

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 4, 2015**

Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Hammond then asked for a Moment of Silence to honor our Men and Women; Past and Present; for their Military Service to our Country. Mr. Shelton took roll call with the following members present: Mr. Sadler, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Wissinger, Mr. Laxton, Mr. Shelton and Ms. Evans. Solicitor Hess, Engineer Grosse and Chief Jordan were also in attendance. Fiscal Officer Hastings was absent.

Mr. Laxton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sadler to approve the March 2, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. All members were in favor with the exception of Mr. Shelton who abstained. The motion passed.

Mr. Geiger made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to approve the March 16, 2015 Special Council Meeting Minutes. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Laxton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sadler to approve the April 6, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. All members were in favor with the exception of Ms. Evans and Mr. Shelton who abstained. The motion passed.

**Administrative Reports:**

A. Mayor's Report – Mayor Hammond informed Council he was ready to move forward with the mowing contract. He said the streets will be swept soon. He said now that the weather has broken, a few odds and ends will be taken care of including sign repairs.

B. Village Engineer's Report – Engineer Grosse said the first thing he wanted to talk about were the sidewalk options. He said he had several options for Council's consideration. He showed a small piece on West Alley, one on Front and Main Street and another section on Assyrian and Bellshazzer. He said the new sidewalks that have already been put in are being used a lot. He said his recommendations include repairing old sidewalk sections and making them all handicap accessible. Engineer Grosse said if Council chooses to do all three sections he has proposed the total cost would be \$ 170,000.00 based upon his estimate. He is asking Council for a decision tonight so that he can move forward in getting the project put out for bid. Mr. Laxton asked which of the proposed sections would get the most use. Engineer Grosse said sections 1 & 3 would probably get the most use. Mayor Hammond said we had spent about \$ 80,000 in sidewalks since 2012. Mr. Shelton asked if sections 1 & 3 were completed, what it would cost. Engineer Grosse said Section 1 is estimated at \$ 22,000.00 and Section 3 is estimated at \$ 90,000.00 for a total of \$ 112,000.00. Ms. Evans asked if the contractors could bid sections 1 & 3 together and section 2 as an add-on. Engineer Grosse said that could be done. At this time, Engineer Grosse handed out a picture of what he is proposing to be done in front of the post office to the existing parking space. He would like to add some curbing and additional parking spots. He said this would get the property ready for any additional work they would like to do at the gathering place. He said it will not affect the go kart track at all but suggested talking with the committee to make sure. He said this additional curbing and asphalt would cost an additional \$ 10,000.00 that could be added on to the sidewalk project or done separately. Ms. Evans asked if this would be bid out at the same time. Engineer Grosse said it could be if Council so chooses. Mr. Laxton said he would like to see all of these projects put into the bid process. Mr. Shelton said he would like to see all the projects bid out, however priced separately so they can pick and choose what they can do. Next, Engineer Grosse talked about the streets in the Village. He said during the committee meeting, the members of the committee felt that Walker Road was the street with the most work needed and should be the highest priority. He said it needed to be milled in some areas, overlayment in other areas and drainage issues that need to be dealt with. He said Walker Road is split down the center and owned by the township and village. He said there are a few ways to look at repairing the road. He said we could talk with the township and ask if they want to participate in the repairs or we could do nothing and let the road further deteriorate or we could just take on the entire project and pave the road and be done with it. Engineer Grosse said his estimated cost to do the entire job is \$ 150,000.00. He said that he would recommend the village does the entire road. He said the Village has utilities on the township side of the road and if there is any damage to their side of the road, it was probably caused by utility improvements. Ms. Evans questioned the timing for the completion of Walker Point and the work to be done on Walker Road. Engineer Grosse said Walker Point will be complete in another month and will not interfere with the road project. He also said there are roads throughout the Village that need to have some base repairs done on them. There is crack sealing that he would like to have done throughout the village as well. Ms. Evans asked if the

