

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE

Monday, March 6, 2017 7:00 p.m.

The Village of Silver Lake Council met in a regular session on Monday, March 6, 2017, at Silver Lake Village Hall, 2961 Kent Road, Silver Lake, Ohio.

With President of Council Mr. Gerald Jones presiding, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members were present and responded to roll call: Mrs. Karen Fuller, Mr. Christopher Scott, Mrs. Betsy Meyer, Mr. Gerald Jones, Mr. William Church, Mrs. Carol Steiner, and Mr. Matthew Plesich

Roll call of Council - 7 members present

President of Council, Gerald Jones, said the next item on the agenda is the State of the Village by the Mayor.

Mayor Hovey said he wanted to first apologize to Council for standing directly in front of them, but at the same time this shows how well Council and I get along because they have my back.

STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS

Mayor presented his State of the Village address. A copy is attached to the original minutes.

Mr. Jones thanked the Mayor and continued the Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jones asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 21, 2017, Regular Council meeting.

There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Jones asked Mr. Sean Housley, Clerk-Treasurer, for the reading of any pending legislation that is up for first reading.

RESOLUTION NO.: 21-2017 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN CLAIMS TOTALING \$107,565.69.

Mr. Jones assigned Resolution No.: 21-2017 to the Finance & Appropriation Committee.

RESOLUTION NO.: 22-2017 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURCHASE TWO BATTERY BACKUP SYSTEMS FROM PATHMASTER TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED OPERATION OF THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE**Monday, March 6, 2017 7:00 p.m.****INTERSECTIONS OF SILVER LAKE BLVD/KENT ROAD AND GRAHAM ROAD/DOVER ROAD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Jones assigned Resolution No.: 22-2017 to the Finance & Appropriations Committee.

Second Reading:**ORDINANCE NO.: 19-2017 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF SILVER LAKE, OH HEREBY ESTABLISHING A NEW FULL-TIME POLICE SECRETARY POSITION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Mr. Jones had previously assigned Ordinance No.: 19-2017 to the Personnel and Public Affairs Committee.

Third reading: None

Comments from the audience:

Mr. Jones said Ms. Devon Feriance has signed in to talk to Council about the deer and stated to Ms. Feriance she has three minutes to speak.

Ms. Devon Feriance, 2816 Hastings Road, thanked Council and said she and her husband have lived in the Village for three years. I attended the last meeting and it seemed like it only counted if you got up and spoke as to what the opinion was. I just wanted to make sure I came back and was more vocal about it. Some of my neighbors have made phone calls to their board representative or the Mayor. I am against any legislation regarding deer culling. I do feel the idea of lethal treatment for legal, ethical, but most importantly, for safety reasons, is why I am very strongly against it.

I would be happy to help with any research or committee to further look into it. I do feel I need to give you my two cents. If we are going to expend Village resources whether it is time or money, I think first a reasonable means, or conservative as you (*the Mayor*) talked about in your address, which was very lovely by the way, very heartfelt, would be sharing information on how to deter deer. I plant flowers, but I take the extra step to spray. You can even use human hair which is free from the barber. Whether that be giving deer deterrents out to those people that this is a concern for, I think taking those conservative steps should be taken first. Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.

Mr. Jones thanked Ms. Feriance for her time.

FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE – MR. CHRISTOPHER SCOTT**RESOLUTION NO.: 21-2017**

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Mr. Scott asked if there were any questions regarding payment of claims totaling \$107,565.69.

There being no questions, Mr. Scott said this Resolution would be brought out for adoption this evening.

RESOLUTION NO.: 22-2017

Mr. Scott said this Resolution deals with the purchase of two battery backup system for the two stop lights in the Village. One at the intersection of Kent Road and Silver Lake Boulevard and one at the intersection on Graham and Dover Rd.

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Lipan if he had any comments.

Mr. Lipan referred comments to Chief Conley.

Chief Conley said he had originally visited this project last year toward the end of the year and at the time I had thought about exploring the idea of replacing a battery backup unit for the traffic light at Graham and Dover and possibly this year visit putting in a battery backup for Kent Road at Silver Lake Boulevard and Church Street.

