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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO

IN RE:	)	
	)	
NORTH CANTON	)	
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	)	
VIRTUAL MEETING	)	
	)	<b>TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS</b>
	)	

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Transcript of Proceedings held virtually before North Canton City Council, taken by the undersigned, Shannon Newhall, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the offices of North Canton City Hall, 145 North Main Street, North Canton, Ohio, on Monday, the 19th day of April, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

- Daniel Jeff Peters, Chairman
- Douglas Foltz, Member
- Stephanie Werren, Member
- Daryl Revolt, Member
- Mark Cerreta, Member
- Dominic Fonte, Member
- Matthew Stroia, Member
- Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- Patrick DeOrio, Director of Administration
- Catherine Farina, Deputy Director of Administration
- Jina Alaback, Director of Finance
- Robert Graham, PE
- Martin B. Van Gundy, IV, Chief Building Officer
- Benjamin Young, Council Clerk

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1 MR. YOUNG: All right. It's 7:00.

2 MR. PETERS: All right. Let me know when  
3 we are up.

4 MR. YOUNG: We are ready when you are.

5 MR. PETERS: All righty. Thank you, Ben.  
6 At this time, I would like to call to order  
7 the North Canton Committee of the Whole  
8 meeting, April 19th, 2021. The time is 7:00  
9 p.m.

10 Ben, would you please call the roll?

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

12 MR. STROIA: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters.

14 MR. PETERS: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

16 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Cerreta.

18 MR. CERRETA: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte.

20 MR. FONTE: Here.

21 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz.

22 MR. FOLTZ: Here.

23 MR. YOUNG: And Member Werren.

24 MS. WERREN: Here.

25 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

1 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you very  
2 much. First up, community and economic  
3 development. Chairman Revoldt, the floor is  
4 yours.

5 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Thank you -- thank  
6 you, Mr. President. Item 3A, we have an  
7 amendment to Chapter 1182, how our zoning map  
8 will be amended. And if you'll notice in  
9 your packets, we have a one-page description  
10 of this new process.

11 This is going to do two things. The  
12 first is it's going to streamline the process  
13 for amending the zoning map. But I think  
14 more importantly is that if you get down to  
15 Section 2, just that we are going to run this  
16 through, in part, the Clerk's office.

17 And, Ben, feel free to jump in here. But  
18 the whole idea is to make sure we have got  
19 somebody who's accountable. We have had some  
20 situations in the past where perhaps changes  
21 had been made, and they never quite make the  
22 map.

23 So what we want to do is make sure that  
24 we have a smooth and simple process, but we  
25 also make sure that the changes actually get

1 recorded. Ben, how does that sound?

2 MR. YOUNG: Sounds just about right.  
3 What this really focuses on is lowering the  
4 application requirements.

5 MR. REVOLDT: Yes.

6 MR. YOUNG: A, making it easier for --  
7 and cheaper for members of the public to  
8 apply for zoning amendments. And then B, not  
9 making us handle information that we don't  
10 really need to make a zoning amendment, such  
11 as a topography map.

12 At this point, we have access to that  
13 information easily and quickly through the  
14 auditor's website, so we don't really need  
15 people to submit topography maps anymore.  
16 And that's just an example of something we  
17 are getting rid of.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Streamline and  
19 accountability. So thank you, Ben. Do we  
20 have any questions or comments from the  
21 Council?

22 MR. PETERS: No, sir.

23 MR. REVOLDT: If not -- excuse me?

24 MR. PETERS: No.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. If not then, I'll

1 make a motion that we put this on the agenda  
2 for a first reading next Monday night.

3 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

4 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

5 MR. FONTE: It's going to be on  
6 emergency, right? Is that correct?

7 MR. REVOLDT: It does. I mean, we can  
8 give it one reading Monday night and bring it  
9 back a second time, if you'd like, Dom.

10 MR. FONTE: I'm good with an emergency.  
11 I mean, as long as it makes it easier, more  
12 cost effective and efficient for the  
13 consumers, I think -- I'm all for that.  
14 Okay?

15 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Perfect. It does  
16 have an emergency clause in it.

17 MR. PETERS: All right. So we have a  
18 motion and a second. All in favor, say  
19 "aye."

20 MR. FOLTZ: Aye.

21 MR. PETERS: Aye.

22 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

23 MR. CERRETA: Aye.

24 MR. FONTE: Aye.

25 MS. WERREN: Aye.

1 MR. STROIA: Aye.

2 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. PETERS: All right. Motion carries.

5 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Okay. Item 2 is we  
6 are bringing back, as we indicated, a new  
7 Main Street District regulations. We had  
8 some amendments from our work session. And  
9 if you'll notice on page 7 of your packet, we  
10 have got the changes.

