

VILLAGE OF McCONNELLSVILLE, OHIO  
2018 STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS  
MAYOR JOHN W. FINLEY

January 2, 2018

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 look back at my tenure as Mayor with the Village of McConnelsville since I took office on Tuesday October 18, 2011 it seems impossible to me that I am entering my 7<sup>th</sup> year as the Mayor of this great village. I have always been so proud to be a part of the Village of McConnelsville and calling it home my entire life. I love the Village of McConnelsville and all that it stands for; it is home and always has been. I take pride in our community, our people, and our heritage. I feel proud and humbled to be given the opportunity to serve as the Mayor for this fine village.

When I look back to the general fund balance in 2012, at the start of that year the balance was \$288,863.55. We have continued to work hard together as a team with all the village employees and village council and today the general fund balance stands at \$596,399.16.

The balance of the other funds are as follows:

Street M & R Fund - \$48,846.95

Water Fund - \$742,239.53

Sewer Fund - \$907,410.37

Water Capital Enterprise Fund - \$113,552.87. We started this fund shortly after I became Mayor.

For the year 2017, all the funds have increased except the Water Fund, and it went down from last years' balance. We did pay \$256,720.00 for the painting of the Hawk tank out of our Water Fund and we made the final payment of \$6,915.80 for the Stand Pipe out of our Water Fund. We also paid the Village of Malta \$8,844.60 more this year than we did last year for our water consumption and usage and the sharing of all their expenses. I am concerned that the balance of our Water Fund went down \$94,509.14. The Fiscal Officer and I have been discussing this and she is concerned as well.

Some of the projects we completed this year include the completion of the Sewer Separation Phase IV CSO, street paving for several streets, some street and alley repairs, painting of the Hawk water tower, coating of the roof at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street building, purchasing a new copier/printer/fax machine, and purchasing a new zero-turn mower. No other major projects were completed in the past year, but several projects were maintained.

We continue to see a loss with the operation of the swimming pool. However, the management that we have operating the pool is doing such a good job that it really helps keeps the losses to a minimum. All of council and this Mayor feels that the village swimming pool is extremely important to not only our village but to the entire county for our children.

I do continue to be concerned about the overall loss of business and professional services within the village and how it hurts the village income. However, I am extremely encouraged by the new house builds in the village as well as the new business start-ups. We need to keep encouraging new businesses and assisting them in any way we can. I am also encouraged by the State of Ohio and ODOT working with the village to improve our road and bridge access into our community and help with improved access to the bridge walking services and with repairs of the bridge. I am also encouraged with the county grant writers' assistance of obtaining funds for the Opera House project for this year. It will go a long way to improve our building, our community, and the opera house in general for years to come.

As we continue to look at ways to improve the village, funding is always the foremost thought in our minds. There is really no way to increase the income for the village aside from water and sewer costs. We are always concerned with water and sewer costs to keep them down as much as we can as we know it's a direct cost for our citizens, but our expenses go up each year just like everyone else's. We did enjoy an influx of business in our community from the pipeline company in town for most of the year and I think this certainly helped our local economy.

I feel that as a team we can take the village to the next level for 2018. As the Mayor, I continually work to keep teamwork and faith in mind as we strive to progress the village forward. I feel that the strength of our village is our strong sense of commitment to our people in our community. The great services provided by our employees within the village with all our employees working together can meet the demands of the community. We continue to try to keep a LEAN philosophy for all departments while processing improvements for all the village.

I would like to close by saying that our village's success has been made possible by the support and involvement of its' citizens, our employees working together, and our village council coming together. I want to thank everyone for their support for the year 2017. As we look forward to 2018 together, let us keep in mind that teamwork is what gets us to where we are going.

Sincerely,  
John W. Finley, Mayor  
Village of McConnelsville