The system is a self-contained unit that sits next to the actual traffic control box that you see at the intersection. When there is a power outage the battery system in the box kicks on and continues to operate the traffic lights. Ohio law states that when you approach an ambiguous or non-working traffic light, you are supposed to come to a complete stop and treat it as a four-way stop. People operating on Graham Road in the dark without lighting or traffic lights, have a hard time seeing where that intersection is at. That's why I started looking into this project. It does fall into the purview of Service, but I had done all the homework for it.

I had consulted with Cuyahoga Falls who recommended a company called Pathmaster. Cuyahoga Falls does not have any battery backup units now. These units will run up to 105 hours. In my 31 years of police service, I don't ever remember the power going out for four days but I have known power outages occurring that lasted several long hours. I believe this is a huge safety factor that we have these units installed.

One of the things the Mayor had inquired with me about is how many power outages do we actually have in the Village. I didn't think we had many. I had my secretary check and I was surprised to find out that from 2010 through 2015, we had seven power outages at Kent Road and Silver Lake Boulevard and Church Street. We also had 11 momentary power outages. I do not know what the time span is for momentary power outages according to Ohio Edison. On Graham Road, for the same time period, we had nine power outages and 10 momentary power outages.

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I received an inquiry as to how large these units are. The units themselves are like the silver boxes you see. The dimensions are 41 inches tall and 22 inches wide and 17 inches deep. It's not as large as a traffic control box, but it will be sitting like a large suitcase next to it.

Mr. Jones said you got this quote for \$8,400.

Chief Conley said that is correct and I have been told by phone only that the price has come down about \$100 on each unit. I have not received a revised quote yet.

Mr. Jones asked if that includes installation.

Chief said that includes installation. There is no warranty with it. This is a battery and the life of the battery would probably outlast any warranty. It's charged normally until the power goes out and then the battery kicks in.

Mr. Church asked if Chief Conley looked at any other company or any other communities to see what they might be using.

Chief said I have not. Cuyahoga Falls currently does not have a battery backup system. When they have a power outage in Cuyahoga Falls there are lots of traffic lights. They don't have enough police officers to man the intersections if it covers a large area. I would have the same problem in this police department. If I had a power outage on Graham Road at the Dovers, that would tie up at least not one but two of my officers to safely direct traffic if the power was out.

Mrs. Fuller asked have you checked with other companies that do this, so you'd have let's say three competitive quotes.

Chief said I have not. I did this based on the recommendation of Cuyahoga Falls Technical Service because we contract with them for operations and repair of our traffic control signals. That's why I looked at Pathmaster.

Mr. Church said I'm thinking since they don't use Pathmaster yet, we probably ought to take a look at some other companies and talk to some other communities before we make a decision.

Chief Conley said absolutely, I can do that.

Mr. Scott said I was thinking the same thing. If Cuyahoga Falls is not using them, why are they recommending them.

Chief said I don't know what Cuyahoga Falls Technical Services is doing about their traffic control lights. I do know they have a program in place where they bring out generators to their downed power units, but I don't know how that works. We don't have generators we can take out to plug in nor would I know how to do that.

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Mr. Jones asked if this company makes the battery.

Chief said yes, but I don't know where they manufacture the actual battery. They do the installation.

Mrs. Fuller said if Cuyahoga Falls uses portable generators and we only have two traffic lights that we're dealing with, couldn't we look into the same thing.

Chief said it would be maintaining the generators and if the traffic lights go out, hoping there are no calls from the public. That officer would then break away or contact the standby person from the Service Department to come in. I don't know what the average response time is for the Service Department to come in and get a truck, I don't know how large the generators are. The generators would have to be taken out to the site and started up, then someone would have to watch that generator so nobody takes it.

Mr. Church asked have we ever had generators or battery backups before on those two lights.

Chief said I am not aware of any and asked Mr. Lipan if he knew of any.

Mr. Lipan said no.

Mrs. Steiner asked if this happens automatically.

Chief Conley said yes they automatically kick in when the power goes out.

Mrs. Steiner said if you had to get a generator out there it could be half an hour, and an accident could have happened already.

Mr. Church said I asked that question because if it's not broken maybe we shouldn't look to fix it. On the other hand, you've made a case for what could happen in the meantime.

Mrs. Meyer said when the power goes out on Kent Road we are not out more than ½ hour to 45 minutes because we are on that same line. It's very rare.