11 Ben has prepared a cheat sheet for us,  
12 and these will be incorporated next Monday  
13 night. So what I'd like to do is have  
14 everybody take a quick peek at this, and then  
15 next Monday night, we'll amend the ordinance  
16 for its second reading and insert these, and  
17 then flip them over to the Planning  
18 Commission.

19 MR. YOUNG: Tonight.

20 MR. REVOLDT: Yes.

21 MR. YOUNG: The Planning Commission is on  
22 Wednesday.

23 MR. REVOLDT: Is that Wednesday?

24 MR. FONTE: Hey, Daryl, quick question.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah.

1                   MR. FONTE:  Dom here.  Did we mention  
2                   anything -- I know we were talking about the  
3                   light poles with the LEDs and that.  Is it  
4                   possible in the appropriate areas to be able  
5                   to go up an additional 10 feet to 30, instead  
6                   of 20?  Is that anywhere to be found in this  
7                   section or any section of the Main Street  
8                   District?

9                   MR. REVOLDT:  I don't see it.

10                  MR. FONTE:  That would be something, Pat,  
11                  if you can help, maybe see if we can -- like  
12                  in commercial areas, where it's not right up  
13                  against residential.  And the people that  
14                  got -- went up to Green, where -- you know,  
15                  it really looks good.

16                  MR. REVOLDT:  Would you chase that for us  
17                  for next week then?

18                  (No response.)

19                  MR. REVOLDT:  Okay.  Are there any other  
20                  questions or suggestions for this?  And I'll  
21                  come back to the map in just a minute.  Is  
22                  there anything else?

23                  (No response.)

24                  MR. REVOLDT:  Okay then.  I'm going to  
25                  make a motion that we include these



1 amendments.

2 MR. CERRETA: One other thing, Daryl, if  
3 you don't mind, because I'm looking -- I  
4 thought maybe we were going to go through  
5 these, but we are not. Okay. I did have  
6 some suggestions I didn't see on here.

7 One was about fencing. You know, one of  
8 the best things we have in our community  
9 or -- or one of the most classiest things, I  
10 think, is fencing with both stone and wrought  
11 iron kind of looking.

12 And in here, the fencing is just  
13 either -- it -- it pretty much gets you away  
14 from that. It doesn't allow you to have a  
15 stone wall. And there is nothing like a nice  
16 stone wall around a restaurant with fencing  
17 that's wrought iron or something.

18 So maybe I'm missing that. But I know  
19 that was one of my suggestions. I didn't see  
20 it in there. Maybe -- so I want to know why  
21 that didn't make it.

22 MR. REVOLDT: Okay.

23 MR. CERRETA: And then --

24 MR. REVOLDT: Would --

25 MR. CERRETA: Let me finish here, just --

1 I got two of them on there. And then wrought  
2 iron, wrought iron is in this, which is  
3 great, but it doesn't have to be exactly  
4 wrought iron. Wrought iron is very  
5 expensive. So maybe with a look-alike  
6 wrought iron, you know, that's made out of  
7 aluminum. You know, so the word "wrought  
8 iron" sometimes could be -- you know, that's  
9 really, really expensive if you go with pure  
10 wrought iron.

11 MS. WERREN: Great suggestion.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. So, Mark, let me --  
13 let me see if I can capture this for you.  
14 What you would like is to see something that  
15 permits wrought iron or an esthetic  
16 substitute. How does that sound?

17 MR. CERRETA: Yeah. You know, look-alike  
18 substitute.

19 MR. FONTE: Yeah, I'd say look-alike,  
20 similar to the look of wrought iron.

21 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Very good.

22 MR. YOUNG: So if -- if I may, I believe  
23 the -- we did try to incorporate Member  
24 Cerreta's suggestion. So what I have  
25 highlighted on the screen here, from your

1 description, we understood it to be similar  
2 to like the fence that has been put in next  
3 to the Saint Paul's parking lot, where it's  
4 primarily wrought iron, but then it has stone  
5 support columns.

6 MR. CERRETA: That's part of it. It  
7 could be a wall, though, that's like 3 feet  
8 high or 4 feet high, and then -- and then,  
9 you know, wrought iron on -- you know, for  
10 gates. So, you know, I have seen stone  
11 walls, but then the gates are wrought iron  
12 looking thing. That's pretty classy. We  
13 don't even allow that for restaurants or  
14 anything like that.

15 MR. DEORIO: Mark, I don't think that a  
16 stone wall would constitute a fence. So, I  
17 mean, that would be governed by the -- the  
18 zoning that deals with walls.

