

PIBPOA – July-2019 PIB Gazette Article

PIBPOA MEETING: New Plans and Old, Details and Perspectives

President Jim Duffy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. June 15th, at the PIB Senior Center. After the State of the Island and the replay for the Chamber you might think there was no more to be said. Wrong! Peter Huston from the Chamber of Commerce, Police Chief Steve Riddle and PIB Village Councilman Jeff Koehler brought new plans and fascinating insights into the Police Department and the Village Council.

Peter wants to expand the notion of a Splash Down Day on July 20th to create a new event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famous splash-down of the Apollo 11 Astronauts returning from the moon. This coincides with Jeep Weekend and would be a perfect time to celebrate the contributions of Ohioans to the nation. He needs help in developing the idea and bringing it down to the Earth on Put-in-Bay. He also reported that the Safe Island group suggested reusing those old "Ask Me" t-shirts (from 2013) which you have in the very back of your closets. "Ask Me" volunteers would work an a.m. or p.m. shift at such places as the Jet Dock, DeRivera Park and Tipper's parking lot on busy weekends. They might even ride the ferries to answer visitors' questions.

Jim then introduced Chief Riddle who said that the evolving Traffic Plan is on the web. He also asked that people watching cart drivers avoid down-town on busy weekends so as not to contribute to traffic jams. Saying "We have come a long way since last year" the Chief explained that tour busses must notify the Miller Boat Line before arriving and that multiple busses would be staggered – no more than one bus load to a ferry. This allows him to schedule his officers more efficiently when the need is great-est. On Mardi Gras weekend, May 10th and 11th, officers wrote 79 tickets for fines of \$65 to \$265. 64 of the tickets were paid immediately and the remaining 15 had warrant locks placed on their driver's licenses. They cannot be renewed until the fine is paid.

The open container laws allow for some discretion so officers may ticket or ask the offender to empty the container and receive a warning. Chief Frank's force wrote 400 tickets. The next year Chief Riddle's force wrote 800. The year after that they wrote only 400. The Chief thinks people do learn! This year he intends to teach them about golf cart safety. Three new police carts will patrol Langram Road in particular looking for unsafe drivers and/or driving and seat belt violations.

The Ottawa County sheriff has now agreed to police the township while the Village polices itself. This allows the Sheriff to send 30 deputies on heavy weekends. Other state agencies are contributing an additional 40 agents, some in plain clothes. The combined force of village (30), township (30) and state(40) will be a force to be reckoned with.

In an unusual turn of events, last summer, agents from the state found con men cheating tourists with illegal and fixed gambling devices. Equal justice for all.

Jim Duffy wanted to know if a portable jail was required. The Chief did not think so, although he had filled the jail once this season. He noted that new financial arrangements for the ODNR boat made it more available for police use. He has used it a number of times to take people off the island.

The long-range perspective was provided by Jeff Koehler, who introduced himself as a person whose family's roots on the island go back to the '30's and the longest-serving Village Councilperson. He wanted to answer questions, which he did - not from the point of view of the Gazette, but of that of a longtime Council member and observer.

The first question raised the One-Island/One Government issue. He thought that, at the moment, this was a long shot because neither the Council or the Township are making it a top priority. There are still many issues that need to be solved, and without answers there is no progress. Duffy said that the appointed 10-member

commission (five people from each jurisdiction) would answer such questions before the issue was placed on the ballot. It appeared to Jeff that the establishment of the commission had little support from the Township Trustees, and that the Council which voted for it, hasn't really taken it off the back burner either.

The next question asked about the position of City Manager. Jeff praised the efforts of Council's administration, but noted that they were being asked to answer engineering questions exceeding their training. To change to a city-manager form of government, either the Village Council would need to vote in favor, or a citizen's petition signed by 10% of the registered voters would put the issue on the ballot. In either case, Village voters would decide.

The big issue was water/sewer. Jeff expressed interest in the connection-to-mainland solution and referred to Joe Cerny's recent study of long-term costs. The last Poggemeier report recommends this solution in the back of a long report. Water costs are going to go up. At one time, the Water works required an operator with a level II certificate; then EPA changed it to level III. Such mandates increase the fixed costs dramatically for a plant like ours that is a tenth of the size of its mainland cousins. In spite of the rain water costs are going up. And up.

