

VILLAGE OF McCONNELSVILLE, OHIO
2014 STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS
MAYOR JOHN W. FINLEY

January 2014

As Mayor, I am required by the Ohio Revised Code to present a State of the Village Address to the Village Council at the first meeting of each new year. As I reflect on the year 2013, I realize it has been two very fast years and two months that I have been Mayor of the Village of McConnelsville. Being Mayor is challenging, but it is also very rewarding. The teamwork and rapport that we have developed has proven that you can move mountains as a team. Through teamwork, operating the village as a business, and being frugal with the taxpayers' investments, we have continued to improve the future of the Village of McConnelsville. Looking back, we have accomplished many goals, set many more, and have improved the finances of the village all at the same time.

I am pleased to report the financial status of the village. These numbers are quite an improvement and it proves our diligence in keeping the funds in check through a team effort from all of our council members, our fiscal officer, and our village employees. And we certainly cannot forget the taxpayers who provide the funds for our village to operate. Without the taxpayers and the businesses in our community, we could not exist. If you break down every aspect of the village, we have improved in every single area. And it couldn't have been done without everyone's help, cooperation, patience, perseverance, and teamwork.

As of this writing,

- Our total checking balance is \$1,346,730.15; an increase of \$538,487.40.
- Our General Fund balance is \$488,168.63; an increase of \$221,514.25.
- Our Water Fund balance is \$283,621.12; an increase of \$60,613.54.
- Our Sewer Fund balance is \$201,377.01; an increase of \$81,686.84.
- Our Water Capital Project Fund balance is \$29,873.83; an increase of \$20,605.86. This is money that we are putting away for future repairs and maintenance. This fund was not even available just a few short years ago.

In 2013, we signed a contract for a discount for the village's electric, regulated water and sewer rates so that we are now operating the water budget in the black, and purchased a dump truck, a pickup truck, and a spreader and plow. We received a Block Grant for improvements to the swimming pool, enabling us to install new concrete, new picnic tables, and new trash cans. We were also able to pave the swimming pool driveway and parking lot with the assistance of a Distress Grant. Other projects completed with Distress Grant funds include paving 14 alley locations, paving 1 block of 5th Street, installing a new sidewalk on West Riverside Drive, and replacing broken and missing globes on the downtown area street lights and replacing the bulbs with new LED bulbs in order to save money and energy. With funds received through an Ohio Culture Facilities Grant, we were able to replace the roof on the Opera House bell tower, and with funds from an ARC Grant and local monies, we were able to install a new influent screen and UV disinfection system at the sewer plant, helping in our ongoing efforts to become more green for our environment. Other improvements that were made in 2013 include rebuilding the radio system to meet the new required government standards and also improving the roof and overall appearance of the 14th Street Village Maintenance Facility.

We started several projects in 2013 that will have 2014 completion dates. These projects include repairing or replacing the Hawk Sewer Plant and replacing the pumps at the Kennebec Pump Station with new variable frequency drive motors and replacing the existing valves with check valves. We will use Issue 1 OPWC Grant and local monies for a paving project, and ODNR Grant and local monies for painting and a handicap accessible chair lift at the swimming pool as well as for new boat docks at the wharf lot. We were able to use Distress Grant monies for a new slide that will be installed in 2014 at the swimming pool and also to cover part of the cost for an HVAC system that will be installed in 2014 at the Opera House which will provide a more comfortable atmosphere and potentially draw more visitors to the shows. We will continue to work on the sewer separation project in 2014 with work to be completed on 8th and 9th Streets. Another ongoing project is the streamline water project. We have worked to complete this project, which was started several years ago, and we now need to put an 8" water main in service. We have hired an engineer to help work on the project.

In setting goals and long term plans, continuing to improve for the future of our village has become a new year's resolution for all of us. We must continue improving our infrastructure as well as looking to the future with long range goals and plans. We must continue to work on obtaining grants and funds to assist in the operation of our village. One of the long term goals I am working toward is the possibility of improving our access to the entire community via a new and improved village hall, which would open up its' current location for another business to have a store front. This cannot be done without assistance from grants and special considerations. We must continue to meet mandated EPA requirements and continue special projects that are needed to enhance our community's appeal and safety as well as compliance with federal rules and regulations.

I am extremely proud of our team and their efforts to represent our village fairly and honestly. Our police department, meter reader, village solicitor, village administrator, street and water department, waste water treatment plant and office employees, income tax review board, and council members all work together to achieve common goals in order to obtain a better future for our village.

It has been both an honor and a pleasure again this year to serve as your Mayor for the Village of McConnelsville. I realize each year presents different challenges and while they may complicate or slow our path, through teamwork and dedication we will overcome for the benefit of the entire community.

Mayor John W. Finley
Village of McConnelsville