

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH LEBANON  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2011  
6:30 P.M.**

1. Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
2. Randall Atkins - Present                      Glenn Holloway – Present  
    Sherri Carbo – Absent                      Bill Madison – Present  
    Dean Evans – Absent                      Jeff Sturtevant – Absent
3. Mayor Smith stated we need to have a majority and we are one short so we cannot take any action on the special meeting but what we can do is give the reports and send to the regular council meeting. He said there are three items on the agenda and one is to award the Rivers Edge bid. He asked Bruce Brandstetter to cover that. Mayor Smith said the reason for Rivers Edge being on the agenda was to award the bid as soon as possible and give us four extra days. The bids were opened and now we will have to vote on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Bruce Brandstetter – Brandstetter Carroll – Bruce gave council reports and explained they have the bid tab and that there were seven bids received. He stated the low bid was Barrett for \$48,730 and there is no reason not to hire them. He told council they have a letter of recommendation from Brandstetter Carroll and council can let us know Friday after the vote and we can get that work scheduled. Council member Holloway asked if the catch basins are to be done too and was told that yes they are and are already prepared.

Council member Madison stated this is good news for Rivers Edge folks they have waited for awhile and we got it in on this year's schedule.

4. Mayor Smith said we need advice from our solicitor on the Zoar Road project. They were under the bid threshold and a separate project from Rivers Edge. Mayor Smith stated that council already approved the work. He asked if the administrator could award that job. Keith said if it is a separate project and under the threshold then yes he can.
5. Mayor Smith said that in the last year we have made major water improvements and with the connection with Cincinnati Water Works we had asked council to apply for funding if it was available. We have been informed that the village has been awarded the additional funding. It is great news that we will have additional funding to support our projects. Bruce reviewed with council one of his hand outs and stated that they prepared the document in April and it has been revised. He reviewed all the projects and

how they will be funded. He said it frees up local cash in the amount of \$200,000 which is a good thing. Mayor Smith said we met with EPA and they were impressed with all we have done. Mayor Smith explained the multiple connections and with the 12" line back in service we can push water and give help to the south side. He stated the estimate for coming on line with Cincinnati Water in December. Mayor Smith said it is a great position for us and EPA looked favorably on us for funding because of how aggressive we have been. He said this puts us in a great position for the future because we will have multiple water sources.

6. Mayor Smith stated that now we know our transition time our production costs will go down. There are several components that have impacted our system and one is the 240 new units in Waters Bend. They are the first new customers to our base in this area.

Mayor Smith said with our financial officer keeping us abreast of things as far as our financial issues and if you will remember she came to the council some time back that we were in the position to pay a loan off nine years early. So now we have three components, the water works with soft water, lower rate and debt reduction under our fiscal officer and councils watch. One of the most impressive parts is the 240 new units along with the commercial customers. In the past the village residents had to absorb the cost of utilities with no new customers. With these components our savings equates to about \$2.00 per month so we are going to push forward for a \$2.00 reduction and this will be first since 1951. He stated he does not know of any municipality in the State of Ohio has reduced a utility. I recommend that we go forward with the reduction based on the connection date with Cincinnati Water Works. A perfect Christmas gift for folks, they get soft water and a reduction. It is up to the council but administration recommends to move forward with this. Although we cannot take action tonight this will be taken to the regular meeting.

Council member Madison said this is a huge benefit to our village citizens because they will receive soft water and it also defers risks because before when we were in production we had to divide any EPA requirements among the residents and we have a redundant source of water. It is no secret that the water table over the years has lowered and now we have another source. It is a huge service to the community and of course we have additional customers and it gives us the opportunity to finally lower the water rates.

Council member Holloway stated it is a good thing and he thinks the people will appreciate something going down instead of up.

Council member Madison said he would like to thank Jim for taking the initiative when he found out Mason was going with Cincinnati Water,

to investigate and bring it to council and now our community is benefiting. Mayor Smith said we were fortunate the way council worked together going across St. Rt. 48 and made the connection saving a million dollars. Linda Scott from the Western Star asked for clarification on the sources of water and the connections were explained. Madison stated that this benefits the community because with Cincinnati Water we do not have to build a \$200,000 + water tower. Council member Atkins explained that we will not be producing water.

The EPA loan was explained that \$235,000 is the cost for project and engineering. Of that 40% will be forgiven and the rest will be at 0% interest and paid over 30 years. Linda Scott asked if we have a contract with Cincinnati Water and was told yes.

7. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:05 p.m. by Madison, seconded by Holloway, all yeas.

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Sharon Louallen, Fiscal Officer

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James D. Smith, Mayor