The sewer situation is much better since (1) the present system has excess capacity and (2) the Council has approved a low pressure system policy which might address the needs of Toledo Avenue, Shore Villas and Victory Avenue without lift stations. Shore Villans might be interested in the letter Jeff has from the EPA mandating sewerage by 1995.

President Duffy wanted the PIBPOA to concentrate on one of these many issues. After much discussion the membership voted to focus on the water issues.

The meeting was adjourned; the discussion will be continued.

Safe Island Task Force Reports to Property Owners



On Saturday, August 17th, the Safe Island Task Force addressed nearly 50 members of the Put-in-Bay Property Owners' Association regarding efforts of the SITF in dealing with the former Christmas in July weekend. While Brad Ohlemacher did not know which of those efforts was most important he did highlight the many and different steps taken by the SITF.

They include:

- The formation of the task force.

- The addition of off-islanders Mike Bell, former Mayor of Toledo, and Aaron Walker to the team. Neither missed a single meeting!

Mike Bell and Peter Huston reached out to bus tour operators to assure that they, and their customers, knew what was and what was not legal on the island. They reminded operators of the consequences of promoting illegal activities.

Improved communications included a text alert system connecting officials and business people, small signs and stickers aimed at pedestrians in line to rent carts and media training for employees to keep them on message.

With better communication the new traffic patterns could be activated (or deactivated) quickly and easily.

Proactive monitoring of social media allowed officials to know that the golf carts were not all sold out. The Miller Boat Line requirement that tour busses preregister to assist traffic flow permitted security officers to appear in force when necessary.

Brad thought his work was now over but he thinks we all need to keep the SITF going and to promote the "One Island, One Voice" message to advertisers. The SITF has produced a 60 page report to assist with future evaluations.

Jim Duffy then introduced SITF member Todd Blumensaadt who explained the roles of the Jet Express. The larger Jet handles 395 riders, the smaller 147. He and Billy Market met with the Public Utilities Commission to assure that cooperation between competitors was not a violation of anti-monopoly regulations. The Miller and the Jet are public utilities and Route 357 is a state highway. Todd noted that some merchants initially afraid of driving away business are now on board with the SITF.

Jim Duffy then introduced Police Chief Steve Riddle who stated that there were 13 arrests and one open container violation on the last weekend of July. In 2018 there were 104 tickets written. He attributed the decline to the factors Brad and Todd mentioned. He also said that the Police Department has appointed an Information Officer who, with a colleague, will visit the Sandusky Register in an effort to clear lines of communication.

In the following Question and Answer session Chief Riddle noted that an extremely busy July weekend may cost the department \$25,000. Questioners asked if the promoter of major events e.g. Kid Rock concert should have to pay for security. The Chief replied that they do within the boundaries of the concert venue and that 200 security officers would work the concert on the inside. He believed that the 360 officers scheduled to work the Kid Rock concert were sufficient although the number of sold tickets approximates 15,000.

Kathi Spayde introduced the new and improved PIBPOA website where the public records of the Village, the Township, The Police Department, The Mayor's Court etc. are just a mouse click away. It is a very comprehensive site – a one stop shopping spot for information about the island.

The next meeting of the PIBPOA, one week later than normal on Saturday, September 28th, will focus on the future. Members will elect new board members of the PIBPOA, candidates for public office will be invited to answer questions and members will be asked about their priorities for 2020.

OEPA WATER MEETING

Gazette – October, 2019

On Thursday, September 5th, there was an open meeting with Amy Klei, head of the Ohio EPA's drinking and ground waters department, Chief, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters - OEPA, and other representatives from the Ohio EPA to discuss options for providing water for the is-land in the coming years.

The representatives were there to provide information about EPA policies and regulations in the coming years, provide information about possible funding options and discuss engineering concerns about maintaining a water plant on the island or building an underwater line and connecting to the regional water system on the mainland.

The EPA officials began with praising the current status of the Village's water plant and said that the water being produced there is some of the best in the state. They said the agency's relationship with Jaime Hernandez, the plant's operator, is very good.

However, when it came to the future of the plant, Klei could not tell those gathered what to expect when it comes to future mandates for treatment, operations, operator certification and on-site supervision, all of which add to the cost of producing water just like the expensive ozone treatment system that was recently required to be installed at PIB's plant.

When it came to financing options in the future, there was no definite information about what grants and funding opportunities might be available, but the money man on Klei's team OEPA Water Meeting did explain how current funding works in relation to what the agency looks for when assessing new projects.