19 MR. CERRETA: Well, it says on pools and  
20 that. It puts in there you can have a stone  
21 wall or a -- fencing is -- you know, it's  
22 a -- it's a -- what do you want to call it --  
23 a separation kind of a thing. So, okay,  
24 if -- so are you saying then, Pat -- and I  
25 get it, if that's the case -- someone can put

1 a stone wall up and not really call it a  
2 fence then?

3 MR. DEORIO: That's right.

4 MR. CERRETA: Okay. Then I'm good with  
5 that.

6 MR. DEORIO: I mean, it can be used --  
7 yeah.

8 MR. CERRETA: That makes sense. Okay.

9 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. We good, Mark?

10 MR. CERRETA: Yeah. Yeah. Again,  
11 though, I'd like to get back to what Ben  
12 said, though, you know, that wrought iron  
13 kind of look. Because, I know, you know,  
14 people always put -- it's aluminum now. It's  
15 not real wrought iron.

16 MR. REVOLDT: Mark, I'm looking at  
17 1136.15, what's on the screen, and it is on  
18 page 15 of the packet. It's item 1136.15(B),  
19 wrought iron or wrought iron simulation  
20 fences.

21 MR. CERRETA: Good. Okay. I didn't see  
22 it on the thing that we had in front of us  
23 here.

24 MR. REVOLDT: Yes, but it is here.

25 MR. CERRETA: Okay. Good.

1 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Let's keep reading  
2 this. Again, we need to nip -- we need to --  
3 need to look for these little -- little  
4 tweaks. So we'll send this on to the  
5 Planning Commission. We'll send it for  
6 our -- with these changes for Monday night,  
7 next Monday.

8 So I -- I guess I need a motion to do  
9 those things. And I'll make that motion. Do  
10 I have a second?

11 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

12 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

13 MR. FOLTZ: Aye.

14 MR. PETERS: Aye.

15 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

16 MR. CERRETA: Aye.

17 MR. FONTE: Aye.

18 MS. WERREN: Aye.

19 MR. STROIA: Aye.

20 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you.

23 MR. PETERS: Motion carries.

24 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Item 3C is simply  
25 the change to -- we are going -- we are going

1 to eliminate the previous map of -- of -- and  
2 language. I don't think that's particularly  
3 controversial. So we'll continue on that  
4 path. Are there any questions about that?  
5 Again, we are just erasing from the books the  
6 existing language and substitute with the  
7 new.

8 MR. PETERS: We are good.

9 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Very good then. Do  
10 we need a motion? I'll make a motion that we  
11 continue this. Is there a second?

12 MR. PETERS: Yeah.

13 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. President.

14 MR. PETERS: I'll second it.

15 MR. REVOLDT: All in favor, say "aye."

16 MR. FOLTZ: Aye.

17 MR. PETERS: Aye.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

19 MR. CERRETA: Aye.

20 MR. FONTE: Aye.

21 MS. WERREN: Aye.

22 MR. STROIA: Aye.

23 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Let's get on to 3D.  
24 This is the one that we need to make a couple  
25 changes. If you'll notice on the cheat

1 sheet, we are going to have some deletes and  
2 an add. It's at the very bottom of the page.  
3 What we are going to do is we are going to  
4 add a parcel to the Main Street District.  
5 This is the one that's City-owned on  
6 Stratavon property -- this is the Stratavon  
7 properties. We are going to add those.

8 And we are going to then -- we are going  
9 to delete parcels on Portage Street. And  
10 these are the residential properties that run  
11 from basically Hillcrest, east to the school.

12 MR. PETERS: Daryl, forgive me here, what  
13 page are we on?

14 MR. REVOLDT: We are looking at -- we are  
15 looking at the bottom of page -- hang on a  
16 second -- of 7.

17 MR. PETERS: Okay. Got you.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. And we'll have those  
19 parcel numbers. But we are going to just  
20 clean up -- we have some residents up in  
21 Doug's ward who prefer not to be included in  
22 the new Main Street District, so we are going  
23 to -- we are going to delete those and leave  
24 them as is.

25 MR. PETERS: Okay.

1 MR. REVOLDT: Did I do okay on that?

2 MR. FOLTZ: Yeah. Daryl, do we have a --  
3 do we have a map now to look at, or is that  
4 something that's going to come later?

5 MR. REVOLDT: It's going to come.

6 MR. FOLTZ: Okay.

7 MR. REVOLDT: I think the only parcel  
8 that is not going to be removed is the City  
9 parking lot, which is on the east side of  
10 Northminister Church. But everything else is  
11 going to -- is going to come off and remain  
12 as is.

13 MR. FOLTZ: Okay. Appreciate it.

14 MR. REVOLDT: And I think that will make  
15 everybody happy.

16 MR. FONTE: Daryl, Dom here. So let's  
17 say, for example, in Doug's ward, the  
18 residents, you know, in six months to a year  
19 change their mind and think it's a good idea  
20 that they would like to be back in. Is it --  
21 what's the procedure to be able to do that?

