

**City of Broadview Heights
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023**

Mr. Boldt called the **WORK SESSION** to order at 7:31 p.m.

Mr. Pavlica led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILORS PRESENT:	Mr. Robert Boldt	(Ward 4 Councilor, President)(Late)
	Mr. Thomas Pavlica	(Ward 1 Councilor)
	Mr. Brian Wolf	(Ward 2 Councilor)
	Mr. George Stelmaschuk	(Ward 3 Councilor, President Pro-Tem)
	Mr. Glenn Goodwin	(Councilor At-Large)
	Ms. Jennifer Mahnic	(Councilor At-Large)
	Mr. Joe Price	(Councilor At-Large)

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:	Mr. Samuel J. Alai	(Mayor)
	Mr. Vince Ruffa	(Law Director)
	Chief Jeffrey Hajek	(Fire Chief)
	Chief Steven Raiff	(Police Chief)
	Mr. Dave Pfaff	(Finance Director)
	Mr. David Schroedel	(Service Director)
	Mrs. Helen Dunlap	(Clerk of Council)

OFFICER(S) ABSENT:	Mrs. Kathy Parsson	(Human Services Director)
	Mr. Joe Mandato	(Chief Building Official)
	Mr. Gary Yelenosky	(City Engineer)
	Ms. Amanda Hutcheson	(Parks & Recreation Director)

GUEST:	Mrs. Lisa Putka	(Civil Service Administrator)
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1. Discussion from Fire Department. Chief Hajek

a. **Replace Turnout Gear**

Chief Hajek stated that they would like to purchase 11 sets of turnout gear. This is roughly \$3,000 per set. They have to replace gear every 10 years. Each fulltime fire fighter has two sets and each part time fire fighter has one set. They have 36 members of the force.

Ms. Mahnic asked if there is any way that the old stuff can be sent somewhere else.

Chief Hajek stated that if it is after 10 years old it cannot be used in a fire. It cannot be used on a fire scene. They usually send it to the vo-ed school or Tri-C or somewhere they could use it for training but not going into a fire. They can use it for training but not an actual fire training.

2. Discussion from Finance Department. Mr. Pfaff

a. Southwest Council of Governments Membership

Mr. Pfaff stated that this is an annual agreement for police and fire shared services. There was a \$5,500 increase this year but that is just a onetime fee for storage.

b. 2023 Medical/Dental/Vision Coverage Renewal Rates

Mr. Pfaff stated that medical came in a roughly 9% increase, dental went up 5% and vision stayed the same. He provided a summary sheet and the actual approximate cost increase including the additional funding for the HSA will be approximately \$193,000 or an 8.7% increase. The reason that the funding goes up for the HSA is that the IRS rate for deductibles is \$200 for single and \$400 for family and our union agreements state that we will provide \$500 less than the deductible for single and \$1,000 less for family. We still have the employee share will be for the PPO which very few people are on this and he is surprised that we still have three people on that last year. They will be paying \$338.89 for single coverage and \$844.57 for family coverage and the majority of the employees are on the HSA plan and they will be paying \$89.82 for single and \$226.62 for family.

Mr. Boldt asked what the HRA is.

Mr. Pfaff stated that the HRA is in effect for generally those with members in Medicare cannot have an HSA.

Mr. Stelmaschuk asked how this fit into the budget.

Mr. Pfaff stated that when he did the budget he did it at 15%. We are well under what he budgeted for.

Mr. Price asked how the family come out to \$844.57 on their share on the HSA.

Mr. Pfaff stated that what we did on the last round of negotiations is to drive people towards the HSA was for the premium share is 10% of what we consider the COBRA rate less the administrative fee but for the PPO we will not pay more than the maximum of 90% of the HSA COBRA rate. So it took 90% of the COBRA rate and then backed it off of the Shared Savings amount that the city pays and that is where the \$844.57 comes from.

Mr. Price stated that the numbers up top are what the family plan would be \$2,650.87 per month. Is that right where he is looking where it says current and he is looking at the one four lines down. The PPO.

Mr. Pfaff stated the \$2,884.15 is the number.

Mr. Price asked what the check is that we pay every month.

Mr. Pfaff stated that it is about \$160,000 - \$170,000 depending on changes in coverage of individuals and new hires. He thinks that the more amazing thing is that we still have a couple of people still on the PPO. They are doing it because they don't want to have the high deductible plan that we give them all but \$1,000 for and you try to explain to them that they are paying over \$7,000 per year to avoid paying \$1,000. It doesn't get through to some people.

Mr. Boldt stated that a lot of people use this as a tax shelter too.

3. Discussion from Civil Service. Mrs. Putka

a. **Amending Civil Service Rules and Regulations**

Mrs. Putka stated that she is presenting a couple of changes in the Rules and Regulations that were approved by the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Pavlica stated that these rules were approved by the Civil Service Commission last week and they agreed with all the changes.

Mr. Goodwin asked about the one regarding Physical Agility Exam. It states "(OPOTA) Academy graduate of one year or less does not require a physical agility test".

Mrs. Putka stated that is correct. That is because if you are an OPOTA Academy graduate your physical exam is a lot more extensive than what we require which is the Cooper Test. They have an entry physical agility exam which is lower than the Cooper Exam which we require as our standard, but when they graduate it is a lot higher and more extensive exam.

Mr. Price stated that it is a requirement of their graduation and therefore they don't have to do it a second time. His question is, is this to help or are we interested, it seems like the theme that we are hearing today is lateral transfers. Are we looking for lateral transfers? Is that what we are trying to do?