Mr. Lipan said you are looking at the safety of your citizens. Is that \$8,400 worth somebody's life?

Chief said I started this project in my previous employment and I know that Graham Road and Kent Road, according to AMATS, are one of the highest traveled roadways in the county. I'm looking ahead based on my staffing allocations of how I can hopefully avert an accident.

Mrs. Fuller said I think the concept is wonderful. I do think you need at least three quotes.

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Chief said I think that's reasonable.

Mr. Lipan said the reason they probably referred this company is that this is who they use when they come out to troubleshoot problems they can't deal with. Pathmaster took care of our flashing yellow lights at Harriett Road two years ago.

Chief said I will check and see if there are other companies available with like services and if it matches the components on the traffic control box. I believe that's why they referred me to Pathmaster because of the components. I will look into that.

Mr. Scott said this Resolution would be held for a second reading.

STATEMENT OF CASH POSITION

Mr. Housley said we are reconciled through the end of February.

Mr. Scott asked if there is anything popping up that was unexpected.

Mr. Housley said no.

Mr. Scott said if there are no questions this would be brought out for approval this evening.

PERSONNEL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – MRS. CAROL STEINER

ORDINANCE NO.: 19-2017

Mrs. Steiner said we have been discussing for several weeks establishing a full-time police secretary position. The Police Chief has stated his case for why he feels it's necessary. This would be expanding a part-time job to a full-time job. Mrs. Steiner asked Chief Conley if he had any more comments.

Chief Conley said I would like to add that I have spoken to the Mayor and we are looking ahead to cross-train. There is a lot of work that needs to be done downstairs and that's something we should look at after the current position has settled down. Maybe we could cross-train some employees in the event we would need help or she would be gone for a long period of time.

There being no further questions, Mrs. Steiner said this Ordinance would be brought out for adoption this evening.

Personnel and Public Affairs Committee – Mrs. Steiner

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Mrs. Steiner stated **Ordinance No.: 19-2017** was discussed in Committee and is ready for adoption.

Motion to suspend the rules by Mrs. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Church

Roll call on suspension: Yes 7 No 0

Motion to adopt by Mrs. Steiner, seconded by Mr. Church

Roll call on adoption: Yes 7 No 0

Finance and Appropriations Committee – Mr. Scott

Mr. Scott stated **Resolution No.: 21-2017** was discussed in Committee and is ready for adoption.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mrs. Fuller

Roll call on adoption: Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 1 (Plesich)

Mr. Scott stated **Resolution No.: 22-2017** was discussed in Committee and will be held for a second reading.

Mr. Scott moved to accept the **Statement of Cash Position of February 28, 2017**. Seconded by Mr. Plesich. All members of Council signified their approval by saying aye.

Reports of Village Officials

Mayor Hovey had no report.

Mr. Robert Heydorn, Village Solicitor, said I gave you the opinion I wrote regarding regulatory options for the school property should the Cuyahoga Falls School Board decide it no longer wants to operate a school on that property. It speaks for itself. If you have any questions about how we can further guard ourselves or improve the process, let me know.

Mr. Church asked about the last paragraph referencing real estate covenants, may or may not be, which says these covenants may be enforced only by private parties who own lots within Silver Lake Estates. How likely is that?

Mr. Heydorn said there were covenants placed on the original plat done for the Silver Lake Estates. Some are enforceable, some are not. For instance, there is a covenant, in 1918, where they tried to make sure that Silver Lake remain a white community. That is no longer enforceable. There are things, such as you can't put out a clothes line.

The rest of the covenants I am aware of deal with the trust itself, placing the responsibility on homeowners to be assessed to pay for the operation of the lake and those sorts of things. I have not personally seen all the covenants. At one point in time, I have read them. As far as I know, at this point in time, I believe these are all individual lots that were originally platted as residential

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lots just like all the other lots in the Village. When they were turned over to the school board, they probably carried with them the same kind of residential covenants which given what has happened over the years are probably not enforceable.

Mr. Church asked if the Cuyahoga Fall School Board pulled out of the property, would those lots revert back to the original deed holder.