22 MR. REVOLDT: It will be just like  
23 amending the zoning ordinance. You'll have  
24 to come back in and come in -- come in for a  
25 zone change.



1 MR. FONTE: Okay.

2 MR. REVOLDT: But, you know, again,  
3 that's a -- that's a -- that's a decision  
4 that the residents and the Council will want  
5 to weigh.

6 MR. FOLTZ: Uh-huh.

7 MR. REVOLDT: And, you know, I think one  
8 of the things we want to be mindful of -- and  
9 I have often said this before -- is that  
10 zoning exists to protect the people who make  
11 the initial investment.

12 MR. CERRETA: Yep.

13 MR. REVOLDT: And we want to make sure  
14 that if those residents want a change, that  
15 it's something that -- it's something that is  
16 acceptable --

17 MR. FOLTZ: Neighbor's do. Yeah.

18 MR. REVOLDT: -- to the neighbors.

19 MR. FOLTZ: Hey, Ben, is that your John  
20 Madden scribbling --

21 MR. YOUNG: Yeah.

22 MR. FOLTZ: Is that your teleprompter,  
23 John Madden, you know, zoning map look here?

24 MR. REVOLDT: No. He's going to be --  
25 after the meeting.

1 MR. DEORIO: He doesn't even know who  
2 John Madden is, Doug.

3 MR. FOLTZ: Yeah. Okay. Well, I knew  
4 you guys would know. Well, who's doing that  
5 right now?

6 MR. YOUNG: I was going to say. Yeah.

7 MR. FONTE: He was a big-time wrestler.

8 MR. FOLTZ: You know John Madden, don't  
9 you?

10 MR. YOUNG: I do not. Sorry.

11 MR. PETERS: Oh, my God.

12 MR. CERRETA: Oh, my gosh is right.

13 MR. FONTE: He's a U -- UCF Champion.

14 MR. CERRETA: Tony Romo has kind of taken  
15 that over a little bit.

16 MR. FOLTZ: Yeah, you're right. Mark,  
17 you're right. Tony Romo is the new guy.  
18 You're right.

19 MR. CERRETA: All right.

20 MR. FOLTZ: Yeah. Thanks for drawing  
21 that out. That shows everything that we need  
22 to be looking at to change. Thank you, Ben.

23 MR. REVOLDT: We'll get this -- we'll get  
24 this squared away, but this is -- this is,  
25 again, what the map will be -- will be

1           amended and adjusted. So if we don't have  
2           any further questions, we are going to add  
3           Stratavon to the north. We are going to  
4           delete the properties here that have  
5           been John Maddenized. And we'll have -- and  
6           we'll pitch this over to the Planning  
7           Commission as well and have it for our next  
8           reading an as amendment. So I'll make that  
9           motion. Is there a second?

10           MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

11           MR. PETERS: All right. All in favor,  
12           say "aye."

13           MR. FOLTZ: Aye.

14           MR. PETERS: Aye.

15           MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

16           MR. CERRETA: Aye.

17           MR. FONTE: Aye.

18           MS. WERREN: Aye.

19           MR. STROIA: Aye.

20           MR. PETERS: Opposed?

21           (No response.)

22           MR. REVOLDT: Thank you, Ben. Thanks,  
23           Council.

24           MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you,  
25           Daryl.

1                   Okay. Next up, finance and property.  
2                   Chairwoman Werren.

3                   MS. WERREN: Okay. So this is going to  
4                   be a conversation -- I'll just start it, and  
5                   then Pat is a great storyteller, so he's  
6                   going to kind of explain the why we need  
7                   this. And then as we know, Jina is great  
8                   with data and numbers and has prepared a lot  
9                   of the charts.

10                  So I think it was almost four weeks ago  
11                  that Matt and I met with Jina, Patrick, and  
12                  the Mayor, and we started to talk about the  
13                  finance and we started to talk about this,  
14                  and the need for a change in the levies to  
15                  the EMS and the fire, and kind of where --  
16                  where it was and what -- what our thoughts  
17                  were and what kind of the community maybe  
18                  would think or not think, and how we had to  
19                  discuss that.

20                  And then after looking at some of the  
21                  data and some of the slides that Jina  
22                  presented, we said let's have the lawyers  
23                  take a look at it. And so they then took a  
24                  look at it. And then we got all that back  
25                  this week. And now we'd like to present that

1 to you tonight.

2 You'll see kind of -- and I kind of like  
3 starting with the summary. But -- because  
4 then we can go backwards. And so since 2018  
5 when these were enacted, property taxes have  
6 raised \$9.8 million. But ambulance fees have  
7 raised 5.26, and during that same time, fire  
8 and EMS services cost the City \$26.8 million.