When it came right down to deciding on whether or not an on island system or a waterline to the mainland was the best, the engineers from the OEPA and Ottawa County had concerns about providing water from the mainland, but did not rule it out. The EPA promotes connecting to regional water systems, but does not decide which option is best for a community. It is basically up to the Village of Put-in-Bay to decide which option it wants to pursue and submit a proposal to the OEPA. The OEPA would then have to approve any proposal.

Needless to say, there are pros and cons for running an island water plant or installing a line to the mainland. An aging water plant makes it important that officials at least look at both options, especially when it comes to operating a small plant with many of the same fixed costs and regulatory obligations that a large plant incurs. Proponents of installing a waterline to the mainland show initial, cost-saving projections in the tens millions of dollars over the life of a line.

It was suggested that an outline of the issues, requirements and questions be put together for both options so that Village officials could review everything that would be involved in making their choice.

When the meeting was over, everyone was certainly more informed about the issues from an OEPA stand-point, but there was no clear cut decision which option would be best for the island. Klei indicated the agency would be interested in any new studies or other case stud-ies that are relevant for the future of providing water for the island.

If you were in the audience and a proponent of one op-tion or the other, you probably walked away with your position unchanged, Hopefully, all par-ties walked out with open minds about conducting further study of the issue.

AUGUST-2020

Put-in-Bay Property Owners hear latest from Police and EMS

On Saturday, July 18 at 9 a.m., the Put-in-Bay Property Owners met at a new venue, The Pavilion at Perry Cave, to hear updates from Interim Police Chief Jim Kimble and Patrick Rogers, the manager at the PIBEMS. About 25 people social-distanced in the pavilion and another 35 ringed the structure seated in their own chairs. Dave Gundlach operated the sound system which enabled all present to take part.

PIBPOA President Bob Smith introduced Interim Police Chief James Kimble as a man with more than 30 years experience in law enforcement as a Deputy Sheriff in Wood County and as a U.S. Marshall for court security in the Federal system.. He has received additional education at every level and urges continuous training for all officers, including himself. When asked to expand on his remarks of the 18th, he responded on the 20th from Middletown, Ohio where he was undergoing new training on race relations.

His emphasis on training begins with teaching officers, both old and new, the proper ways of writing citations and communications to the Office of the Ottawa County Prosecutor. That office has assisted the Police Department in preparing citations acceptable to the County Court. He wants attorneys from Ot-tawa County to show officers how to write up golf cart violations. In addition, Kimble wants to establish a mock court to show officers what happens in court and how they might be expected to testify.

Another aspect of officer training helps officers improve their communications skills so they might connect and talk with uncharged suspects in an attempt to defuse situations before they escalate. If each side respects the other officers may not need to use handcuffs, tasers or guns. In another context Kimble was asked what it would take to police the Village on a Saturday night in July. He said "Eight experi-enced officers." When asked to explain this he emphasized the word "experienced." And he repeated the claim while adding that he had hired three new experienced officers. Kimble noted the purchase of five radios and said the department had enough body armor and body cameras. He is seeking a grant for surplus "Razors." These are side-by-side all-terrain vehicles about five-feet wide, ten-feet long with 14.5 inches of ground clearance and weighing about 1800 pounds. Available with either two or four seats, they can tow carts, plow snow and get to any point on the island in any season in a hurry. The time when a Model-T could escape police by driving between the rows of a vineyard may have come to an end.

Kimble wants to create zones across the Village/Township lines which would be patrolled daily and provide the Township with greater police presence. He asks those seeing unlawful behavior to call the police at 4121. NOT 911 but 419-285-4121. When asked how islanders could help him and his officers he said "Make the officers feel they are a part of the community."

Patrick Rogers for EMS reported on the Covid-19 testing on July 10th and 11th. Of the 954 tests given, 66 later turned out to be positive (results took several days to release). The positive rate was about 7%, well below the 10% rate where businesses are required to shut down. He had high praise for Jerry Bingham, the new Commissioner of the Ottawa County Health Department, The Department does follow –up on positive cases urging a ten-day quarantine. The EMS cannot help people presenting the usual symptoms – cough, fever, body ache, loss of taste or smell—and urges those people to stay home. However, if breathing problems develop 911 should be called.

