are some leads from the Birmingham and Troy areas. He also discussed a recent suspicious male driving a white van in the 400 block of Overhill. He was reportedly taking a video of 10yo girl. Other similar incidents have been reported in Birmingham and Troy.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Jeff Kern reported he has been an active fire fighter since 2000 and acting Chief for 6 years. He reported that the Village Fire Department has been in operation for 72 years. The Fire Department supports the Township's efforts as well as provides community services including home inspections and open houses. The department currently has 18 active volunteer fire fighters in addition to Chief Kern, Deputy Chief Ted Gauthier and Assistant Chief Chuck Thomson. Fire fighters Moore, Chutkow and Theodoroff have recently completed training and are the newest active status members. Corey Kroneman is the newest volunteer and currently in training. In 2013, the Fire Department conducted 122 runs and completed 628 hours of training that have been logged into the Oakland County Training System. The Fire Department has 1 pumper engine and 1 4-wheel drive Ford Explorer emergency vehicle. As part of training and in conjunction with Bloomfield Township Fire Chief Dave Piche, there is a ride along training program as well as opportunities with the Township's new training facility. The Village Fire Department and the Bloomfield Township Fire Department remain closely linked.

GARDEN CLUB: Betsy Donnelly reported on the activities of the Garden Club including the landscaping and maintenance for seven Village islands, the Village Hall and Village parks. She reported the importance of the Luminaria sale each December that helps fund the Garden Club's mission. The Garden Club currently has 33 members who volunteer their time planting and weeding as well as participating in social and speaker events. New members are always welcome.

VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT: Art Atkinson reported that the real estate market in the Village is doing well and Village homes put on the market are selling quickly. There were 53 home sales during 2013, which was about the same as the previous year with 56 sales. One lien was placed on a property for non-payment of the 2013 maintenance assessment. All liens for previous years have been paid. During 2013, two additional properties were added to the Association. One parcel was sold off from the owner of two parcels that had been treated as one for Village purposes. Another vacant lot in the Indian Mound area was brought into the Association by working with the lot owner to add the deed restrictions to the lot. The lot has been sold and new house plans reviewed and approved. The net effect of adding properties to the Association is lowering the Annual Maintenance Assessment slightly for each property. There were 90 architectural plan reviews in 2013, 47 by the Board and 43 by the Village Manager; these are about the same as the prior year. During 2013, four new house plans were approved. These approvals went through several reviews and iterations before approvals were granted. Two of these are now under construction, yet the others await buyers and may have further reviews and proposed changes. Art reported that he has been Village Manager for just over 6 years. He reported he will continue to work with the Board and the residents to have Bloomfield Village remain one of the finest communities in Michigan.

VILLAGE BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT: President Bob Lenihan reviewed the activities of the last year. He reported that after many years of service to Bloomfield Village as its Police Commissioner, the legendary Dale Johnson decided to not be considered for an additional appointment as BV Police Commissioner. He has been succeeded by BV residents Tom Parker and Jim Kendall. He also welcomed two new officers: John Hoffman and Steve Cook. He further reported Roger Hurd was promoted to Sgt.

Legislation -- He reported a potential impediment to road replacement is the requirement, under existing law, that the special assessment payment must be imposed on the property owner not on the land, and had to be paid off upon sale of the property. Tom Parker, convinced Michigan Legislature (Pappageorge and McCready) to introduce legislation which would allow a township to bill a special assessment as a tax running to the land and not the individual. This legislation has not yet been reported out of Committee and remains pending. The bill has bi-partisan support and has been endorsed by Governor Snyder, as well as the House Finance Committee.