9 So after -- over the last eleven years,  
10 \$7.2 million have been transferred from the  
11 general fund. And the goal would be to not  
12 transfer any of those monies from the general  
13 fund, because, obviously, Dominic likes to  
14 talk streets and Doug likes to talk parks,  
15 and we all have our things that we like to  
16 talk. Well, if we had that \$7.2 million,  
17 maybe we could talk, you know, more of that.

18 And so there have been 24,000 calls for  
19 service over the past decade. So it's  
20 definitely a need our community has. Some  
21 other communities -- and you have heard a lot  
22 of talk about this recently -- is -- you have  
23 heard everything from dispatching moving to a  
24 centralized system. We have heard of -- of  
25 fire places, right, subbing things out. So

1           those are our options. But our community has  
2           said, no, we want these things in place. So  
3           how do we pay for them? And that is what we  
4           are going to talk about now.

5           So is that a good lead in, at least? We  
6           are looking for placement on the November 2nd  
7           ballot, so we have backed this all up and  
8           when we need to have this and all the  
9           readings we need to have and everything. So  
10          that's where I'll start it. Are there any  
11          questions at this moment before I let  
12          Patrick --

13          MR. DEORIO: I think it would be  
14          helpful -- this is Patrick -- that we go  
15          through the PowerPoint that was --

16          MS. WERREN: Yeah, I want to.

17          MR. DEORIO: And then that might answer  
18          some questions along the way or it might  
19          stimulate more questions.

20          MS. WERREN: Yes. And I thought -- were  
21          you going to do the PowerPoint?

22          MR. DEORIO: Yeah.

23          MS. WERREN: Okay. That's what I  
24          thought. That's perfect. All right.  
25          Thanks.

1 MR. DEORIO: Ben. Here we go. All  
2 right. So if we -- we talk about, you know,  
3 where we are today. So we'll kind of look at  
4 these screens together. But I want to take,  
5 you know, proper time to go through this.

6 So our current fire services are  
7 supported by a half mill continuing levy.  
8 And that has been in place since 2013. In  
9 2021, we estimate that that's going to raise  
10 about \$187,000. And then this will need to  
11 be supplemented by, you know, more than half  
12 a million in transfers from the general fund.

13 And keep in mind as we talk about these  
14 things, that some of the discussions that you  
15 have had over the last year, when we have  
16 talked about the CRA and the DRD and these  
17 things, what we are really talking about is  
18 that, you know, North Canton suffers from a  
19 lack of increase in property values over a  
20 ten-year period. And that keeps these  
21 revenues, you know, relatively flat.

22 So all the things that you have been  
23 doing for the last year to queue up a very  
24 aggressive economic development plan, about  
25 bringing in jobs and capital investment, this

1 will help us in the long-term. But for right  
2 now, this is what we are facing.

3 So EMS services, supported by a one mill  
4 continuing levy, in place since 2013, and  
5 then a one and a half mill levy, which is a  
6 five-year levy, and that expires in 2021.  
7 These EMS levies are expected to raise about  
8 \$935,000 this year. But we will be  
9 supplementing that by an additional \$600,000  
10 in transfers from the general fund.

11 Now, North Canton has had a practice  
12 regarding ambulatory billing services that we  
13 quote/unquote soft bill. And that means  
14 that, you know, for City residents, that EMS  
15 will accept the -- the City will accept  
16 whatever their insurance pays and not bill  
17 residents for the balance of the bill. And  
18 that's the way it has been for a considerable  
19 period of time.

20 But keep in mind that, you know, what  
21 those insurance companies pay, you know,  
22 often is \$250, \$500. And you're looking at  
23 bills that range, you know, in the thousands.  
24 With everything that we have to do today,  
25 with all the technology that has to be



1 transported on every run, because we don't  
2 know for sure what we are going to run into,  
3 it becomes an expensive service call.

4 Next slide, please. So this is fire  
5 funding over the past decade. And the red  
6 line indicates, you know, basically what  
7 those expenses have been. You can see on  
8 your screen here that -- what that graph  
9 looks like. And I think Ben is going to  
10 phase in some other ones.

11 So we have here the -- this is what the  
12 property tax revenue is off of these levies.  
13 And you can see that it's fairly flat over  
14 the last ten years. So it's just -- it's  
15 just not getting the job done. And if we add  
16 in other revenue from billings and the like,  
17 you can see where we are at. And then if we  
18 add in the transfers, that's how we are  
19 making it work, is by transferring money from  
20 the general fund to keep these operations  
21 going.

22 If we take a look at the same format for  
23 EMS, you can see what -- where this is at and  
24 how the property tax revenue fills in the EMS  
25 billing and then other revenue. And then

1 transfers cover the rest.