Mrs. Putka stated that at this time the obstacles that we found is first loyalty, additionally the Commission talked about union contracts and transferring vacations, healthcare benefits and things that they approved their sick time so that would have to be something that we would have to go to the union for an approval as well. They are not really on board with that at this time.

Mr. Price stated that he heard an interesting statistic from Councilman Polensek that Cleveland is losing 2-3 every month, fire and police.

Mrs. Putka asked if that is due to lateral transfers.

Mr. Price stated that they are either retiring or moving out to the suburbs. You just hear more communities making it easier for lateral transfers because we are not encouraging enough people to get into this field for work right now.

Mrs. Putka stated that they are hoping in an effort to increase the list that these changes will help.

4. Discussion from Police Department. Chief Raiff

a. Lexipol, LLC for law enforcement procedures, manuals and training bulletins

Chief Raiff stated that this is the company that we use for our policies. He brought the original last year and this is for this year's invoice.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE RESIDENTS

William Tarter, 369 Wilmington Drive: He asked about the status of the live streaming of the meetings. The reason that he is mentioning this tonight is because of the Planning Commission meeting next week which has a lot of interest. He thinks that there will be a lot of people here in person but also others that are interested in seeing it electronically. He knows that was something that came up last year so he wanted to check the status of that but also to encourage the council and the administration once it is up and running to actually broadcast it because it is very interesting to residents.

Mrs. Dunlap stated that the company that we ordered it from are doing the final preparations for building our recording system. It will most likely should be delivered sometime next month but then it will take time to install it, to train and get everything up and running.

Mr. Tarter stated that it sounds like a couple of months.

Mr. Boldt stated early spring. Then council will have to discuss the different meetings that it will be used at. It will be done at all meetings of council meetings along with all council committee meetings.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mr. Pavlica stated that as discussed there was a Civil Service meeting last week. Some of the things that were discussed was the Sargent promotion. This year there will also be a Lieutenant test in 2023. There was also discussion about a Patrol Officer exam with the intention of hiring 3-4 new officers this year.

Mr. Boldt stated that there will be Planning Commission meeting next Wednesday where they will be discussing the Broadview and Boston Road development. He received a few calls and he wanted to say publicly that he is against the 60 homes. He said it six months ago and he is still against it.

Mr. Goodwin stated that in regards to the fence issue that came up for the Turnpike, when he was leaving last week the Mayor asked if they could swap some duties and asked him to call the Turnpike but Mr. Yelenosky had already contacted them and sent council an email in response to the discussion. He expanded on it because he was able to contact the engineer unbeknownst that Mr. Yelenosky had sent that email. That head engineer for the Turnpike stated that they don't have any money because that money was seeded for that mitigation program that they briefly discussed last year for the barriers themselves and until they go back and seed that money in there again to be used in a ten mile radius to the north and the south of the Turnpike the entire length of projects. We did receive one of those projects which was a drainage project that was near Towpath so we did get a portion of that money but there is no money available for that right now. The fence is a safety issue and it is something that they have to maintain and that fence is normally a 6' high fence and that has to be done by a contractor. They cannot do that in house. If you have seen them replacing that just a couple of years ago they did in Brecksville, they need the machines that hold that big coil of fence to pull it across and machinery that their

maintenance department doesn't have. They will do a repair if possible if it is just a few spots they said but they would jump on that fairly quickly. He said that he would let him know in about another week in which direction they were going to head.

Mr. Boldt asked for any email that was communicated so that he could let the residents know.

Ms. Mahnic asked then if the Turnpike will repair it.

Mr. Goodwin stated that they will definitely repair one way or another. If they determine that there are so many problems with the fence itself, they are going to have to redo it and they are will redo it in a 6' fence then they are going to have to go out to bid for the whole thing. It is going to be a length of time for that to happen. The repair thing, they will just send out some guys to fix a couple of sections and it will only be a 4' fence and it will be like a temporary thing.

Ms. Mahnic stated that they may want to see if there is any other areas in the city that have a fence like that because all of these years that fence was like that and they just now are called and they said something. People might not know that that is something that the Turnpike is responsible for.

Mr. Goodwin stated that they only do along the length of the Turnpike and they are going to check the length that runs through our city.

Mr. Price asked if the four new officers, are they going to be replacing retirees or added to the force.

Mr. Pavlica stated yes they are replacing retirees.


Mr. Price stated that the BZA Meeting that is scheduled for March 1st, the letters have gone out to the residents and one of the items is solar panels on the front of the house and we passed legislation probably in the last 6-9 months that allowed solar rooftop panels but it limited so that you would not have an ambiance issue with the local neighborhood where it was not allowed on the front of the house and there is a request for them to install on the front of the house and he knows that Mr. Mandato was involved in a lot of those discussions.

Mayor Alai stated that they did promote Jim Reasor to Sergeant today.

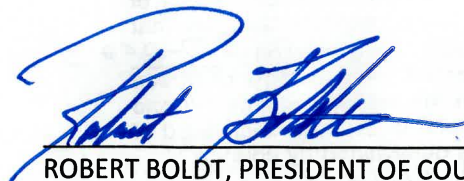
ADJOURN

Mr. Boldt stated with no further business to come before council, this meeting is adjourned.

The time was 7:49 p.m.



HELEN DUNLAP, CLERK OF COUNCIL



ROBERT BOLDT, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL