



The Village Voice

Bremen Ohio's Monthly Newsletter

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March 2017



Council & Committee Meetings

Members of the public should feel welcome to attend and participate at the following meetings regarding Village business:

- Planning & Zoning Commission:
March 6th at 6:30 PM
- Village Council: March 13th at 7:00 PM
- Financial Process Committee:
March 29th at 6:00 PM
- Planning & Zoning Commission:
April 3rd at 6:30 PM
- Recreation & Facilities Committee:
April 4th at Noon.
- Administrative Process Committee:
April 6th at 7:00 PM

If you would like to speak at the Council meeting, please contact the office ahead of time so you can be added to the agenda.

These are the meetings scheduled as of the time this newsletter is going to press. Should the need for other Village meetings arise, they will be publicized by legal advertisement in the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette.

Meetings are held at the municipal building, 9090 Marietta Road, SE.

Village Office Hours

On Tuesday, March 7, the Village offices will be delayed opening until 9:30, so employees can attend an off-site safety training.

Employment Opportunity

The Village is currently accepting applications for Water System Operator, which is a full-time permanent position. This requires an Ohio EPA Class I Water Certification. Applications will be reviewed as received and accepted until the position is filled. For a detailed position description and application instructions, either contact the village office at 740-569-4788, or the website www.BremenVillage.com/employment.

Utility Billing Office will be Moving



Assuming all the pieces of the puzzle fall into place as currently planned, the utility billing office will move from 136 Marietta Street to the municipal building at 9090 Marietta Road SE during the first week of March.

The purpose is to reduce operating costs and improve efficiency.

Disruptions in the normal office functions can be expected during this transition. Your patience will be appreciated.

What's the "CI" on the utility bills?

Customers of the village's water services will notice a new monthly flat charge for a Capital Improvements fund that Council has established for the water treatment and distribution system. Considering that the village's water infrastructure is aging, some parts being nearly 100 years old, costly repairs and replacements are anticipated. The CI fund will go toward those projects.

What's the future of the Internet here?

If you live, work, or own a business in Bremen, please participate in the survey about Internet usage in Fairfield County. Even if you don't use the Internet or have a computer, that is also useful information.

The survey takes about 10 minutes. You can use either the online or paper version. The paper version can be obtained at the village office. Otherwise, the online version is at www.connectmycommunity.org/fairfield-county

Choose the version of the survey that fits your situation (i.e. household, business, agriculture, institution, organization).

Discolored Water

Over the past several months, there have been periodic reports of discolored water coming out of water taps at various residences and businesses in Bremen. It appears the problem is not occurring uniformly across the water distribution system nor with predictable regularity.

There are a number of potential causes for discolored water. In order for the Village to solve the problem, we must receive more accurate and timely reporting from the affected customers.

Therefore, if you experience discolored water, please do the following:

- ✓ Immediately call the village office at 740-569-4788 weekdays. If after hours or on weekends, please call the mayor at 740-569-4897 and report the address, date and time of the occurrence, a description of the water's appearance, etc.
- ✓ Collect a sample of the water in a clean jar and then seal the container. Be sure to write down the date and time of day and from which faucet the sample was collected. Our water department personnel can then come to pick up the sample for their documentation. While they are there, they may also want to look at your indoor pipelines.

With everyone's cooperation in this regard, we intend to determine the cause of the discolored water.

Village's 2017 Budget Adopted

Development of the village's 2017 budget was challenging. Operating costs are continually rising while revenue has not been. Costs include everything needed to run the village such as employee compensation, maintenance of lands, buildings and equipment, utilities, and road asphalt to name just a few examples.

In formulating the budget, both the finance committee and the entire village council looked at ways to improve efficiencies and reduce spending. Ultimately, however, the budget is limited by the revenue. Clerk-Treasurer Jennifer Storey took a very cautious approach in projecting the revenues for the coming year.

To balance the budget, planned spending was slashed for many aspects of the village's operations. This means that much needed high-cost infrastructure improvements like street paving, curb/gutter repair, storm drain and catch basin replacements, and swimming pool renovations will need to be deferred.

Following the public meeting on February 13, which gave citizens an opportunity to discuss the proposed budget, the 2017 budget was formally adopted during the village council meeting.

The revenue side of the budget equation remains a looming issue for the Village.

Governance of the Village

At the end of 2017, the terms of four village council seats will expire. The incumbents will each be deciding whether they will run again. Meanwhile, this is also an opportunity for others to throw their hats into the ring. The terms of the council members are given on the website www.BremenVillage.com

Also on the ballot this fall will be the mayor's seat. Since Mayor Henwood was appointed last year to fill the unexpired term of his predecessor, state law requires that the position is to be voted upon during the next regular election.

The deadline for candidates to file their petitions in nonpartisan races is August 9, 2017, by 4 p.m.

Those interested should contact the Fairfield County Board of Elections at 740-652-7000 for specific instructions.