

**VILLAGE OF WAITE HILL
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February 27, 2012

Dear Village Resident,

This update is intended to report on some of the things happening in the Village.

New Police Officer

Patrolman Michael Sevel was sworn in as a member of Waite Hill's police force at Council's February meeting. Patrolman Sevel grew up in Wickliffe and obtained his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Lakeland Community College. He also attended the Police Academy at Lakeland and successfully passed all of the State of Ohio requirements and received his training commission. His dad is currently a Lieutenant in the Willoughby Police Department.

Mike has always wanted to be in law enforcement. He started with the Timberlake Police Department before moving to Bratenahl where he was employed until starting with the Village. Our department did an extensive background check and Mike was very highly recommended by his previous employers, neighbors and references. The Bratenahl Chief of Police did not want to lose him but was unable to offer full-time employment due to funding limitations.

Prior to being hired, Mike rode with each of our existing officers. Each officer believes he is highly competent, will fit in well with the Village and will be a strong addition to the Department. Mike will be working in tandem with our officers over the next few weeks as he is introduced to residents and becomes more familiar with the Village. Please welcome him.

Charter Amendment Initiative

As previously communicated, Council unanimously enacted an ordinance at its December 2011 meeting to put before the voters proposed changes to the Village's

Charter. If approved, the proposed Charter amendments would require any vacancy in the office of Mayor (other than a vacancy in the last year of the then Mayor's term) be submitted to a vote of the people at the next November election, with the Mayor elected by the people to then serve in that role for the balance of the unexpired term. In addition, the amendments would permit a representative of the Mayor to attend the Planning and Zoning meetings as a designated representative when the Mayor is unable to attend.

The proposed Charter amendments are attached and will appear on the March 6th ballot. For the reasons discussed in previous communications, the Village Council, Administration and I are strongly advocating passage of all of the proposed amendments, and we hope that you will join us in voting FOR them on March 6th.

Council Appointment

A subcommittee of the Council consisting of Council President Ryan Cox, Rich Steudel and Courtenay Taplin has interviewed each of the four candidates who expressed an interest to fill the vacancy on Village Council that was created when I was appointed Mayor. We were pleased that each of the four individuals interviewed were strong candidates and passionate about the Village and its future.

The last of the interviews took place this past Friday and the subcommittee shall make its recommendation to the full Council who will then recommend a candidate to me for appointment at the March 12th Council meeting. We will report back to the Village on our new Councilperson after the appointment has been finalized.

Planning and Zoning - The Village's Zoning Code

The Village's Planning and Zoning Commission approved a comprehensive series of amendments to the zoning code that many in the Village have been working on for the past couple of years at their January 23rd meeting. Those amendments will be considered by Council at its April 9, 2012 meeting at 8:00 a.m. at Village Hall for final approval. There will be a public hearing at the meeting prior to any action being taken by Council where residents will be given an opportunity to comment. The Village's outside planning consultant, David Hartt, a highly experienced and well regarded professional in this field, will outline the proposed changes at that meeting and answer any questions that arise.

Village Website

We hope to go live with the Village's website in the next week or two. It needs to be mentioned that this project has proceeded to a conclusion much more quickly than any of us could have anticipated thanks to the hard work and commitment of Councilman Karl Scheucher with a large assist from Clerk-Treasurer Janet Mulh. THANK YOU KARL AND JANET for your efforts on behalf of the Village!

We look forward to the website greatly facilitating communication with our residents on a number of topics that impact the Village. Our domain will be www.waitehilloh.gov, and more details will follow once we go live.

Village Finances

Council's Finance Committee and I have been engaged in a comprehensive analysis and forecast of the Village's revenue sources and expenses as we address the challenges that all municipalities face. We anticipate that during the second quarter of this year, we will roll out a "State of the Village" presentation so that residents can gain a better understanding of our financial position, and so that considered decision making can be made.

As we evaluate the current state of affairs, please do not hesitate to call Village Hall with any questions or concerns that you have. We will do our best to address them. Thank you for your time and interest.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Ranallo

The following proposed changes to the Charter of Waite Hill, Ohio, will be on the March 6, 2012, ballot, as two (2) separate issues:

WAITE HILL VILLAGE ISSUE 1

That existing part subsection 2.17, Vacancy, of Section 2.1, The Office, of Article II, The Mayor, of the Charter of the Village of Waite Hill, be amended to read and provide, in its entirety, as follows:

“2.17 Vacancy.

If the office of Mayor becomes vacant, the President of Council shall forthwith become Mayor ~~for the unexpired term~~. The Vice President of Council shall then become President of Council. Thereafter, a new Vice President shall be chosen by Council. If the President of Council declines to serve as Mayor, the Vice President of Council shall forthwith become Mayor ~~for the unexpired term~~. If the President and Vice President of Council both decline to serve as Mayor, Council shall then appoint, by a majority vote of its members, one of its members as Mayor ~~for the unexpired term~~. After the vacancy in the office of Mayor is filled, the vacancy on Council shall be filled in the manner provided hereinafter. If a Mayor-elect fails to qualify for office, a vacancy shall be deemed to exist and the President of Council elected at the next organizational meeting shall become Mayor ~~for the balance of the term~~. **A Mayor taking office by operation of this section shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified for office. Said election shall be held at the next regular general election occurring more than one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of the initial vacancy in office. The petitions for candidates seeking said office shall be filed not later than four o'clock p.m. on the ninetieth day before said election. The successor shall begin serving the first day of January of the year next following the election and shall serve either for the balance of the unexpired term or for the full term, if applicable, to which he or she is elected.”**

WAITE HILL VILLAGE ISSUE 2

That existing part subsection 7.11, Composition, of Section 7.1, Planning and Zoning Commission, of Article VII, Boards and Commissions, and that existing part subsection 7.31, Composition, of Section 7.3, Architectural Board of Review, of Article VII, Boards and Commissions, of the Charter of the Village of Waite Hill, be amended to read and provide, in their entirety, as follows:

“SECTION 7.11 Composition. There shall be a Planning and Zoning Commission consisting of five (5) members, one of whom shall be the Mayor **or the Mayor’s designee**, one of whom shall be a member of Council appointed by his fellow councilmen at the organizational meeting of Council, and the remaining three (3) shall be electors to be appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by a majority of Council.

Of the three (3) appointees first appointed by the Mayor, one shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, one shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and one shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year; thereafter, the terms of such appointments shall be for three (3) years.”

“SECTION 7.31 Composition. There shall be an Architectural Board of Review consisting of five (5) members, one of whom shall be the Mayor **or the Mayor’s designee**, one of whom shall be a member of Council appointed by his fellow Councilmen at the

Organizational meeting of Council, and the remaining three (3) shall be electors appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of Council. Of the three (3) appointed members who are first appointed by the Mayor, one shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, one shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and one shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year; thereafter, the terms of such appointments shall be for three (3) years. In addition to the five (5) members of the Board, there shall be at least two (2) Architect Advisors who are licensed and registered architects in the State of Ohio and who need not be residents of the Village of Waite Hill. Architect Advisors to the Board shall not be members of the Board and shall have no vote on matters before the Board, but at least one Architect Advisor must be present in order for the Board to conduct its meeting. All Architect Advisors shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of Council, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.”