2 But what's important to note that is --  
3 is that you look at -- and we get into the  
4 slides in a few minutes -- you know, the  
5 number of calls. You know, so when we -- you  
6 know, years ago, decades ago, whatever it was  
7 before all of us were here, decisions were  
8 made, you know, for, you know, nursing homes,  
9 skilled nursing facilities, adult centers.  
10 You know, we are -- we are an aging  
11 demographic in North Canton.

12 You recall about two years ago, we were  
13 named the 7th best retirement community in  
14 Ohio. That wasn't by design. We didn't try  
15 to become that. That's what we became.  
16 Because we weren't really cognizant of what  
17 we were allowing to be constructed here, and  
18 those things have a cost associated with  
19 them, particularly in the EMS side.

20 Next slide, please. So if we look at,  
21 over the past decade, the average sources of  
22 revenue, and keeping the color scheme  
23 consistent, you can see for fire and EMS what  
24 the property tax has provided. And in  
25 general, we are woefully short.

1           And as these expenses continue to go up  
2           year after year and more calls are made, you  
3           know, we are going to reach a point where,  
4           you know, so much of the general fund is  
5           being transferred over to maintain these  
6           operations, that there is not going to be  
7           funds available for the other things that --  
8           that the City desperately needs to be doing.

9           Next slide. So in 2020, we responded to  
10          2,810 calls for service. We used the fire  
11          vehicle 6,618 times. We transported 1,589  
12          people to area hospitals, provided life  
13          support for almost 2,000 people, and  
14          completed 2,089 inspections, plan reviews,  
15          fire education or other prevention services.  
16          And fire and EMS helped at least 5,000 people  
17          and businesses just last year.

18          And this is the benefit now -- so we talk  
19          about the cost, and we talk, you know, I  
20          guess of liabilities. Now we are talking  
21          about a benefit. This is the benefits of  
22          running your own place and not having to  
23          merge and create a -- a fire district and EMS  
24          district, is that you can deliver this level  
25          of service.

1                   Stephanie's slide, in summary, you  
2                   recall, you know, the numbers that she had  
3                   indicated. And basically, you know, that  
4                   hasn't changed. It's -- we are short. And  
5                   we think that it's important that we have a  
6                   transparent conversation with the community  
7                   on what the costs are for the service that  
8                   they expect. We think that once they  
9                   understand that, and they decide that, hey,  
10                  that is a service that we want, we believe  
11                  that they'll support a levy in the fall.

12                  But the levy proposal then is that we are  
13                  going to -- this is important, that we make  
14                  sure this message gets out. We are talking  
15                  about eliminating the 1.5 mills. And I'm not  
16                  sure what comes after that, Ben, because my  
17                  little thing that says I'm running my mouth  
18                  is right over top of that.

19                  MR. YOUNG: 1.5 mills of continuing  
20                  levies.

21                  MR. DEORIO: Of continuing levies. Thank  
22                  you very much. So eliminating the existing  
23                  1.5 mills in continuing levies, and then we  
24                  would be replacing -- replacing the fire levy  
25                  with a 1.9 mill levy for the next five years.

1 Keep in mind here, we are not talking about  
2 continuing levies. We are not talking about  
3 putting a continuing levy back on.

4 We want to make sure that the residents  
5 of this community have an opportunity to  
6 voice on a regular basis their pleasure or  
7 displeasure with the way their services are  
8 being run and what they are having to  
9 contribute to make sure they run right.

10 So this one for the fire would raise an  
11 estimated \$850,000 annually. And then on the  
12 EMS side, a 3.9 mill levy would raise 1.75  
13 annually. So in total, 5.8 mills replacing  
14 the 1.5 mills, and this would bring in  
15 approximately \$2.6 million on an annual  
16 basis.

17 So if these levies were to pass and be  
18 agreed to by the residents, this is kind of  
19 what it would look like. The fire fund,  
20 virtually all of that would be paid for. And  
21 then in the EMS fund, between property tax  
22 and EMS billing, that would pretty much cover  
23 that entire operation there.

24 And, you know, given that these are  
25 snapshots in time, based on, you know, what

1 property valuations are, determined by the  
2 county auditor, that, you know, when these  
3 levies would come up for renewal, we would  
4 hope that we would have done our other job of  
5 economic development that would be bringing  
6 in a lot more capital investment, a lot more  
7 jobs, creating more demand for housing, and  
8 we end up with an upward property valuation  
9 that would help spread these costs out,  
10 particularly into the commercial realm where  
11 we really need the big dollar investment.

12 Next slide. The cost to the homeowner.  
13 So the fire levy currently costs about \$13  
14 for every hundred thousand in value. And the  
15 new levy would cost \$60. So that would be an  
16 increase on the fire side to about \$47 per  
17 hundred thousand of value on an annual basis.