Mr. Heydorn said no. These covenants are not establishing conditional rights to ownership. All of these lots were granted with general warranty deeds which means there was full transfer of ownership. There was no conditional ownership. Chances are the deed restrictions have probably not been enforced except for the operation of the lake itself.

From the deeds that I've seen that granted the property over to the school board, there has never been any real mention of any operation of any covenants. My bet is just the fact that it was deeded to the school board and hasn't been enforced for all these years, it's questionable as to whether or not you could enforce them.

I'm saying that because, ultimately, it's not your concern anyway. It's not my concern, because I can't enforce those covenants for you and you as Silver Lake Village cannot enforce them. If someone wants to do the research and belongs to Silver Lake Estates, they can try to enforce by means of a lawsuit. It's a private matter. It's not a public matter.

Mr. Jones asked if we wanted to rezone that property residential, can that be done at any point in time or do we have to wait until they close the school, if they are.

Mr. Heydorn said you can rezone it residential at any time if you feel that's the best use of the property. Has to be a reasonable use of the property. The operation of the school would then be a legal non-conforming use. That's how Councils traditionally have changed the complexion of a Village. They look at current usage and if they say that usage is out of place and shouldn't be here, they rezone it so that what is there is a non-conforming use which has certain restrictions. A non-conforming use is not something most people desire. If you rezone it that's a way of encouraging the development of the land toward the direction you want it to be. That's how zoning has been used.

Mrs. Steiner asked if we have any law that addresses vacant and abandoned homes.

Mr. Heydorn said not unless they become a health hazard. We adopt County law and State law that deals with public nuisance situations. It's very hard to enforce.

Mr. Jones said he has got some complaints about the property on Hastings and he believes the bank took it over.

Mr. Heydorn said if you think there are general complaints about it to give him the details.

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Mr. Heydorn said I am working on a re-draft of the chapter on regulation of satellite dishes and should have it in a couple weeks.

Chief John Conley reported Lt. Jamie Norris is attached to Summit County Sheriff's Department as a liaison. He receives information from around the County, and I wanted to share some of that with you. Information regarding a home invasion was sent to him from the Hudson Police Department. On February 21, 2017, a 90 year old Hudson resident had their home burglarized by a female with a long black ponytail, wearing jeans and a yellow safety vest. She came to the house and said they were checking properties for gas leaks. There was a male also. While the female distracted the homeowner, the male was able to steal cash and jewelry. This is not the first time this has happened in the county.

Mr. Mark Lipan, Service Director, had no report.

Mr. Sean Housley, Clerk-Treasurer, reported we received our microphone quotes. They range from \$14,000 to \$33,000. There are a couple of different types of presentations. One is a boundary microphone, which will sit between two Council members and pick up a range of about two. Another is where they are going to *(the remaining statement is not audible due to serious interference)*. Mr. Jones, the Mayor and I have to meet to talk about them.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Scott said he knows Jerry is getting older, and we had a conversation about this, but he has probably forgotten it, you and I had a discussion, we just want to get clarification because Jerry is on one side of the issue and I am on the other. With our sirens going off a week or so ago, I heard the school had closed down and I called Jerry to see if there was any damage to the school. In our conversation, Jerry said he heard it, I was finally getting ready to go downstairs then I heard the all clear. I don't believe we have an all clear siren. I wanted to clarify that.

Chief Conley said I know of no specific all clear. The Cuyahoga Falls Dispatch Center activates the siren. He said those sirens are tested every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.

(The correct response is the sirens are tested the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m., not every Thursday.)

Mr. Jones asked if there is an all clear siren.

Chief Conley said not that he is aware of.

Mr. Jones asked if it can be programed that way.

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Chief Conley said he doesn't believe it can. He said there is no separate tone or audible signal they send out other than the wale. He said the sirens spin to do a circumference of the area.

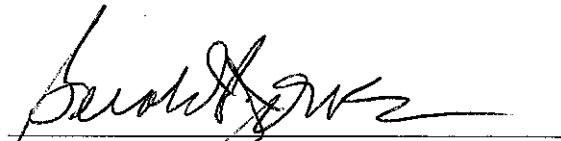
Mr. Heydorn said when the storms pop up they are all over and an all clear may put some degree of onus on the guy who is doing the all clear.