Insurance Settlement – In 2012 when Bloomfield Village was sued to overturn our building and use restrictions, the Village won. Despite careful management of the process by both the Board and our attorneys, the Village incurred significant legal fees because our, now former, insurance carrier, Arch Insurance, refused to provide us with coverage. The Association was forced to draw upon our reserves. Luckily, Jim Mellon stepped up and volunteered to sue Arch Insurance for a nominal contingency fee, which essentially covered his overhead. Jim worked tirelessly on the case and on Friday, January 31, 2014, the case of *Bloomfield Village Association v. Arch Insurance* settled in federal court for \$55,000.

Recognition dinner for 65 – The Village recognition dinner for its volunteers and senior Township officials started with Bloomfield Village Protective Association around 1942 and has continued when it became Bloomfield Village Association. This year the recognition dinner was held at the BAC. Invitees included Bloomfield Township leaders as well as all our volunteer firefighters, all our police officers, all Committee and Group Chairs, past Presidents, Road Captains, current Trustees and numerous others. 106 invited and 65 attended.

The Roads – A final word. Over 2 ½ years ago the Board of Trustees commissioned a study by the then newly formed Bloomfield Village Roads Committee to review the feasibility of partial or complete, phased or immediate, road replacement using a wide range of materials and techniques. The study was done in cooperation with Bloomfield Township and the Hubbell, Roth and Clark engineering firm. The total out of pocket cost to the Village was \$8,177.87 or \$8.17 per assessed property translating into \$3.26 per year. The Roads Committee's final recommendation to the Board was phased replacement of the 15 miles of Village roads and installation of curbs, allowance for an anticipated overrun of 10% and some sanitary sewer drainage, all over a three-year period. Bond rates and construction costs at that time were extraordinarily low. Funding was to be via a special assessment district, which required consent of more than 50% of frontage/owners to the special assessment petition. HRC offered to conduct the petition drive for the Village for a \$65,000 fee. The Board declined and a group of Village resident volunteers stepped forward. Four town meetings were held. Informational papers were distributed. Block Captains visited each home with the relevant petitions. In December 2013, the petition drive was closed and submitted to Bloomfield Township Assessors Office for certification. The final tally was 45.55% of frontage/owners signed the petition. Therefore, the petition failed by 4.45% (45 of the 993 assessed properties in the Village). Upon conclusion of the petition drive, the Board appointed an After-Action Review Committee and charged it with studying the two and a half year road project to determine what was done correctly and what can be done to improve the roads improvement process the next time. The Committee has BV residents who were both for and against the proposal as

presented. The Committee's report will be completed in June or early July. The final question, is not whether the Village needs new roads, but rather, how to get them.

ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES: Jason Weintraub presented the following residents as Board nominated candidates for Trustee positions to replace outgoing Board of Trustee members: Rejji Hays (District 1), Margie Parker (District 2), Thomas Brookover (District 3) and Frank Mahon (District 4). Further presented, residents as Petition nominated candidates for Trustee positions to replace outgoing Board of Trustee members: Jack Marwil (District 1) and Timothy O'Hara (District 4). As specified in the Bloomfield Village Association bylaws, a secret ballot process was used to vote for Trustees. President Bob Lenihan appointed 3 Election Judges: Chris Brock, Bill Schuerman, and Jeff Kern, BV Fire Chief. The following Trustees will serve three-year terms representing each District: Jack Marwil (District 1), Margie Parker (District 2), Thomas Brookover (District 3) and Timothy O'Hara (District 4).

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD OFFICERS: New president Jason Weintraub welcomed the new trustees and introduced the new Board Officers for 2014-2015: Andrea O'Donnell – Vice President, Ken Perry – Treasurer and Susan Ferrari – Secretary.

REMARKS BY BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR: Township Supervisor Leo Savoie presented current issues and items of interest in Bloomfield Township. He fielded resident's questions and provided answers to their concerns.

NEW PRESIDENT REMARKS: New President Jason Weintraub thanked all of the volunteers who serve Bloomfield Village and spoke of the issues the Board of Trustees will address over the next year. He noted the Board strives to be transparent and all Trustees work hard to ensure harmonious nature of our community.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea O'Donnell, Trustee