Rogers was asked if there was a list of places where Covid-19 had been detected. He explained that privacy regulations prohibited him, or Bingham, from revealing the names of those testing positive. In the following discussion it was suggested that if an establishment had closed it might have had the virus. Not necessarily – all we know is that the place was closed. Maybe they had a suspect, maybe they were exhausted, maybe they went perch fishing. It was also suggested that the Chamber of Commerce should maintain a list of open businesses. But this is not a guarantee – all we know is that no one in that business is known to have the virus. Even when the Ohio Liquor Control Board cites a business it is because the Board found "a condition that presents a risk of illness" and not because an employee tested positive. There are no easy answers. Patrick reminds us to wash our hands, wear masks in public and seek reliable information.

Rogers also pointed out that new address signs are available through the EMS. The Township will make the green signs with white numbers (look for new ones on Meechen) and EMS will deliver them.

Bob Smith asked the membership for speaker suggestions for the August 22nd meeting of the PIBPOA. Members would like to hear from the Mayor of the Village, the Township Trustees, the County Auditor, the Safe Island Task Force and the State Park Director regarding the boat ramp.

OCTOBER-2020

PIBPOA September Meeting From John Titchener

President Bob Smith opened the September meeting of the PIBPOA with special thanks to Perry's Cave for providing a Covid-19 compatible meeting area. He then introduced the speakers.

Jake Market told how in 2017 the Miller Boat Line decided it needed an additional boat to make it easier to take a ferry offline. The new boat, the M/V Mary Ann Market, would be similar to the Put-in-Bay, but with more attention paid to passenger comfort, e.g. air conditioning, two heads, wider stairs and a wheelchair accessible lower cabin. The naval architectural firm they chose, Elliott Bay Design Group, has 120 years of experience with ferries ranging from Martha's Vineyard to Seattle. Their design featured three 800 horsepower engines providing power on demand for the bow thrusters and loads from zero to 380,000 pounds. Jake had high praise for them and for Frasier Shipyards, which used new technologies to build the boat in eleven sections that were assembled in the dry dock. Each weld was inspected by the Coast Guard. The finished vessel will carry 28 cars or five semis. It can carry 600 passengers. Compare her 140-foot length with the just-under 65-foot South Shore which carried nine cars tightly packed together by deckhands who had to exit, NASCAR style, through open windows.

Dianne Smith announced that the Senior Center would not open in September. If conditions, not yet determined, are met it might open in late October. Police

Spokesman Captain Mark Hummer, a veteran of the Perrysburg police force and the Lucas County Sheriff's office reported for the police. He worked the past eight weekends and noted that policing is an issue not just here, but across the nation. Hummer said that in 2021 there would be a strong message that golf carts are not Cedar Point rides. However, the police department does not have sufficient personnel to ticket every violation due to the costs involved. Officers frequently ask open container violators to dump their drinks on the ground because a ticket requires the arresting officer to preserve the necessary evidence – at a cost of \$140.00 He suggested asking legislators expedite the paperwork to allow the police to do their jobs.

Mike Drusbacky, the Deputy Director of the Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency described his agency. Drusbacky indicated the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparation, response and recovery. The Agency does not have first responders, but always has the responsibility of coordinating communications between and among involved agencies. Preparation, for instance, might involve informing isolated populations that they should be self-sufficient (food, water, heat, etc.) if an emergency denied first responders access to the locations.

Bob then thanked the Volunteer Fire Department and the Emergency Medical services and pre-sented checks for \$750 to Greg Dobos for the PIBVFD and Patrick Rogers for the EMS. Covid-19 restricted their fundraising activities, but not the calls upon their services. Bob noted that Judy Berry had accepted an appointment to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Directors of the PIBPOA.

JULY-2021

Officials Brief Property Owners on Carts and Covid

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 19th, president Bob Smith welcomed sixty members of the Put-in-Bay Property Owners' Association (PIBPOA) to the June meeting. He thanked Perry Cave for hosting the meeting at the Perry Cave Pavilion and announced that talks are ongoing with the Homeland Security Agency regarding a visit to their Port Clinton facility.

He then introduced Mayor Jessica Dress. She was pleased to note the recent openings of the Town Hall and Senior Center and praised the understaffed Village Dock and Bathhouse workers who are doing a great job. Her major problems are golf carts and crowd safety so she and the Village Council are reaching out to the business community for assistance. A 10 p.m. curfew for carts in the Village is under consideration. The depleted police force had 15 officers last year and six this year. One new officer has been hired.

Members suggested that golf carts should be more easily identified by number and rental agent, that more police presence is needed in the township, and that a special telephone number for reporting golf cart violations to the police should be created.