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township had been approached about helping out financially with Walker Road. Engineer Grosse said not yet. He said most of the areas that need repaired are due to our utilities and the improvements we have done to them. Engineer Grosse said he was looking for some direction from Council as to if they want him to proceed with getting prices on the sidewalks, curbing and asphalt for the center of town and for Walker Road. Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to proceed with the bid process for the sidewalk project to include the curbing and asphalt for the triangle in the center of town. All members were in favor. The motion passed. At this time, there was discussion regarding the other street repairs and crack sealing that had previously been discussed during the committee meeting. Engineer Grosse thought those were already approved to move forward with and that he just needed confirmation on Walker Road. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to get the bid process started for Walker Road. There was discussion as to include wording about the discussions with the township on the project. Engineer Grosse said he would like to have the numbers first and then approach the township. Mayor Hammond asked if this could be considered as an economic development and JEDD money spent on the project. Engineer Grosse said that was a good idea that he hadn't thought of. He said this could be a way to approach the township. All members were in favor. The motion passed. Next, Engineer Grosse reminded Council of the violations the Utility Plant had received from the Ohio EPA. He said an analysis was done and found that we have higher strength sewage coming in than what we should have. He said EPA was notified of the findings. They were also notified that we have since put the outer ring into service at the plant instead of just using it as a sludge holding tank. In putting this ring into service, the plant has lost 200,000 gallons of sludge storage capacity. He said a sludge press has been brought out to the plant to press the excess water out before it can be land applied. Engineer Grosse handed out a picture of the plant that shows what improvements need to be completed. He pointed out a new digester that would give the plant the capacity that it needs for handling the sludge and the capability of keeping the solids down, which makes for a happier plant. He said the EPA is pushing for us to put in the new digester. Engineer Grosse said they have tried to analyze where the stronger sewage is coming in and have determined that it is coming from the northern end of the lines. He said one factor could be since it is a newer system, it doesn't have the infiltration coming in that dilutes the sewage before it comes to the plant. He said since we have these higher flows coming in, we are having to get a larger digester than what we had anticipated. He said we will also be putting in a dewatering system that will help us prepare for the next phase at the plant. Engineer Grosse said the cost of this project is approximately \$ 1,500,000.00. He hopes that the bids come in under this number. Engineer Grosse said we need to get this process started. He said if Council said go ahead at tonight's meeting, it would take 18 months before this was up and operating. He asked Council to approve this next phase so he can get EPA approval and get it out for bids. Mr. Shelton asked how long the EPA approval process can take. Engineer Grosse said a minimum of 60 days. He said his goal would be to have this out for bid late this fall, construction in 2016 and up and running late 2016 early 2017. Ms. Evans asked if this is a shared expense between water and sewer. Engineer Grosse said this would be paid for out of the sewer fund only. Engineer Grosse said Council would not be approving spending this money tonight. He just needs their approval to move forward with the bid process and approvals from the EPA. He said Council would get monthly updates and would be kept informed. Mr. Sadler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to begin the bid process for an Aerobic Digester and Sludge Dewatering press building. Mr. Shelton said the only alternative is to continue to get violations with fines from the EPA. Engineer Grosse said that was correct and he really didn't want to go that route. He said that we have done everything the EPA has asked us to up to this point. He said if this is approved tonight, a letter stating what our next step is will be sent to the EPA tomorrow. All members were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

C. Village Solicitor's Report – Solicitor Hess reviewed what Council has in front of them tonight. He said a motion is needed to accept the Go Kart event plan and then reviewed the four items up for legislation tonight. He said there are two tabled items left from a previous meeting; one with regards to disbanding the police department and the other going into contract with the Sheriff for the remaining of the year. Solicitor Hess asked that the tabled items be moved to the top of the order since that is why most people are in attendance tonight. He said Council does not have to bring these items off the table tonight but they may want to address the issues so the citizens know where Council stands with the tabled items.

D. Police Department Report – Chief Jordan reviewed the summary of contacts or calls they had for the month of April 2015. There was a total of 333 for April 2015. (Copy at the Municipal Office) He said if anyone had questions to please ask him. Chief Jordan went on to say that he had submitted a

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letter to Solicitor Hess regarding the confirmation of Officer Greathouse. He said he would like to recommend that Officer Greathouse be confirmed. He said that he has worked a total of 8 months for the Village. He said that Officer Greathouse is very timely and has taken the initiative to gain additional experience by doing ride-a-longs with other agencies. Chief Jordan said that he has two applicants that he and Mr. Shelton and Mayor Hammond were very impressed with during the interviews. He said one of the applicants is a female who recently graduated from the academy. He said she doesn't have street experience however has worked in a law enforcement environment with Franklin County Sheriff's office as a dispatcher. He said she would be familiar with the use of the radios and the programs on the computer. Chief Jordan said the other officer that applied has two years of experience as a reserve officer with the City of Reynoldsburg. He said this officer was exposed to the same nature of calls as the full time officers and handled them either assisting another officer or by himself. Chief Jordan said during the interviewing process, he was looking at hiring one officer, however between himself, Mayor Hammond and Mr. Shelton, they all felt both of these candidates would be a good fit. Chief Jordan said he got a very good first impression from both of these individuals. He feels they are both hard workers with good communication skills. Chief Jordan said he along with Mr. Sadler and Mr. Kuzelka put together a plan that he feels is an achievable plan. He said he doesn't feel it has to be an immediate plan but it does give us ground work that will help in the long run to retain good officers. Chief Jordan said we have a comparative pay rate when you compare us to the Village of Ashville and the Village of South Bloomfield. He said the additional 10 hours between 30 and 40 hours a week is a big factor. He said he feels this plan will work whether it be now or 6 months from now. He would hate to lose these two candidates. Chief Jordan said Mayor Hammond does not want to hire someone and then in a month or so tell them they no longer have a job because of the department being disbanded. Chief Jordan said he can agree with Mayor Hammond on this. He feels confident in these two applicants and would like to move forward and hire them. Mr. Sadler wanted clarification on the positions. He said we have two positions available. Chief Jordan said we have two positions available however only one 30 hour position available that is funded. Mayor Hammond said that money could be moved at any time if Council chooses. Mr. Sadler clarified that we have one position funded but two applicants. Mr. Shelton said there was a question at the Safety Committee Meeting if there was potential in both candidates would they be open to discussing a less than 30 hour position. Mr. Shelton asked Chief Jordan if he had any conversations with these two individuals about working less than 30 hours a week. Chief Jordan said when he had spoken to the female officer even before her interview, she was looking at coming on in any capacity even as a reserve officer. He said he had not had a chance to speak with the gentleman yet but from the impression he got from him, it would not be an issue. Chief Jordan said he was waiting for an answer from Council before he went any farther. Ms. Evans asked if we could ask these two candidates for some type of commitment so that we aren't just a training ground. Chief Jordan said that would be better answered by Solicitor Hess. Mr. Shelton said at his place of business, if someone elects to take a benefit, example tuition reimbursement, that person has to stay with his company for a certain amount of time or pay back the money collected. Chief Jordan said if we were to send someone off for training on something that is above and beyond what is needed for our department, example a self-defense instructor, we could take a look at making them pay the money back they left our employment. He said he wasn't sure if there was something legally binding in these circumstances. He said something like uniforms, since they are required for the job, he doesn't see us being able to make them pay that money back. Solicitor Hess said he would have to agree with Chief Jordan for the most part. He said something could be worded regarding the above and beyond training and what they would have to pay back if they didn't stay on board. Chief Jordan said at this time the only benefit he would be able to extend to our officers is training. He said he wouldn't send anyone to training that is still on probation. Ms. Evans asked Chief Jordan if the suggestion was made to him to bring both candidates on board, what he would recommend. Chief Jordan said he would recommend to hire both candidates and have them each work 24 hours a week. He said once they are trained, this would give the community 108 hours of coverage a week. He said this would give us a good start and then grow the department if needed. Chief Jordan said he would like to be able to tell these two candidates that the target amount of hours worked a week would be 24 however there could be some weeks when they are needed a little more or a little less. He would really like to be able to tell them they are less than 30 hour positions. Ms. Evans asked what it would take on Council's part to make this happen. Chief Jordan said they would have to fund the less than 30 hour position. Mr. Laxton confirmed we would have (2) 30 hour positions and (2) less than 30 hour positions with 20 hours guaranteed. Chief Jordan said that was correct. Mr. Shelton asked Chief

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Jordan how he is planning on training two people at the same time. Chief Jordan said there are different areas that they train on: knowledge of the area, report writing skills, knowledge of the laws and conduct with the public. He said he would train both of these two individuals at the same time if needed. He said he would put one officer with Officer Greathouse and the other officer with himself. He said between the two of them, they will be able to cover all areas of training. He said the officers would rotate between the Chief and Officer Greathouse. Mr. Shelton said no disrespect to Officer Greathouse, but he has only been on the job by himself for a few months and now Chief is wanting him to train new officers. Chief Jordan said Officer Greathouse will be showing them the area and how to handle a traffic stop since he has done a good job doing so. In addition, Chief Jordan said the one gentleman already has 2 years of experience of being out on his own. Mr. Sadler asked if Officer Jackson and Officer Kelly are able to help out in the training process. Chief Jordan said yes. Chief Jordan continued to say that he would like to put Officer Thatcher in as Sergeant of the department and have the reserve Officers report to him. He said there would be no additional monies spent out of the budget for this to take place. Mr. Shelton asked how many reserve Officers we have now. Chief Jordan said we have 3 right now but he is looking to add 2-3 more. Ms. Evans asked what the pay range was for part time officers. Chief Jordan said he thought it was \$ 14-\$ 16 per hour but wasn't certain. There was a brief discussion regarding the rates and it was noted that the current rate for the officers is \$ 14-\$ 16 per hour. Ms. Evans said for budgeting purposes she would use an average of \$ 15 per hour. She calculated the 18 additional hours of coverage that are not in the budget as of now and came up with a total of an additional \$ 14,040.00. Mr. Sadler calculated what a 24 hour position would cost including OPERS, FICA and Worker's Comp and came up with just shy of \$ 25,000.00 per year. There was discussion on what we have budgeted now compared to the additional money that would be needed for two 24 hour officers being added. Mr. Sadler said the hours of coverage would be increased as well. Ms. Evans asked Chief Jordan where he stood with the money for a new cruiser. Chief Jordan said the \$ 15,000 that was budgeted was not enough to purchase a new cruiser however it was well over the amount that we had paid for used cruisers from other departments. He said what he was targeting was to get another used cruiser. He said the last time we purchased a used cruiser, we received it fully equipped for \$ 3,700.00 from Perry Township. He said we spent an additional \$ 1,200 getting the radio for this cruiser. Chief Jordan said \$ 5,000 would probably cover the cost of what he is looking at.

- E. Village Administrator – No report
- F. Fiscal Officer Report – No report

Legislative Reports:

1. Randy Shelton – Nothing to report
2. Nicole Evans – Nothing to report
3. Clarence Wissinger – Nothing to report
4. David Sadler – Reported that a Safety Committee meeting had been held. He said that on April 1, 2015 he had submitted to everyone a proposal for the Police Department. He said it included full time status as well as benefits for the police officers to prolong their employment with the Village. He asked Council to review the proposal and if they had questions to please let him know.
5. Mark Geiger – Nothing to report
6. Brad Laxton – Reported that he did a ride-a-long with Officer Greathouse. He said it was very informative. He wanted to thank Chief Jordan for taking care of the dog issue in his neighborhood. Ms. Evans asked if we were still pursuing the gathering place idea. Mayor Hammond said he had shared an idea that he and Mr. Grosse came up with. He said adding more parking spaces will cut down on maintenance, give more parking spots and also allow an area to be roped off for special events. He said his main goal was to not interfere with the go kart races. He said Council needs to decide what type of barrier they would like to put up between our property and Mr. Boggs' property. He said the idea of benches and landscaping was a great one. Mr. Laxton asked what happens in this area during the go kart races. Ms. Geiger said RV's are parked there. Mr. Kuzelka said a stage is set up and a band plays there and bleachers are also set up for the races. Mr. Laxton asked if a split rail fence would hinder the track. Mr. Kuzelka said he didn't think it would. Mr. Kuzelka said all the years that he has been here he has never seen any type of event in the center of town like Mayor Hammond is talking about. Mayor Hammond said they just haven't been promoted to do something like that. Mr. Kuzelka then asked if these types of events were to take place, where would the liability come in. Mr. Kuzelka asked if the Village had an

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umbrella policy like the Men's Club does. Mayor Hammond said we do. Mr. Laxton said he liked the idea of placing a big evergreen tree in the area and decorating it with Christmas lights.

Mr. Shelton asked Mr. Sadler about the proposal that was discussed at the Safety Meeting. He said there was a question about replacement cost. He asked if the newest proposal included vacations etc. Mr. Sadler said he did add these figures into the newest proposal.

At this time, Mayor Hammond said that he had read the Go Kart Event Plan and it is professional, good and clean. He recommended to Council that a motion be made to accept the plan as written. Mr. Sadler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wissinger to accept the Go Kart Event Plan. Ms. Evans asked about the security section of the plan. Mayor Hammond said the plan supplies for security and our officers were available last year. Ms. Evans said it states that the Commercial Point Police Department will be supplying the security. Chief Jordan said last year our department was asked to work the pit area for the races. Ms. Evans just wanted to clarify that it does say our department will be the security for the races. Mayor Hammond asked if Council wanted to modify the motion regarding the security section. Mr. Sadler asked why our department wouldn't be responsible. Mayor Hammond said during last year's race, we weren't having all the discussions regarding the police department that we are having now. Mr. Shelton felt the question from Ms. Evans was if the racing committee was responsible for the security. Mayor Hammond said they are responsible and have been. Solicitor Hess said the event plan says we would supply the officer at our expense. Mayor Hammond said they would use our officers and not outside services. Solicitor Hess said Ms. Evans is wanting clarification of who is paying for the officers. Mayor Hammond said the racing committee is paying the officers. Matt Karg spoke as the Vice President of the Karting Committee and said that since it was in Commercial Point's jurisdiction, one Commercial Point Officer had to be used. He said it was brought up at their last meeting that the other officers could come from other agencies. Mayor Hammond said he didn't recall the event plan stating that. He said in the past, Commercial Point Officers were hired for security during the races. Ms. Evans found where wording from the 2013 plan was stricken regarding payment for the officers. She said the new wording was used in 2014 and 2015 so everything is fine, no issue. All members of Council were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

At this time, Mayor Hammond opened the floor for citizen's comments. Ms. Nancy Geiger said she took it upon herself to walk door to door asking the residents if they wanted our police department or for us to contract with the Sheriff. She said she walked through Chestnut Estates, Walker Point, Genoa Crossing, West Scioto Green and the village. She said in Chestnut Estates, she had 3 people that didn't want to sign her petition. She said an overwhelming amount of people wanted to contract with the Sheriff. She said the main complaint that she heard was with regards to Chief Jordan. She said they felt that he was not a good chief and that they would be better protected by the Sheriff. She said it has been said that the department has been here for many years. She said she is a life-long resident as well as her parents and they are ready for a change. She said more professionalism was a concern. She said there had been complaints of our officers sitting behind the Men's Club speaking with residents. She said she wasn't saying that was wrong to say hey how you doing, but she doesn't want her tax dollars being spent on someone sitting back there for a long time doing nothing. She said it had been reported that another officer had been out at Genoa having many conversations with a resident. She said a lot of people didn't want their opinions know. She said a lot of people are on Facebook and get their opinions torn apart. She said it is very disrespectful and everyone is entitled to their opinion. She said she respects everyone's opinion and warrants the same. She said people are afraid to put anything out there due to retaliation or a rebuttal. She handed Council the list of names. She thanked them for their time and said she knew this was a hard decision but also knew that Council had done their due diligence.

Mr. Jim Kuzelka said a plan was put together and he would very much like to see the police department stay. He said the plan gave Council the option to look at going with (2) full time 40 hour officers, (1) 30 hour officer, and (5) reserve officers. He said now Council is discussing adding (2) 25 hour officers. He agrees with Mr. Shelton that he doesn't want to continue to be a training ground. He said the plan that Mr. Sadler put together with Mr. Joiner and Chief Jordan looked to be a very viable plan to keep our department. He said he didn't go out door to door, however did post something on Facebook that had a high response wanting to keep the department. He said our Village is growing and we are going to have to increase our utility plant size. He said we are a growing community and will need to have a full time police department. He said maybe this isn't the best police department, but with the proposal we could put together a good solid department. He said he doesn't think the Sheriff is the answer. He said the other thing that he is concerned with is if we decided to go with the Sheriff, what happens to all of our equipment. Does it go to the Sheriff as well? Mayor Hammond said no it would not. He said he is really concerned about the amount of coverage we would have with the Sheriff. He said he hasn't seen it work in other areas and doesn't see it working here. Mr. Kuzelka said he thinks we have a great police department that may needs some adjustments. He said it is the Mayor's job to work with the police department and now it is Council's job to decide what they want to do with it. He said by

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some of the comments that have been made, Council has already made up their minds which he feels is a shame. He said the Village is moving forward and feels the police department should move forward too. He said we need to have the identity that the department offers. He said future administrations are going to carry on the legacy of having a department and he asked Council to not stop it now. He said he doesn't want to be like Orient and have everything go to the township.

Officer Kelly started off apologizing to everyone for the position that we are in. He feels that he is responsible for putting the Mayor and Chief in this predicament since having back surgery last year. Ms. Evans said he had nothing to apologize for. It was just bad timing. He said speaking on the contract with the Sheriff, he wanted to point out a few things so that the Village or its residents didn't get taken advantage of. He said it was contracted for 90 hours a week until the rest of the year. He feels the Village will lose control of scheduling the deputies. He gave the example of sending four deputies to cover the Homecoming for 4-5 days, 24 hours a day, he would have used up all of his hours in a short amount of time. He said another concern was using our office as a substation. They would still have to drive to Circleville to fill the cars up with gas taking at least 60 minutes of time away from the Village. Officer Kelly feels that the Village would be giving up control. He said right now if there is a problem, the Mayor can call the Chief something can be worked out. He said the Sheriff could tell him he doesn't have anyone available at the time the Mayor needed him. He said adding the Safety Committee has added professionalism to the department as well. Officer Kelly feels we have a professional department. He said both he and the Chief are EMTs and the only department in the county with AEDs in the cruisers. He doesn't feel the Sheriff is going to be out doing building checks. He said he and Officer Greathouse do a lot of these now. Officer Kelly said he has contacted a lot of people late at night who have left their garage doors open. He said the Sheriff isn't going to do that type of stuff. Officer Kelly feels if Council goes with the Sheriff, they will lose a lot of professionalism for the Village. He said something that will help this department would be if positive things were said about them. He said we have people in this Village that say bad things about the department that are not true. He said if more people attended the Safety meetings and more positive things were said about the department, people would see that we do have great officers working here. He said he would like to see the police department stay in the Village.