Mr. Scott said if two of us on Council that should know what is going on and one of us obviously didn't, maybe this is something our residents don't understand either. Maybe this is something that should be a regular in the newsletter, the fact that there is never going to be an all clear given. I have had other people say to me I heard the second siren, and assumed it was all clear.

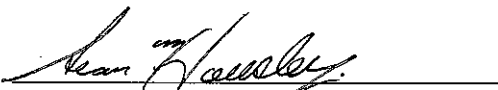
Mr. Church said that is a valid point.

There being no further comments or questions, Council adjourned at 7:55 p.m. until the next regular meeting of Council on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED


Mr. Gerald P. Jones, President of Council

ATTEST:


Sean M. Housley, Clerk-Treasurer

State of the Village - March 6, 2017

Members of Council, fellow residents, friends, good evening. I appreciate your being here tonight, and know that you had other choices. You could have chosen to stay in your warm comfortable homes, reading your latest favorite book. Or you could have snuggled with your spouse and enjoyed a glass of wine. Or maybe you could be home watching Jeopardy. But you chose to come here, and for that, I thank you.

2016 was a busy year for the Village. Many projects were started, or completed, or even just contemplated. Let me address first one I know you are all concerned about, namely, our financial situation. In a word, I can tell you that, financially, the Village is stable. And stable is a conservative description. Financially, we are in a position that any municipality in the State would envy. Our investments are experiencing higher returns than they have in the recent past. Our individual line item funds are healthy. And our general fund is in excess of 2 million dollars. I attribute our financial health to wise spending decisions by our department heads, to the attention to expenditures vs revenues given by our Council, and to the expert management of our funds by our clerk-treasurer. Obviously we need to remain vigilant, and conservative, in all things financial. We cannot expect increased funding from Columbus; we do not have viable untapped sources of revenue; and we must continue to find ways to pay for needed equipment, and to proceed with necessary projects. In 2016, our budgeted expenditures were estimated to be about \$300,000 more than our expected revenues. \$300,000 - yet that was not a big concern to me as 1) our budget requests were necessary and proper, and 2) we had the cash on hand. Instead of realizing a true deficit, what we did was make available for spending some of the capital we had accrued in previous years. Pretty much like what you do at your home. Save, save, save.....then spend. And as it turned out, that \$300,000 shortfall was never actually realized. At the end of the year, because of certain proposed expenditures not being needed, and due to such things as certain expected repairs not having to be done, and due to decreased use of overtime, and delayed hiring of personnel, to name a few, that \$300,000 shortfall was completely erased. The fact that we experienced unforeseen increased property tax and income tax collections helped also. I expect the same thing to happen in 2017. The fact is that we have to budget for what we believe we will need throughout the year, but it is a guessing game – educated guessing, and sometimes it turns out we don't actually have to buy that item, or make that repair, or maybe we're able to negotiate a better than expected contract from a vendor, or maybe we receive revenue from an unexpected source. Hence our true expenditures end up more closely matching our actual revenues.

Let's review some things accomplished or purchased in 2016.

1. The sidewalk program was brought to close. All residents have been made aware of any costs for which they are responsible, and all arrangements have been made for payment.
2. Installation of new water meters is nearly complete. Only 3 homes still await installation. Two of these homes are vacant, while the third is proving to be somewhat of a challenge.

Nevertheless, new water meters must be installed in these homes, and I expect that to happen very soon.