Township Trustee Chris Cooper noted that an agreement has been signed to purchase property behind the EMS land so that additional storage can be created and traffic access to the site simplified. Ottawa County will widen and pave Catawba "from the Goat to Joe's" in the Fall of 2021. Langram will be paved the following Fall. The Trustees have agreed to pay for more police protection in the township. Changes in the cemeteries will include the replacement of pillars, fence repair and the addition of a new mower which "will keep cut grass from around the headstones." Erosion caused by storms and high water is a major problem throughout the Township, especially on Middle Bass. Repair costs of \$1 million are partially offset by a \$640,000 grant. The fish gut collection box on Trenton remains problematic. Each time it is removed and cleaned it costs \$2000. It has to be cleaned in hot weather to avoid the odor. There are no easy solutions since the mercury containing fish guts cannot be freeze dried or composted for re-use as fertilizer. The EPA has similar regulations regarding the disposition of lawn waste which may contain dangerous herbicides.

Bob Smith then thanked Patrick Rogers for his considerable help in assisting the Ottawa County Health Department to fly to PiB with Covid-19 vaccine last January. Reporting for the EMS Patrick noted that 10 new EMTs have been hired and that blood draws, only by reservation, are now available. Life Flight membership applications are available at the office and are also being mailed out by St. Vincents. Responding to a question he said that Telemed connections with doctors "is in the works." He noted that the care of island residents is the first priority of the EMS.

The last speaker, Police Chief Jim Kimble, sparked applause by announcing that the Police Department has selected AT&T to operate all police calls, including 911. The previous provider did not improve service and failed to build another cell tower. The recruiting reports are less cheerful. New recruits often leave police training academies with a \$5000 tuition debt and are asked to provide their own uniforms and weapons. They receive minimum wages and face public hostility. So police forces nationwide are receiving fewer applications. The Sylvania, Ohio chief expects 200 test takers for the police academy exam; this year he had six. The number of carts increases; the number officers decreases. So the Chief has asked businesses to reduce the number of rental carts and has asked for help from the State Highway Patrol, the Sheriff and Homeland Security. Good news? The Coast Guard has agreed to escort arrested people off the island and into the care of the Ottawa County Sheriff so our officers do not have to escort suspects to the mainland. However, the island is no longer shielded from crime by the lake. Mark Hummer, the Sheriff of Lake Township and a long time

associate of Chief Kimble said “if it is happen-ing on the mainland it is happening on the island.” Chief Kimble told a bi-zarre story of an apparent rehearsal of a drive-by shooting. The apparent vic-tim would not press charges after the would be assassins were apprehended attempting to escape. They have been asked not to return. When asked what one single item the department most needed his immediate answer was “a ballistic shield!” This is a transparent shield-like device to protect officers attempting entry into a hostile build-ing.

President Smith thanked the speakers and announced that the July Meeting would be on Saturday, the 24th, hopefully at the Senior Center at 10 a.m. These members of the Put-in-Bay Property Owners Association were spotted recently put-ting up a directional sign in one of the planters at the Boardwalk. We’re not quite sure who was doing the working and who was just sidewalk supervising. Left to right are Bill Slough, John Titchener, Doug Mehling and Bob Smith. Put-in-Bay Gazette July 2021 Page 20

AUGUST-2021

Property Owners Sponsor Non-Profits' Reports to the Community

About 60 members attended the July meeting of the Put-in-Bay Property Owners' Association (PIBPOA) held on the 24th at the Perry's Cave Pavilion. They heard reports from some of the major not-for-profit organizations serving the island community.

Kathy Schrader, Vice President of the Garden Club, described the fundraisers used to support the seven gardens and the hanging baskets in De Riviera Park. The Club holds monthly meetings on horticultural topics from May through September. Once again high water has washed out prospects for cleaning the bathing beach. But it is still on their agenda.

Dick Bliss reported for the Skip Duggan Antique Car Club founded by Skip with the able assistance of John Borman and Jack Whelan. He noted that every video clip used to promote the island included shots of the Sunday Old Car Parades which have, on a Labor Day, attracted as many as one hundred 25-years-old-or-older vehicles. So far this year the top number has been 84. In addition to its primary task of managing the parades, the club assists with the Duggan Old Car Museum. Dick says the dues are \$10 per year, and "If that hurts, don't pay it."