Mr. Scott O'Neil asked the Council to please keep our police department. He also asked if there was a way to set up an adopt-a-road program. He said he knows other areas do it and he would like to adopt Walker Road to be able to keep up with the picking up of the trash etc. He said he didn't think it was too costly for the Village to set up. He suggested calling Grove City to see how they did it. He said he would like to adopt the road from the corporation limit sign on the south side of the road all the way to St. Rt. 762. He said in Grove City, they put up signs that say this section is adopted by so and so. He said it is a way to keep things looking beautiful and we might be able to get more people involved.

Mr. Jason Thompson said he would like to keep the police department. He said one thing he heard tonight that he wasn't expecting was Chief's new plan. He said Ms. Evans and Mr. Shelton had some good questions for Chief Jordan. He felt it was a good plan and moving the department in the right direction. He said he would like to see the Village grow. He suggested putting the outcome of the police department on the ballot and let the citizen's vote. He said if the vote is truly not personnel then put it on the ballot. He said the emergency wording is an issue. He said three members of Council campaigned on not having emergency items passed. Mr. Thompson told Council they were elected to represent the people. He said the majority of the people that have been coming to the meeting are for keeping our department. He said if Council doesn't listen to the people, it then is a personnel decision and he doesn't feel personnel feeling should be involved. He said if Council doesn't want to make the decision, put it on the ballot. He asked Council to not pass it as an emergency taking his right away to challenge the legislation.

Ms. Evans said she hears from one person that wants to keep the department and someone else wants to go with the Sheriff. She asked how they do make that decision and if it was something that could go on the ballot. Solicitor Hess said one way could be if Council wanted to put up a police levy. Ms. Evans said that would be voted down because people would have to pay more in taxes. Solicitor Hess said what Mr. Thompson is saying is that the emergency language takes away the right to challenge the legislation. If there was a challenge to the legislation, then the challenge could be put on the ballot for the citizens to vote. Solicitor Hess said he didn't think the topic of to have a department or not have a department was a topic that could actually be placed on the ballot. Mr. Thompson said the vote would be to abolish or not abolish the police department and he had checked with the Board of Elections and it could be an item placed on the ballot if all the paperwork was done. Solicitor Hess said he would have to check on it. Ms. Evans said Council should look into it going on the ballot. Mr. Laxton agreed. He said he did a survey and 50% was for keeping the department and the other 50% was for going with the Sheriff. He said the names that Ms. Geiger collected compared to the names Mr. Joiner collected a few weeks ago are about a 50/50 split as well. Ms. Evans

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asked if enough information could be given to the residents to be able to make a yes or no decision. There was a discussion amongst Council and the residents regarding how to go about making this decision, survey in water bill, door to door, etc.

Mr. Gary Joiner started off by apologizing to Council and residents who have taken a personnel offense to his attitude. He said he has to take accountability for himself and not others. He said he is passionate about this topic with most of his life spent working in this environment. He said he has been to Council meetings, Special Meetings, COW meetings and Committee meetings and has heard some great ideas. He said Ms. Evans challenged Chief Jordan to come up with a plan. He said Chief Jordan did come up with a plan for 90 hours of coverage but Mr. Joiner feels it just isn't enough for Council. He feels putting it on the ballot is the right way to go about it. He said people want to have a say in their community. He thinks the job of the Council is for the infrastructure and to prepare for the growth of the community. He said people who really care about the community will show up and vote on this topic. He again said he hopes they accept his apology and that he meant nothing personnel. Mayor Hammond asked Mr. Joiner how you would put something on a ballot without explaining everything and making sure that the residents have all the information to be able to vote. Mr. Joiner said that Council has between now and November to educate the citizens with public meetings or notices in water bills regarding meetings. He said the ones that care will show up and the others won't. Mr. Joiner said Council does need to do their due diligence and inform the people. Mayor Hammond asked for his information only, what do the people think about the individuals they elected not being able to make a hard decision? He said it could be on roads or anything else. Mr. Joiner said since this has been going on for so long, Council has already past the hard decision timing. He said if Council was going to make this hard leadership decision, it should have been made back in July. He said now it is no longer an emergency and we do have coverage. He said the right thing to do now is allow the community to speak in a controlled open forum. Mr. Joiner said if Council chooses to abolish the department and go with the Sheriff, we will lose all control. He said once the contract is up at the end of the year, the Sheriff can increase the cost and the Village would have no other option but to stay with the Sheriff and pay the money. He said the Village has to supply protection to the residents. Mayor Hammond said it has already been stated that there is an escalation clause in the contract. He said to say they are going to get us with the price is not a valid point and is proven by contracts that are already intact. Mr. Sadler said that is not written in our contract. Mr. Joiner said you have to have that wording specified and it is not in our contract. Mayor Hammond said the contract can be cancelled by either party. Mr. Sadler said it needed a 90 day notice. Mr. Joiner said come to renewal time, we would still have to go along with what he was charging even if it was an additional \$ 40,000.00. He asked Mayor Hammond what he would do at that point. Mayor Hammond said he would go to his superiors. He said that history and fact doesn't substantiate the statement that we would be getting ripped off. Mr. Joiner said no one was saying that we were going to get ripped off but the Sheriff is a politician. He said history has shown that the Sheriff can't manage a budget. Mayor Hammond wanted to clarify that the price increases haven't happened on the other contracts with other villages that he has looked at. Mr. Joiner threw out statistics from other Villages that use the Sheriff for protection and feels that we are being overcharged for services in our 1.4 miles in the Village.