3. We renewed our trash-recycling contract with Kimble for another 3 years, and at very favorable rates.
4. In our efforts to deal with and help combat the growing opiate epidemic in the area, all members of our police force received training on how to administer Narcan in drug overdose situations. Narcan is used to help revive individuals who have suffered a drug overdose, and is now a staple for all of our police officers when they are on duty.
5. Our employees received a meager but well-deserved cost of living raise last November.
6. The Fenwick Park creek bed was finally stabilized, and at a cost many, many thousands of dollars less than was originally estimated.
7. New and more technologically advanced body cameras were purchased for all police officers.
8. New windows were purchased for this room and upstairs, replacing windows that were old, drafty, no longer operable and no longer able to be cleaned from the outside, windows that were an unnecessary drain on our energy costs.
9. The tennis courts were re-surfaced.
10. The fire hydrants, which had fallen into an undistinguished state of ugly, were repainted. Plans are to re-paint the curb addresses this year.
11. We were able to continue our senior snow removal program.
12. We reallocated minimum usage payments and storm water fees on resident water bills. The standard minimum base fee for water was lowered by \$1; the standard minimum base fee for sewer was also lowered by \$1. This \$2 of savings was then applied to the storm water fee of \$3, making it now \$5. The result of this is that the storm water fund received the additional monies it needed, yet utility cost to most residents did not increase.
13. We finished the year with no workman's comp claims, something that can be attributed to our high emphasis on safety in the workplace.
14. We entered into a salt purchase agreement with Cuyahoga Falls City Schools. Previously the schools bought bags of salt, which their workers opened and then poured into their trucks. This was an expensive, time consuming and dangerous way for them to operate. Now, they purchase available extra salt from us, and we load their trucks for them. They pay us for this service. While do experience some monetary gain from this, I do not view this as a revenue producing venture. What they pay covers our costs, and then some. But they can buy salt only if we have extra available salt that we can sell without jeopardizing the Village salt supply. Essentially, I view this as a good neighbor policy. We are helping the schools, something I feel we have an obligation to do whenever possible.

So what about 2017? Three major items come immediately to mind:

- 1) We are now exploring funding means for the Lee Road sewer project. Lee Road is the last of the major sewer projects identified more than 10 years ago when CTI Engineering was

hired to do an exhaustive study of all of our sewers. Our hope is that we will be able to secure a no interest or a low interest loan to begin this project. We are also looking to see if we are eligible for funding grants for this project, estimated to cost between 1.5 and 1.8 million dollars.

- 2) I remain committed to finding solutions to the flooding problems on both Englewood Road and Harriett Road.
- 3) We will purchase a new 5T dump truck for the service department, and a new cruiser for the police department.

In addition, Council and I need to continue discussions on whether we need to do something about the increasing numbers of deer in the Village, and also whether we should consider allowing a natural gas well to be drilled on Village property. Please know that no action and no decision has yet been made on either. And while these topics have generated some controversy, and will continue to do so, probably even after a course of action has been decided upon, it is our duty to discuss, not ignore, the pros and cons of both of these issues. Your input, your comments, your views and your suggestions on both topics are both welcome and encouraged.

Let me talk about what I consider one of the biggest projects facing us in 2017. And that is, the planning for the celebration of our centennial year. Silver Lake was incorporated as a village in 1918. In 2018, we will celebrate our 100th year of existence. We do have a centennial committee in place, chaired by Mrs. Nancy Gray. They have been hard at work for several months now. I know many things are in the planning stage, and things are far from finalized. We plan to use 2017 as a fundraising year, with any money raised going towards items and events we may want for 2018. We will also be looking for both corporate and private sponsors to finance much of what we do, and, of course, we will be looking for volunteers to help us every step of the way. If you go to the Village website, and click on the "Centennial" tab, you will be able to see a schedule of upcoming events. As a start to celebrating the centennial, a 5k run is planned for June 3rd, a pancake breakfast and mum sale is scheduled for September 23rd, and a golf outing at SLCC is slated for October 2nd. We are also now selling commemorative bricks that will be used for a yet to be determined landscape project at the Gazebo. A sidewalk, sidewalk borders, a patio and even a wall of some sort have been mentioned as possible ideas. Bricks will be sold throughout 2017. Forms to purchase the bricks are at the window to the administrative office, and are available on the website. There are many other events still in the planning stage, things such as an art show, a rocket camp for kids, concerts at the gazebo and various Historical Society programs. We hope also to involve students at Silver Lake Elementary School in our centennial celebration. The culminating event will be an adult celebration of some sort at the country club early in October 2018, a cocktail party followed by possibly a dance, or a dinner, a concert, or even a talent show. We hope to include every resident in this centennial celebration. Any of you who want to help with the planning of this year long event are certainly welcome to join our efforts. We meet here in this very room the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm.

I can report to you that the Village is getting younger. In 2016, 56 homes in the Village were sold and purchased, many by people often classified as generation X'ers. Another 50 were sold and purchased in 2015. It seems there are more and more young families moving into the Village. This is an evidential sign of how appealing and alluring raising a family in Silver Lake is. It also gives notice to the Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education that we deserve, and expect, to always have a public school located in the Village. Long live Silver Lake Elementary School!

You see several new faces working for the Village now. Logan Sapper was hired in the service department. Kim Pigman became our new bookkeeper. Craig Rowe and Samantha Bailey are new police officers; and Sara Bowman now works in the administrative office.

When talking about our employees, I would be remiss if I did not tell you how proud I am of each and every one of them. Quite simply, they are the best. They are dedicated to serving you; the work they do is exemplary, and they have my utmost respect and gratitude for the job they do. Our department heads – Mark Lipan, John Conley, and Sean Housley, along with my administrative assistant, Suzanne Lipan and our Village Solicitor, Bob Heydorn– are professional, knowledgeable and efficient. Much of our success is due to their leadership, and their ability to demand, and receive, the best efforts of our entire workforce.

Several residents were named to a few of our volunteer boards. Jim Newhouse joined the Park Board. Jeff Nank joined the Citizens Housing Committee. Jack Myers became a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, and Brian Lapolla was appointed to the Planning Commission. Of course, these appointments meant that we lost some great people. Two I must mention. After serving for 13 years, Becky Ryba felt it was time for her to move on. She was an outstanding member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, and I thank her for her loyal and faithful service. And after 28 years of service to the Village, Dr. Ted Curtis resigned from his seat on the Planning Commission. Ted was an outstanding member of that commission. An architect with a national reputation, a man whose love of the Village was unquestioned, he will be missed, and I thank him for his service.

As a nation we face many problems. The world, our country, is not as safe and secure as it was when many of us were children. Things are different now, some for the better, some not. There is a serious drug problem in the area. I read a newspaper article recently that reminded me of the drug problem I had as a kid. I think a lot of you here tonight had the same drug problem. I was drug to church every Sunday. I was drug to family celebrations and funerals. I was drug to the sink to have my mouth washed out with soap when I used profanity. I was drugged by my ears when I was disrespectful of others. So many other times I was drugged by my parents for one thing or another. This drugging remains in my veins today, and I thank God for it. This is the drug problem I wished America faced today. When I was a kid, I never got in trouble if I was out after dark, and my parents never worried for my safety. Now I worry when my kids and grandchildren are even out at all, no matter the time of day. I remember when policemen were heroes to all of us; now, unfortunately, some people consider them the enemy. I remember playing outside with my friends; now it seems video games and playing "Where's Waldo" on a

smartphone has replaced that. I remember talking face to face with my friends, or actually asking a girl out in person; now texting and tweeting appear to be the major means of communication. And then there is Facebook and Snapchat and Twitter, and a whole bunch of other social media forums that I have no idea how to use. And I suppose social media has its merits, but it also has its faults. Last summer a local social media site posted what I considered to be untrue, incomplete, non-factual and misleading comments about the COLA increase I recommended for our employees. More recently, misleading innuendos were posted about lead in the water Silver Lake delivers to your homes. The fact is, we test our water regularly. There has never been even a trace of lead in the water delivered to your homes by the Village. My advice here, don't believe everything you read on social media. As concerns Silver Lake, call me for the facts. Well into my 3rd full term as your mayor, I have never misled you, have never been anything but open and honest with you, and will always be that way as long as you allow me to be your mayor.

Let me conclude this address by again telling you how much I love being your mayor. I love everything about Silver Lake, and I am both proud of, and humbled by, the position I hold. We live in a special place. Those of us who have been here for decades can attest to that. More recent inhabitants of the Village quickly learn how special Silver Lake is. Indeed, that is the reason we have chosen to raise our families here. But a word of warning, the old guard is getting tired. We need the younger families to get more involved in Village events. We need fresh blood. We need your help at Festival; we need you to serve on our various boards; we need you to get involved in Village government; we need your participation in things like the Garden Club and the Historical Society; we need to hear from you on a regular basis. We need you to volunteer your time and talents to preserve and enhance all that has made Silver Lake such an enjoyable and enviable place in which to live and raise our families. If you step forward, you will be welcomed.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. And thank you, Kathleen, for your love, your support, your advice, and even your occasional criticism. I couldn't do this without you. And I don't know where I'd be without you..... but probably not here.

Thank you for your attention tonight.