Dave Frederick spoke for the 100-year-old (in December) Scheible-Downing American Legion Post 542 which has members on Put-in-Bay, Middle Bass and North Bass. The Post cooperates with the national organization to support programs for disabled vets, widows and orphans, civics education for high schoolers in Boys' and Girls' State and other patriotic activities. On the local level the Legion conducts graveside services with rifle volleys and the playing of Taps . Members regularly visit vets at the Veterans' Home in Sandusky and maintain the DoughBoy statue and 57mm cannon in De Riviera Park. The Post also sells American flags large and small as well as flag poles. On or about Flag Day, June 14th, the members conduct a flag burning ceremony to assure that old, worn or damaged flags turned over to them are properly honored and destroyed. Then, as Dave says, "Give us your old flag; we'll sell you another one."

Renee Fultz reviewed the physical progress of the Nature Center which has added a 1000 sq. foot addition which houses offices, meeting areas and displays. The Center also has a new turtle pond, a wildlife window and an active beehive. Activities sponsored by The Center include summer Nature Camps and weekly "Wild Tuesday" talks from 1 to 3 p.m. She pointed out that Island Green Week, August 7-15th, will also include Middle Bass and Kelleys Islands. "Green Week" will also include a stargazing trip on one of the Miller Ferry boats on August 9th and the much-awaited Pig Roast on the 11th. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

Peter Huston described the Great Lakes Island Alliance, which is a non-profit dedicated to encouraging relationship building and opportunities to benefit islands. The 2021 GLIA summit will be held on Put-in-Bay October 3rd through 6th. The summit will bring together 100+ island officials including government officers and business and education leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with island living. Costs of the summit are partially underwritten by a Mott Foundation Grant of \$35,000. The local host committee seeks the support of local donors and sponsors. Island residents can participate in the four-day summit for \$100. Details can be found at phuston@Stewardshipnetwork.com.

Kelly Faris drew a sharp distinction between the PIB Township Park district, which is a government agency affirmed by the voters in 2007 and the Lake Erie Islands Conservancy (LEIC). The district is dedicated to protecting and preserving unique areas that enhance the heritage of the Lake Erie Islands. The Commissioners

are Lisa Brohl, Kelly Faris and Kendra Koehler. They are appointed by the Judge of Common Pleas Court and have public meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. Over 160 acres on the islands are now protected .

Lisa Brohl explained the role of the Lake Erie Island Conservancy which is not a governmental agency, but a private not-for-profit organization. It began life as a part of the Black Swamp Nature Conservancy in 1993 and became the LEIC as a free-standing entity in 2015. Properties donated to the LEIC have been turned over to the Township Park District for perpetual care. The LEIC has led the fight to conserve local properties such as Coopers' Woods and on August 8th will celebrate the acquisition of Benjamin Woods. Kelly and Lisa represent a welcome cooperation between government and non-profit organizations.

Jack Bergan remembered how Harold Heidenreich, historian and industrialist, persuaded him to help the Perry Group campaign for a visitors center at the monument as well as employee housing. With the help of Judge George Smith and local politicians, the government and the Perry Group agreed on the Visitors Center if the group could raise \$100,000. It did! And the rest, as they say, is history. A 1959 ranger considered these additions to be vast improvements. In 2021 the Perry Group is sponsoring an August 11th viewing of the rising moon from the top of the monument and a September 10th Jet Express trip to witness the annual wreath laying at the site of Perry's Victory.

Trustee Bob Smith spoke for the Lake Erie Island Historical Society and reminded us that the Resale Shop is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum's Annual Fundraiser Island Auction will be held at the Heineman Winery at 4 p.m. on August 5th.

President Bob Smith announced that the August meeting of the PiBPOA will be held on August 28th. While closing the meeting he noted that the August topic might be water/sewer.

SEPTEMBER-2021

Property Owners Hear About Seawall Construction, the Carillon and Race Cars

President Bob Smith convened the August 28th meeting of the Put-in-Bay Property Owners' Association at the Perry Cave Shelter House at 9 a.m. Members were addressed by Barbara Rowles from the Monument, Rich Hahn for the Road Race Reunion Committee and Pastoral Leader Jim O'Donnell of Mother of Sorrows. Superintendent Rowles explained the seawall restoration projects which will begin in the Spring and be finished in 2023. Construction of the expanded north seawall will require the temporary above-ground routing of the electrical lines to East Point. The top three feet of the south wall will be replaced. Funds have been found for the 2023 - 2024 restoration of the upper plaza. 2023, she said, may be "messy."