Mr. Randy Nelson said he served with Council and has been a resident for several years. He said the issue with the police department has been around for years. He told Council they are elected officials voted in because the residents didn't like the previous members. He said Council's responsibility is to do what the people want. He said they are here to represent the residents not themselves. Mr. Nelson had a few suggestions for Council. 1) Put together a letter to the community describing the scenarios of having our own department or going with the Sheriff and send it out by itself not with the water bills. He said then have a town meeting if that is what is needed to explain the letter. Let it go on the ballot and if the people want to vote they will and it will be their decision. 2) Sit down and look at the hard numbers to see what you can really afford for a police department including wages and benefits. He said there are a lot of expenses that the people don't realize that go into operating a police department. He said to come up with the number you can afford and then work from there. Don't set the hours of coverage or number of officers until you know what you can spend. Ms. Evans asked if the letter that he spoke about should include the financials. Mr. Nelson said yes.

Resolution 06-2015 – A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE HOUSING FUND 2901-490-399 APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN THE 2015 PERMANENT BUDGET. Mayor Hammond did a first reading, title only.

Resolution 07-2015 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR BULK WATER CONDITIONING SOFTENING SALT, AND DELCARE AN EMERGENCY. Mayor Hammond explained this was to purchase necessary salt for our water plant. He said Cargill was the only bid we received. Mr. Shelton asked if we were out of salt. Mayor Hammond said it is an item that is needed on a continual basis and asked Superintendent Thompson to respond. Mr.

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Shelton asked if this had to be passed by emergency. Superintendent Thompson said it was just a renewal contract that should have been started back in January and was overlooked. Mr. Shelton asked if we needed to pass this as an emergency because we are running out of salt. Mr. Geiger asked if our contract expired in January. Superintendent Thompson said that was correct however the only reason we have a contract is because of the price. He said if we are going to spend over a certain amount of money, we have to have a contract. Solicitor Hess said what Mr. Shelton was asking was if this needed to be passed as emergency because we are out of salt or can it be passed and go into effect in 30 days. Superintendent Thompson said it didn't matter to him because he was going to continue to get the salt he needed for the plant. Mr. Shelton asked if we didn't have the contract would that make the price more expensive. Superintendent Thompson said he didn't think so. Mayor Hammond said this has been to only bidder for this product that last few times we have bid it out so we really don't have a choice. Superintendent Thompson said he understood it as needing the contract because of the dollar amount we are spending on the product. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to suspend the three readings. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes; Mr. Geiger – Yes; Mr. Sadler – Yes; Mr. Wissinger – Yes; Ms. Evans – Yes; Mr. Shelton – Yes. The motion passed. Mr. Laxton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Evans to adopt Resolution 07-2015. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes; Mr. Geiger – Yes; Mr. Sadler – Yes; Mr. Wissinger – Yes; Ms. Evans – Yes; Mr. Shelton – Yes. The motion passed.

At this time, Solicitor Hess said there are two pieces of legislation on the table as well as Resolution 08-2015 that affect the police department. He said Council needs to make some sort of indication on if they are going to move the tabled items off the table. He then explained the procedure to do so. He asked for comments or motions on the tabled items. He said since there were none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.

Resolution 08-2015 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT WITH THE PICKAWAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mayor Hammond explained he and Chief Jordan talked about this at the Safety Committee Meeting. He explained that we are operating with 2 police officers and reserve officers. He said Council asked for 90 hours of coverage however we haven't had 90 hours of coverage for many months. Mayor Hammond said Chief Jordan told him that the minimum amount of time to get someone street ready was 90 days. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to waive the three readings. Mr. Sadler asked if we were bringing in the deputies to help train the new officers. Mr. Geiger said no it was to get us to the 90 hours of coverage. Mr. Sadler said we have had 60 hours of coverage since February. Mayor Hammond said Council demanded 90 hours of coverage and we haven't been able to produce that. He said to get to 90 hours, it will take at least 90 days of training for a new officer. He said this will get us to the 90 hours with no other options. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes; Mr. Geiger – Yes; Mr. Sadler – Yes; Mr. Wissinger – Yes; Ms. Evans – Yes; Mr. Shelton – Yes. The motion passed. Ms. Evans asked if this money would be coming from contractual services. Mayor Hammond said it would. Mr. Sadler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to adopt Resolution 08-2015 and declare an emergency. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes; Mr. Geiger – Yes; Mr. Sadler – Yes; Mr. Wissinger – Yes; Ms. Evans – Yes; Mr. Shelton – Yes. The motion passed.