18 EMS levy, current levy costs \$67 per  
19 hundred thousand in value. You see the new  
20 levy would be \$123. So that would be an  
21 increase of \$56 per hundred thousand in  
22 value. So the total cost, when you add those  
23 numbers together, would be \$183 annually per  
24 hundred thousand in value, which is an  
25 increase of \$100 -- \$103 on a hundred

1           thousand value per year.

2           Next slide. Are we going backwards? I  
3 think we did that slide.

4           MR. YOUNG: It ends on this for  
5 questions, summary, that kind of thing.

6           MR. DEORIO: Very good. Jina, would you  
7 like to make some comments at this time  
8 before we take questions?

9           MS. ALABACK: No. Actually, I think  
10 that's a really comprehensive -- Ben, I  
11 appreciate how you take all the numbers that  
12 we provide and you put them into these very  
13 explanatory slides. So I think it's -- it  
14 really tells the story. Patrick, of course,  
15 you explain it very well.

16           So I can answer questions, but I really  
17 don't have anything to add. I think that was  
18 a very good presentation.

19           MR. DEORIO: I'll open it up then for  
20 questions.

21           MR. REVOLDT: Patrick, this is Daryl.  
22 Would you describe for us -- I think we have  
23 done historically a very good job in  
24 structuring our fire and EMS. Would you care  
25 to -- can you elaborate on that in terms of

1           paid volunteers, full time, et cetera, on how  
2           we are structured?

3           MR. DEORIO: Of course, you all remember  
4           back in the beginning, it was an all  
5           volunteer fire department, and we had the  
6           largesse of the Hoover Company that made that  
7           possible. And many of the people that were  
8           the volunteer firefighters worked at the  
9           Hoover Company.

10          But as time moved on, and as Hoover did  
11          too, we had to supplement volunteers with  
12          full-time firefighters, which we have been  
13          doing. And on the EMS side, the same thing,  
14          a full-time EMS department.

15          But along about -- I don't know --  
16          probably 20 years ago, thereabouts, I think  
17          Mayor Rice or Mayor Held, whoever it was --  
18          it was around that timetable -- started the  
19          process of trying to do a -- more of a hybrid  
20          approach with the staffing levels and to try  
21          to help cut costs.

22          And what we did was ended up being that,  
23          you know, if we were hiring a full-time  
24          firefighter, they also had to be an EMT, you  
25          know, medical technician qualified and able



1 to serve in both capacities. And then  
2 this -- this would help us with keeping  
3 our -- our payroll in line. And that has  
4 worked for a lot of years.

5 But where we are now at in the last  
6 couple years is that it's harder and harder  
7 to get the volunteer firefighters. That is  
8 an era that is not as popular as it used to  
9 be, and that we need to have full time. The  
10 number of EMS runs has exploded in the last  
11 five years. I think you can all recall  
12 the -- the previous Mayor's State of the City  
13 addresses and the slides that they put up.  
14 And with those number of calls, you can't get  
15 all that done with the same level of people.  
16 So we have had to, you know, increase that  
17 gradually over time.

18 But as we look at what's happening in  
19 other communities, this is no different.  
20 Other communities face the same problems.  
21 They may have exited the volunteer side,  
22 though, a lot earlier than we have. At some  
23 point, that will be our faith, that we will  
24 have to replace those volunteers with  
25 full-time firefighters.

1           MR. REVOLDT: Thank you. That's exactly  
2 the point I was hoping you'd make.

3           MR. CERRETA: Just to add a question on  
4 top of that. We saw that huge increase in  
5 the last two years. All right. So what --  
6 and people are going to ask this, so we  
7 probably should have this down. What has  
8 been the increase in our calls over the last  
9 two years and the difference between  
10 administrative costs, raises, for example,  
11 administrative -- you know, other  
12 administrative costs? How many additional  
13 people have we hired over the last two years?  
14 Is that huge increase part of that? Or is it  
15 part of what we have been doing, you know, by  
16 making more calls and making more -- so  
17 those -- I mean, that two years has been the  
18 big difference, it seems like, on that one  
19 side in our total costs.

20           MR. DEORIO: It's great a question, Mark.  
21 I think certainly in the last two years, the  
22 spike, you know -- you know, you see that.  
23 That's very obvious. It jumps out at you.  
24 But this has been an ongoing issue for, you  
25 know -- you know, a long time. And it's just

1 a matter of how we want to address it.

2 Jina and I could break out for our next  
3 discussion on this those very points that we  
4 are driving at. So we can break out, you  
5 know, the personnel, how many -- people that  
6 has changed, you know, if there are any  
7 equipment needs that were different in these  
8 last two years than before.