Mr. Hahn passed out posters, programs and race schedules for the September 2021 reunion races which will include 100 racing cars and 50 street exhibition vehicles. Each year is better than the one before and is supported almost entirely by entry fees (\$450) and volunteered contributions and labor. He noted the restrictions organizers face: cars must be insured while on the island, emergency services must be available (if the EMS is called away the race in progress must be temporarily stopped), 800 hay bales must be found and located as well as 50 radios, fire extinguishers etc. He asked for short term volunteers (such as flaggers from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for the Tuesday Old Course Parade) and longer term volunteers to assist with the various planning committees.

Deacon O'Donnell remembered the tragic events of December 12, 1983 which led to the construction of the Memorial Carillon and reported on efforts to maintain it. A tree which obscured the view and may have silenced a bell has been removed. Despite lightning damage the bells are all functional and repairs on the music system have been undertaken.

Bob Smith announced that the Put-in-Bay Property Owners' Association would meet next on September 25th at 9 a.m. at the Perry Cave Shelter House. The agenda will include the election of new members to the Board of Directors. Put-in-Bay Gazette September 2021 Page 32 - B16

OCTOBER-2021

Property Owners Hear Police Report and New Wave Islander Pitch

On the cold and windy last Saturday in September, members of the PIB Property Owners met to discuss a variety of reports and proposals.

Mother Mary Staley asked how many islanders were present. Six? Of those who were born here? One! Noting that while she had served this community continuously for more than five years she was not an islander although she has been an islander on different islands twice before. Rather than debate criteria for the current meaning of “islander” she proposed the creation of a new category – New Wave Islander – based on points earned for commitment to and experience on the island. The New Wave Islander tee-shirt, list of point-getting experiences and a promise of bumper stickers can be found at her email staleym@aol.com.

Sgt. Mike Wheeler from the PIBPD reported that five full time officers would drive two new squad cars this winter. Next year, officers will be assisted by an Intoxilazer 800 breathalyser which will provide instant readings of blood alcohol levels allowing officers to ticket offenders immediately. No more waiting for lab results! In 2022 all officers will have a week of training in Standard Operating Procedures.

Lisa Brohl detailed the recent acts of vandalism in the Dodge Woods Story walk and noted efforts to prevent re-occurrences. Jody Anderson, a three-year resident now teaching art full time at the PIB school, reported on her project connecting PIB high schoolers with senior citizens to preserve their memories in art works. Kathi Spayde explained the purpose of the new UNITED PIB committee and asked those with questions to contact the committee founders Joe Cerny, Rudy Cooks, Jeff Grantham and Christie Ontko.

Guy Guidone and Jeff Grantham were elected to the Board of Trustees for three-year terms to replace retiring Joyce Slough and Gail McCracken.

Island Leaders Address Police Issues

It's no secret. There's a nationwide shortage of qualified police officers and it includes Put-in-Bay. PIB Police Chief James Kimble has been voicing his concern every time he meets with the PIB Village Council, and on several occasions, he reports he's hired officers only to have them leave for better paying positions on the mainland.

In order to help attract and keep officers, the Village Council recently undertook some steps to keep officers coming to the island. It dropped the \$5 per night charge part-time officers pay to stay in the Village's police housing. It voted to pay for the ferry fees officers pay to come and work on the island. It also voted to pay an additional \$5 per hour to officers who work on Sundays. There was also discussion about doubling holiday pay, but that discussion was postponed for now.

With the police contract between the Village and the Township expiring at the end of the year, Council set up a schedule of public safety meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 9 a.m. at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall. The township trustees are asked to come and take part, plus the public is invited to attend.

According to Township Trustee Chris Cooper, the township's police funding levy that failed in the May primary will be put back on the ballot this coming November. He told those at the island property owners meeting in June that the township is looking to ask for a higher millage than in May. Cooper added that it has not been decided yet as to whether the township should contract with the Ottawa County Sheriff or with the Village for police services for 2023.

At another meeting on Saturday, June 26th, the Village Council voted to authorize the police chief, Jim Kimble, to spend up to \$10,000 on weaponry that could include assault rifles with telescopes and suppressors.

The Put-in-Bay Police Department also took delivery of a new black Polaris all-terrain utility vehicle. You will see it running around complete with PIBPD decals on the doors.

