

VILLAGE OF MCCONNELSVILLE, OHIO
2015 STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS
MAYOR JOHN W. FINLEY

January 6, 2015

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. This will be my fourth address since becoming Mayor in October of 2011. Working together as a team continues to be my approach as Mayor of the Village of McConnelsville. I am very proud of all the accomplishments that we as a team have been able to complete in 2014. We have continued to operate the village in a very efficient manner for the tax-payers by keeping costs to a minimum yet still keeping our wages fair and competitive and our benefits excellent. As Mayor, it is very important to me to make sure we accomplish these goals.

Being fair, honest, and transparent is very important in the daily business of the Village of McConnelsville. We continue to review our infrastructure needs and look for grants and low interest or zero percent loans wherever we can. We also continue to try to improve all aspects of village-owned properties and equipment and keep things maintained and in good working order. When equipment is costing us more than it is worth, we try to replace it in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Our funds are well within the lines of where they need to be, however with the new insurance mandates from the Affordable Care Act, we are concerned about our insurance costs and are watching that closely. We continue to monitor all other costs within the village and compensate our employees fairly, yet keep within the budget. The current total checking balance is \$1,719,761.71, which includes the following:

- General Fund - \$468,537.64 (\$488,168.83 in 2014)
- Streets - \$55,474.64 (\$36,678.46 in 2014)
- Water - \$509,421.81 (\$283,621.12 in 2014)
- Sewer - \$525,300.11 (\$283,063.85 in 2014)
- Water Capital Projects - \$52,856.41 (\$29,873.83 in 2014)

Some of the improvements we made in 2014 include:

- Improvements in our water system by replacing pump and check valves in the Kennebec pump station.
- Funding and partial engineering of the pressure reducing valves to interconnect the Hawk water system to the Kennebec water system. This was a major investment a few years back, but it is still not on-line due to the old lines fracturing when we try to bring the pressure up.
- The village also paved various streets and alleys within the village at a cost of approx. \$120,000.00. Grant funds were used to aid in this cost.
- The Hawk Waste water treatment plant has come back into compliance, which may eliminate the need to replace it at a cost that could be in excess of 1.1 million dollars.
- With grants and low interest loans, we have been able to replace the old outdated furnace in the Opera House and add much needed air conditioning to the Opera House.
- We improved our Wharf Lot Recreation Area with the addition of new and safe walkways and new boat docks which extended the docks from 30ft to 100ft. We will be getting \$29,162.15 back for a Boat Dock Improvement Grant, plus a small final draw for a few items purchased in December.

- We saw improvements to the McConnelsville swimming pool by installing a new slide and have started the installation of a new diving board; all completely funded by grants.
- The Water and Street Department added a new dump truck and plow with new salt spreader just in time for major storms early in 2014. The truck that was replaced had a lot of upcoming expenses in maintenance and repairs, so this addition was certainly welcome.
- We had a successful auction to sell village surplus, which helped to fund some of the other expenses.
- The Waste Water Treatment Plant was able to complete and install the UV improvements and is operating successfully and in full EPA compliance.
- The Police Department added a new police vehicle for 2014, replacing one that needed a lot of repairs. The department is up to full staff and operating professionally and within budget. We also added some new radar equipment and cameras with data recording in every vehicle.

The Village of McConnelsville performed and completed a lot of maintenance and repairs in the year 2014. The need will be the same in 2015 as we have a need for future infrastructure improvement. The village administration is dedicated to performing the best maintenance, repair, and installation of new infrastructure where needed while keeping the costs to our citizens as low as possible. Looking toward the future, we are continually seeking matching money for the Opera House projects as there are several projects within the facility and building we would like to complete. Additionally, we are still seeking funding for the painting and repair of two of our water storage tanks that are in dire need of repair.

Some of our biggest hurdles are meeting the mandated EPA requirements for our sewer/water separation projects. We have another big one in front of us for the year 2015. We have to watch the costs of this closely, but have no choice but to continue to make these much needed improvements. We have been able to secure \$300,000.00 from a Neighborhood Revitalization Grant for the sewer separation and the Hawk/Kennebec water interconnect, which will certainly assist in the very costly enhancements. We have also received a \$400,000.00 grant from the State of Ohio, providing we can find matching funds for it. We have been recommended for approximately \$600,000.00 in grants and zero percent loan money from Ohio Public Works for the required sewer separation. Engineering has almost been completed for the sewer separation projects for 8th, 9th, and 10th Streets. Again, it is federally mandated to make these improvements.

I have personally attended over 27 various meetings and trainings as well as held Mayor's Court and council meetings. I continue to donate all of my mileage and expenses when I go on trips and to meetings and all overnight stays are paid by me personally.

Every council meeting presents new challenges for the council members and village employees, but I strongly feel that overall, because we continue with our team approach and team efforts, the Village of McConnelsville is running smoothly and efficiently. I appreciate any feedback, and constructive criticism is always welcome. I value input from all departments regarding the daily operation of the village and include council in all major decisions. Realizing the Mayor's job is administrative and the council's job is legislative, we still work as a team, accomplishing goals and making major decisions while trying to be fair with our constituents.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor John W. Finley
Village of McConnelsville, OH