9 So I think that's a great one, and I'd be  
10 happy to bring that back at our next -- when  
11 we have our next discussion. We wanted to  
12 start this process early. We didn't want to  
13 wait, you know, until the last minute, and,  
14 you know, do this. This is very -- you know,  
15 very important and I want to just say a very  
16 serious topic for us, all of us. And we  
17 should give it that level of -- of deep  
18 thought.

19 So I appreciate those -- those insights,  
20 and we'll bring that back for our next  
21 Committee meeting.

22 MR. FONTE: Patrick, just -- go ahead. I  
23 want to ask a question, but go ahead  
24 everybody else. I'll do mine last.

25 MR. CERRETA: Well, just one more,

1           because I know we are going to be asking for  
2           this -- this safety station. Okay? People  
3           bunch this stuff together. Are we going to  
4           be able to -- or the community going to be  
5           able to -- to do that, both of these? Are  
6           they going to look at the next one when the  
7           station comes -- because that's the same  
8           thing -- and say, well, we just gave this? I  
9           mean, are -- gave this, you know, group a lot  
10          of money here now.

11                 So are we trying to cut off too many  
12          branches of the tree in a very short period  
13          of time? Are we pruning too much? And I  
14          don't know when that's going to happen, the  
15          safety station. I'll ask. So --

16                 MR. DEORIO: That's a considerable --  
17          there are a lot of moving parts to that, and  
18          I don't think that we are going to be in a  
19          position in the -- in the relatively short  
20          time span to be able to deal with that. So  
21          that's why I felt that it was more important  
22          to, you know, talk about the operating.

23                 Because regardless of whether we build it  
24          in a new building or not, the shortfall in  
25          the operating costs are going to remain the

1 same. So you put it in a new building, it's  
2 going to be the same. It's just you have to  
3 pay for a new building.

4 So we think that we need to get this  
5 house in order first before we go down the  
6 road of the other. So I don't see that  
7 happening, you know, in the next short period  
8 of time, in the next year or two.

9 MR. CERRETA: Okay.

10 MR. DEORIO: But the point is well taken.

11 MR. PETERS: Patrick, I have a few  
12 comments. And -- and just to echo what Mark  
13 said, those are great questions. And I think  
14 you are right, we do need to get those  
15 answered, to get out in front of those. You  
16 certainly have demonstrated the need from an  
17 operational standpoint.

18 What I like about it and what we have  
19 always done for as long as I have been on  
20 Council, any time we go to the voters for any  
21 type of levy, there is always a sunset  
22 provision on it. And this one is five, five  
23 years. And, you know, you have got five  
24 years to prove that you are using that money  
25 in a proper manner, and you are a good

1                   steward of the taxpayers' funds.

2                   So, you know, the -- the folks will get  
3 another crack at the apple in five years to  
4 see if you have proved what you said you were  
5 going to do. So I do like that.

6                   MR. DEORIO: Thank you. I think that,  
7 you know, comes from, you know, having sat in  
8 your chairs. Not a fan of the continuing  
9 levy.

10                  MAYOR WILDER: I'd like to make a  
11 comment, if I could, Mr. President.

12                  MR. PETERS: Yeah, Mayor.

13                  MAYOR WILDER: You know, again, good  
14 discussion. That five-year window, yes,  
15 that -- that is the -- is key for us, as we  
16 strive for economic development for the City,  
17 for, you know, income tax, property tax for  
18 us. We have -- I think we have the potential  
19 for projects to go forward, and that gives us  
20 a window to -- to recoup, I guess, the money  
21 that we are contributing to the EMS and fire.

22                  I think, from what I can see, we have  
23 about 13 full-time firefighter/paramedics,  
24 and approximately 23 or 24 part-time  
25 firefighters and -- and medics. Some are

1 firefighters and some are medics. Things  
2 that -- that -- consideration, too, is the  
3 amount of training also that goes in to what  
4 we provide for our citizens, quality -- a  
5 qualified person arriving at their door when  
6 they call 911. And the restrictions that are  
7 being placed on the fire department agencies  
8 for increased training, and, you know,  
9 decontamination now issues.

10 So it's just -- I think we -- when I came  
11 into office, and working with the City  
12 Administrator and finance, trying to look at  
13 how best are we funding all of our -- our  
14 services, and this was a very glaring point  
15 of view, I guess, when it comes to looking at  
16 the funding for all of our safety services.

17 And I -- the challenge now is before us  
18 to -- how we can best keep the quality  
19 services that we provide for our community.  
20 And this is one of the avenues that you may  
21 have to take. So just my -- my thoughts on  
22 it. Thank you.

23 MR. FONTE: Is everybody good? Can I  
24 chime in now?

25 MR. PETERS: Yeah.