

Present: Karl Biasi, Mike Morofsky, Bill Matt, Suzanne Salay, Kathy Miles, Shawn Cox.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00.

County Commission - Dale Copedge informed us that their budget will have a 5.3 million shortfall this year. They are currently negotiating retiree health care. Mary Lanoye is doing a great job and they are very happy to have her on board. The County Recorder can no longer do passports due to a new Federal law separating it from birth and other records for security. Other departments and the Lansing City Clerk are setting up to handle passports.

Police report - Police Chief Teresa Szymanski brought crime maps and discussed the fatal shooting at Bank of America. Officers responded to an alarm at approximately 3:30 am to find a 17 year-old woman in the bank. When she lunged at officer Rendon with a knife, she was shot. Miss Clay was a Lansing resident. The investigation has been turned over to the State Police crime lab. Their report will be given to Prosecutor Dunning who will review it and then turn it over to LPD Internal Affairs. After their investigation, a public statement will be issued. This process will take some weeks to complete. The FBI is working with the investigation of the robbery at PNC bank in Colonial Village. There is a potential link between that robbery and the one at the PNC on south Cedar.

It is suspected that the shooting of 2 teens recently is related. The question was raised asking if the majority of teen crime was related to drugs or domestic disagreements. Chief Szymanski agreed that it usually is. She noted that Lansing is experiencing an increase in heroin trafficking. The police department has a Peace Initiative that helps teens get jobs and uses other means to prevent violence. Pat suggested a youth group to help the elderly with yard work and other jobs. The chief thought that was an excellent suggestion.

Shawn Cox thanked the police for all they do and expressed sympathy and prayers for the officer involved in the shooting. Chief Szymanski noted that violence is increasing nationwide.

The custodian from Colonial Village Baptist church informed us that the church was broken into and ransacked on two successive days last week. This is in addition to recent break-ins at Quality Dairy, the Citgo gas station and the beauty shop all around Colonial Village shopping center. Captain Hall is in charge of those investigations.

A concern was raised about two neighbors who have an ongoing dispute and if the LPD could send an officer to mediate. Chief Szymanski said that officer Andy Norton on days could be reached at 483-9105 or officer Kasha Osborn on afternoons at 483-6868 are available to assist in resolving the problem.

The police department budget was discussed. Currently the department has 220 officers and may lose 60 due to budget constraints. Of that number, 115 are assigned to patrol with some in other capacities able to help when needed. Under consideration are the elimination of motorcycle patrols and the 4 high school officers as well as cutting Special Operations and detectives in half. Road patrol officers would be cut from 17 to 19 per day to 14 or 15. There is also a possibility that petty theft would be reported on-line instead of an officer coming to the site. It was noted that even if the millage passes, there will still be cuts to the police department.

A question was asked about the status of the brick house at the Elmhurst school boundary. Apparently the owners moved to California and abandoned the house. Last year the copper plumbing was stolen. The law is vague about this and no clear resolution is known at this time. We were very appreciative of Chief Szymanski taking the time to come and talk to us.

Minutes of November, 2010 and February 2011 were presented, Anita motioned to accept and June seconded.

Treasurers Report - Last month's balance was \$759.44. We had donations of \$32 at the last meeting. Expenses for the Holiday Lighting contest were \$100. The current balance is \$691.44.

Committee Report - Karl reminded us that the Neighborhood Sale is May 21st. He will chair it and Evie Bush has

volunteered to help with that.

Area 1 Report Mike Morofsky reported that Sergeant Spoelma is no longer in our area. The new contact is Sergeant Cantlon for the day shift and he can be reached at 483-4656. Mike also asked for pictures of flowers for the next meeting.

Area 2 Report. Jay wrote to be excused. No other report.

Area 3 Report. Bill reported that there was a house fire at 1717 Holly Way. All family members got out safely and are living with family. Kevin Goforth of Code Compliance reported that the fire was extensive.

Code Compliance Kevin Goforth reported that he has been very busy covering our area while still clearing cases in his previous area. Walter assists him and is about 5 weeks behind on issuing red tags. He was asked to explain what the various tags mean. Under the Neighborhood Enhancement Area Team or NEAT, the pink rectangular tag means a house is safe to occupy but the landlord had repairs that need to be made. Green tags mean there is a lack of utilities. Yellow tag means the residence is substandard. A red tag means the house is unsafe. Note that if a building has a green, yellow or red tag on it, it is not supposed to be occupied. Call police if you see activity at these houses. Craig Whitford is in charge of the NEAT enforcement but is currently in the hospital due to an accident so there will be some delays in enforcement.

There is growing safety concern with houses being used for marijuana growing operations. This uses a large amount of electricity and many of these houses do not have upgrades to wiring to handle the increase in current. This presents a hazard for the house and its neighbors. He reports no Meth labs found recently as many are going to mobile labs in cars.

SLADA -Chris Herrmann, Liaison for Colonial Village shopping center improvement. In May in conjunction with Step Up Lansing, he is looking for volunteers to help clean the parking lot, put up hanging flower baskets and fill planter boxes. Please contact him if you wish to help.

Pat reported that the L&L store at Jolly and MLK has been bought by a Grand Rapids grocery chain and they will be in the store by next month.

Speaker - Steve Chalker, Lansing Recycling Coordinator, spoke about the new Single Stream Recycling program. He said that Lansing has a 100 year history of trash collection and the longest operating bag operation in the country. In 1998 the citizens voted a residential assessment for curbside recycling that is currently \$67. The special assessment pays for recycling (all residential up to 4 units per building) and trash is paid for by the bag and bin fees (with out any general funds needed). Other collection is paid for by cart rental or bag purchases. The price of bags will remain the same at \$8.75 a roll. Bags are made in Petosky.

The new name for both systems is Capital Area Recycling and Trash (CART) and soon the logo on the trucks will reflect that change. The single stream system enables the city to pick most household recyclables without residents having to sort or bundle. He explained that recycled materials are a valuable commodity and source of revenue for the city. This system saves the city money in several ways; 1. employees do not have to sort at the collection site but are able to quickly dump the bin into a compactor truck; 2. employees are on a 4 day work week with a 9 hour shift, Saturday and holiday overtime have been eliminated under this system. 3. materials are sent to a MURPH facility in Ann Arbor. This facility is owned by the city of Ann Arbor and run by a private company. In the first year of single stream recycling there has been a 50% increase of materials collected. They expect a 20 to 30% increase in succeeding years. In the future, carts may become available for recycling. A pilot program will be put in place soon to test whether that is viable.

Our tax dollars pay for recycling yet some small businesses or out of city residents use the drop-off sites even though they do not pay into the system. The drop-off center on South street will be closed within the month and that will be the site of the new central garage.

An interesting note was that half of recycling materials are shipped to China. He also mentioned that 70% of city of Lansing customers recycle while only 30% of residents using private companies do.

Note you must have your green bin out or the truck will not stop. Overflow materials may be put in an additional container but be sure to label it "save" if you want to keep it.

See your Greensheet brochure that is mailed to all residences for what items are allowed in the bin and the pink sheet for hard to recycle items. You will also find a list of upcoming events there. If you do not have this information or need a bin you can call 483-4400 or e-mail recycle@lansingmi.gov. Mr. Chalker can be contacted at the same number. We thanked him for a very interesting and informative talk.

City Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson had a Girl Scout meeting scheduled and asked to be excused. Kathy Dunbar restated some of the budget points made by Chief Szymanski. She also said there are garden plots still available behind the church .

Evie Bush, CVNA's Immediate past Vice President, thanked us for the condolence card and flowers sent in sympathy of her husband Gary's passing.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.