Police Issues

For many years, the Village of Put-in-Bay has contracted with Put-in-Bay Township to provide police services. The Put-in-Bay Township Trustees, like any government agency, are concerned about costs and what services are provided. Costs are increasing dramatically, plus the nationwide shortage of police officers has made it difficult to fulfill at least one of the provisions of the contract, that being the policing of Middle Bass Island. The Trustees have notified the Village that this is a breach of contract.

The Trustees have been investigating other avenues for policing the township portion of the islands. The current contract with the Village is about to expire, plus as the cost to the Township for its share approaches \$300,000 this year, the Trustees say they don't have enough revenue coming in to pay for the expected increases to come. The current cost for policing the islands, Village and Township, is \$800,000 per year, but is expected to rise.

At a meeting earlier this year, there was a meeting at the township building to promote a real estate tax levy in the township to raise about \$185,000 yearly. That would help immensely, but voters nixed the new tax. The Trustees have announced they will put the levy back on the November ballot, but at a bit higher millage.

At a recent meeting with Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Levorchick told island officials that a rough cost for his office to contract with the Township for police services would be about \$750,000 per year. If he were to contract with both the Township and the Village, the figure would begin at \$1.5 million.

On Tuesday, July 19th, there was a public meeting to discuss police issues at the Put-in-Bay Town Hall. In attendance were Mayor Jessica Dress, four Village Council members, Put-in-Bay Police Chief James Kimble, three PIBPD officers and an audience of mostly township residents. Although the Township Trustees were invited, none of them were in attendance due to scheduling or illness. The discussion covered a wide variety of the problems the police department faces as it deals with law enforcement issues on the islands. The main problem is understaffing. With the nationwide shortage of police officers, Put-in-Bay is no exception. To entice officers to join and remain in the department, the

Village recently raised officer wages. It has also offered free housing and ferry fares for officers coming from the mainland, and upgraded equipment.

All this is great for this season, but Councilman Craig Cox, Chief Kimble and Port Authority have been working on a long-term plan to address staffing, officer and department equipment needs, housing and training. The idea is to have a core of year-round police officers for one island police department who will stay with the department and solve the problem it has with reinventing itself each season.

This is all well and good, but will come with a cost. The Village Council is looking at every option to raise revenue to fund this effort. Among the topics discussed are a head tax, paid parking, permit parking and an increase in the gross receipts tax. These solutions all have issues to overcome before the first dime can be raised.

In the meantime, the Village has scheduled Police Commission meetings for the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions.



Left to right are Put-in-Bay Police Chief James Kimble, Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Levorchick, PIB Property Owners Association President Bob Smith and secretary Barb Mehling at a recent PIBPOA meeting discussing police issues on the island.

Property Owners Host Helpful And Quite Unusual Meeting

Unusual? Well, the standing room only crowd at July's Put-in-Bay Property Owners Association meeting kept the questions coming until 11:30 a.m. and continued the discussion well past the usual adjournment time. The session was delayed so that Judy Berry could call a special meeting of the Village Council since a majority of its members were present, and records would be kept. The featured speaker did not begin his remarks until 10:50 a.m. because his predecessor was peppered with questions by at least 15 enthusiastic members expressing as many different concerns.

The first speaker on the agenda could not attend. So next up was Chief James Kimble who immediately handed the microphone to Ottawa County Sheriff Steve Levorchik. He reported that the Township Trustees had approached him with a proposal. Should the new police levy pass, they would hire seven new full-time deputies, two for Middle Bass and five for South Bass. The recruits would train in the winter and be fully prepared for the following summer. A well-prepared force would lessen possible civil suits. The Sheriff recalled discussing these same issues at a Property Owners' meeting seven years ago. Although the proposal is a "logistical nightmare," he noted that times have changed and opportunities for cooperation between the Village and the Township had greatly increased. Both the Sheriff and the Chief said they would not enter into agreements they could not keep. But they reminded us that they are law officers who had trained and worked together for 40 years and would always respond to a request for assistance.

What happens if the Village dissolves? Sheriff Levorchik: "Never give up your police department, you can't get it back." There were questions about community policing, double yellow line passing, police housing, Village revenue sources, rental bike night lights, KDC (kids driving carts), Village priorities, unenforced ordinances, the resort tax and liquor licenses. Repeated questions about funding sources led one islander to observe that 98% of the village water went to businesses.

Some left the meeting saying "Same old, same old . . ." while others hoped for a new era of cooperation between Township and Village. It was not boring.



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