Resolution 09-2015 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT REGARDING MOWING OF GRASS FOR ALL VILLAGE OWNED PROPERTY FOR 2015. Mayor Hammond said we received three bids with copies of insurance and worker's comp certificates. Mr. Wissinger asked who was going to be doing the work. Mayor Hammond said Agroscares at a cost of \$ 357.55 per mowing. Mayor Hammond said he and Engineer Grosse and Superintendent Thompson sat down and discussed the numbers and feel this is a more cost effective way to get the work done. Mayor Hammond said the money was in the budget. Mr. Wissinger asked where. Mayor Hammond said monies may need to be moved. The price was based on 23 mowing's for the rest of the year. Mr. Shelton said this needed to be passed in order for the mowing to start or else we would have very tall and thick grass that would take a lot of work and money to get mowed. Mayor Hammond said he thought this could be done with a purchase order only, however Solicitor Hess advised that since we were signing a contract, he would rather have legislation proving Council was in agreement. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to waive the three readings. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes; Mr. Geiger – Yes; Mr. Sadler – Yes; Mr. Wissinger – Yes; Ms. Evans – Yes; Mr. Shelton – Yes. The motion passed. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Evans to adopt Resolution 09-2015. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes; Mr. Geiger – Yes; Mr. Sadler – Yes; Mr. Wissinger – Yes; Ms. Evans – Yes; Mr. Shelton – Yes. The motion passed.

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Mr. Sadler asked about confirmation of Officer Greathouse since he has worked for the Village of eight months. Mayor Hammond said he wasn't dragging his feet, however additional information had been asked for from Chief Jordan by himself and Solicitor Hess, which they did receive today. Solicitor Hess said by having problems in the past by not having a formal resolution to confirm someone, it is in the minutes and as a motion however he does not want an oral confirmation. He said he would like to prepare a resolution with the Mayor's recommendation, for Council to vote on. He said this way it will be a formal, proper setting. He said he would like to see it done at a Special Meeting before the COW meeting in May or at the Regular Council meeting in June. Solicitor Hess said the limbo in the police department as the Mayor had said, does cause for complications in the confirmation process. Mr. Shelton said the concern is if the vote was to disband the department, we would owe Officer Greathouse unemployment. He said whether he was confirmed or not we would owe him unemployment money. Solicitor Hess said that was correct. Mr. Shelton said confirmation of new officers might be complicated but Officer Greathouse shouldn't be effected since he has already been working for the Village. Mr. Sadler asked Solicitor Hess why he wanted formal documents. Ms. Evans said since there has never been a paper trail before. Solicitor Hess said the reason he wants a paper trail is due to the issue with former Officer Murphy and Chief Jordan's confirmation is lurking. He has never found where the Village has done a paper trail and he would like to have formal documentation so it is there for the future administrations. Mayor Hammond asked Chief Jordan if there would be a problem having a Special Meeting before the COW meeting. Chief Jordan said we have waited this long. Mr. Shelton said Officer Greathouse has been with us for 8 months but only on his own for 4 months. He feels have a resolution prepared for a special meeting is the right thing to do. Solicitor Hess said he will prepare a motion like he did for Officer Kelly. Solicitor Hess said since we are having a special meeting, he might have a few more pieces of legislation for that meeting.

Chief Jordan wanted to remind Council that he wasn't sure how long the two candidates would wait before they start looking for other places to work. He said this is something that Council needs to be thinking about so we are not having to start over again with the interview process. Solicitor Hess said he would have the confirmation for Officer Greathouse and hopefully an answer from the Board of Elections on placing the police department on the ballot at the next meeting. He said hopefully that will help Council with their decision. Mr. Shelton said we needed to find out if the two candidates were willing to come on for less than 30 hours a week. He asked what the Ohio Law was for granting unemployment. Mayor Hammond said it was based on dollars. He also said Council was pretty lenient with Officer Greathouse in allowing him to work at another job as well as here. He said there is a lot more discussion that needs to be had on the additional officers. Mayor Hammond said the sooner the Council makes a decision, the happier and easier his life will be. He said we cannot sit here without making a decision. He said whatever the decision is, he will work with it and honor it to the very best of his ability.

Mr. Laxton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shelton to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

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Joe Hammond, Mayor

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Wendy L Hastings, Fiscal Officer