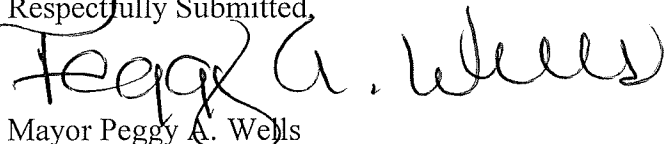


BLV Mayor's Report
January 28, 2019

1. Thanks to all our outside staff – code enforcement, fire, police, street, water and zoning – for getting the job done during this very cold month. Your dedication is appreciated.
2. Thanks to council member Bill French for sitting in for me at the January 16th BLR2030 Corporation meeting in Millersport.
3. We've been working with North Valley Bank to secure financing for a new police cruiser. The cruiser would be purchased off the State of Ohio bid list.
4. We are setting up appointments to interview several prospective village solicitor candidates and will be sharing their resumes with village council members.
5. Last week, I administered the oath of office to Maple Bay resident Michael Powell as a firefighter/paramedic. He is an officer with the Columbus Division of Fire's Rescue 16 which is reported to be one of the busiest heavy rescue units in the country.
6. I've been talking with County Auditor Michael Smith about reviewing all the real property owned by the village. We will be filing for real estate tax exemptions and refunds for property taxes paid in the last five years. If successful, the refunds could total several thousand dollars.
7. We are continuing our boot-strap renovation of the village offices to provide a better work area for the clerk/treasurer, work areas for code enforcement and zoning and a more efficient workflow. We recently purchased some used commercial grade cabinets and countertops for a very reasonable price. They have been installed to create a break area for employees. During this work, we have discovered that much of the insulation in the ceiling is not functional. We are seeking estimates to replace this insulation so we can reduce our heating and cooling bills.
8. We've been working on a new logo design for our business cards, apparel and vehicles.
9. Jefferson Health Plan (JHP) first offered to settle with the Stark County General Health District group its claims for repayment of the approximately \$9 million that JHP loaned to OPEC- HC. The specific percentage is a confidential settlement communication, but it is less than 50¢ on the dollar. Mark Stemm, the Porter Wright attorney for our OPEC- HC intervenors' group (includes Village of Hebron and Licking and Union townships in Licking County), was able to get the same terms for our group from JHP. JHP reports that some former members have already paid 100 percent and that they don't plan to expand the offer beyond the two parties. Our attorney is seeking clarification from JHP and the receiver on whether acceptance of the JHP settlement would really protect us from any additional liability from JHP and the receiver on the sums that JHP loaned to OPEC-HC. We may have to make a decision very quickly and as early as January 31. We have been well represented by Mark Stemm and at minimal cost thanks to our group's cost sharing. The City of Steubenville is paying the largest portion of the legal fees. I plan to follow Mark's recommendation. The settlement, if accepted, could cut our possible liability to JHP to about \$9,000. We still face some \$2 – 4,000 in additional claims if a December entry in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas allowing the receiver to pay other claims (had been restricted to medical bills) stands. Both groups (Stark County and us) are trying to appeal that entry. The judge posting the entry retired at the end of the year so a rookie judge will now be making the decision. A decision is expected in the next 30 days.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mayor Peggy A. Wells