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**Council of the Village of Yellow Springs
Work Session Minutes**

In Council Chambers @ 7:00 P.M.

Monday, October 29, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Karen Wintrow called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present were President of Council Karen Wintrow, Vice President Lori Askeland, and Councilpersons Gerald Simms, Brian Housh and Marianne MacQueen. Village Manager Patti Bates was present, as were Assistant Village Manager Melissa Vanzant, Chief David Hale (serving as a panelist) and Village Solicitor Chris Conard.

WORK SESSION

This session was formatted as a mediated forum, with an initial introduction by MacQueen, followed by the laying of ground rules by the facilitator, Bernadette O'Koon.

After laying the ground rules and some hopes and expectations for the session by MacQueen and O'Koon, panelists Chief Hale and Commander Bruce May of the Greene County ACE Task Force presented a PowerPoint and spoke to the value of continued participation in the Task Force.

Following initial questions from Council, panelists Bomani Moyenda and Cheryl Smith presented their perspectives on the drawbacks to continued participation in the Task Force.

Several alternative sentencing and rehabilitation programs in place in other municipalities were discussed as potential alternatives.

May described in general the process used by the Task Force to catch persons selling drugs in the Village.

May stressed that the most important advantage to Task Force participation is the ability to have direct communication with the Task Force. Both he and Bates noted that the Task Force is multi-jurisdictional, and works to arrest criminal activity across jurisdictions to achieve higher sentencing rates for offenders.

Responding to repeated complaints that the Task Force targets addicts, Chief Hale and Commander May several times went over the drug offense sentencing guidelines, pointing out that the guidelines for incarceration for minor drug offences direct either no or minimal sentences. They noted that repeated offences or major offences are met with strict sentencing, stating that this is a direct effort to address drug traffickers and dealers, not addicts.

Following the Council/panelist discussion, the moderator opened the floor for general comment.

Speakers were overwhelmingly opposed to continued participation in the Task Force, citing concerns ranging from inherent racism in policing to a failed war on drugs to concerns regarding forfeiture.

There were a number of comments to the effect that treatment was needed for addicts, not arrest and incarceration. The discussion branched off into inequities in incarceration rates for black vs. white citizens.

Franklin Halley, TCN Behavioral Services, responded at one point to the outcry for treatment over incarceration, stating that TCN holds open clinics several times a week and that they turn no one away.

Following the open session, the moderator returned the discussion to Council.

Council commented as a group that the discussion is ongoing, and that they are continuing to gather information on the topic.

Council discussed the issue of making a decision before the end of 2015, noting that more information needs to be gathered, but agreeing to make a sincere effort to conclude the matter in 2015.

ADJOURNMENT OF WORK SESSION

At 9:10pm, Simms MOVED and Housh SECONDED a MOTION TO ADJOURN. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Please note: These notes are not verbatim. A DVD copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the Clerk of Council's office between 9am and 3pm Monday through Friday.

Karen Wintrow, President

Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk