

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY – MAY 28, 2020 -6:00PM**

**BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS  
WILL CONVENE FOR THE ABOVE REFERENCED MEETING  
VIA ZOOM.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Tommie Pierson, Sr., Alderwoman Barbara West, Alderwoman Dinah Tatman, Alderman Michael Wiese, Alderman James Thomas, Alderman Jim Christian, Alderwoman Alease Dailes, City Attorney Dorothy White-Coleman, Police Chief Jeremy Ihler, City Clerk Fran Stevens

**MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY** Mayor Pierson at 6:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL:** City Clerk called the roll and all members were present except Alderwoman Reed, Ward 2 and Alderwoman Avant-Elliott, Ward 4.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Alderwoman Dailes seconded by Alderman Thomas. Motion carries.

**AGENDA OUTLINE:** read by Mayor Pierson.

**OPENING REMARKS:** Mayor Pierson stated; in this pandemic period all doctors are stating how important it is to get tested and this is the time to exercise precautionary measures. He thanked Alderwoman Tatman, Affinia Healthcare and others for assistance as this is a good move for Bellefontaine Neighbors and surrounding areas.

**REASON FOR THE MEETING:** Alderwoman Tatman thanked everyone for being a part of this meeting and gave an overview for the purpose of this meeting; to raise awareness and offer solutions i.e. testing site on the city's Rec and City Hall lots Monday thru Saturday beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm. and seek funding for purchase of PPE equipment (masks and hand sanitizer) which is \$45,000 for 40,000 mask and 25,000 - 6 ounce bottles of hand sanitizers which would be given out to individuals at the testing site.

**QUESTIONS FROM BOARD OF ALDERMEN:**

**Alderman Wiese** – Congratulated Alderwoman Tatman for this presentation but added that \$45,000.00 is a lot of money at once and said the purchase should be as needed. Alderwoman Tatman stated the City Treasurer told her that if we do not get reimbursed it can be put under the emergency clause and then it can go in next year's administration budget.

**Alderwoman Dailes** – Spoke to Councilwoman Rita Days and was informed that municipalities may not be reimbursed for PPE purchases, however Mrs. Days will have her office deliver masks to municipalities by June 1, 2020. Alderwoman Dailes asked for 5,000.00 masks. Also, she shared her thoughts that the tax dollars of Bellefontaine Neighbors should be specifically for this municipality. She supports the testing site on city lots.

**Alderman Thomas** – Agrees with the testing site on the lots. Inquired as to the price of 10,000 mask and 7,500 hand sanitizers. Alderwoman Tatman answered that 10,000 masks would cost \$7,500.00 and 5,000 hand sanitizers would be 4,608 bottles for \$6,241.90. (the masks are .75 each and the hand sanitizers are \$2.70 each)

**Alderman West** – Inquired – (1) if this purchase required the bidding process, (2) how did the testing site on the city lots extend to more than (1) day? Her recollection from the last BOA meeting was that the lots would only be used on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Alderman West stated that the reason for this special meeting is to extend the time line for testing with additional health care agencies as Affinia could only donate one day for testing which is June 11, 2020 and the bidding process would be eliminated under the emergency orders.

**Alderman Wiese** – Stated that he is against \$45,000.00. Inquired what is actually necessary to purchase at this time? Alderman West stated that the masks and hand sanitizers are more essential than the testing centers.

**Alderman West:** Stated that Sam page gave the clergy coalition 100,000 masks and questioned if Alderman West to ask for some items for the municipality. Alderman West stated that the distribution was for houses of faith. But they are asking if the extras could be distributed to municipalities. Alderman West stated that testing has not been great in north county, and she is sure that if individuals wanted to wear a mask, they would have them. Alderman West stated that the other sites did not give out masks and hand sanitizers.

There was dialog and Alderman West asked the doctor to address this issue. She also asked the Bellefontaine Police Chief to give overview.

#### **PRESENTATIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Dr. Secil** gave overview of the coronavirus and the importance of having mask and hand sanitizer.

**Chief Ihler:** Gave statements on the amount of cases reported in North County. These are calculations are for rates per 100,000 people.

- male vs female – 420 vs 546
- race and ethnicity – black (African American) 843, mixed 639, Hispanic 580 decrease from here
- population by age – 0-19 – very little, 20 – 29 a slight rise, consistently rise up to age 80 – 89
- deaths – of the 395 communities in St. Louis County – males are slightly impacted more than females. African American – 64 vs Whites 33 vs all other races at 10
- Zip code – 63137 – Bellefontaine Neighbors' population racial makeup – African American – 75%, white – 23% and the rest make up 100%. We are on the upper tier of impact by COVID-19.

Dr. Secil added that in New York the male gender is impacted more than females.

Alderman Wiese- Bellefontaine Neighbors cannot afford \$45,000 but we need to offer funds to take care of this situation with these people. Alderman Dailes added that these people are our friends, family and residents and they make a choice to do what they wish to do. If St. Louis County is going to provide mask, we should wait to see what we will get. She believes that at this time we are provided the space for the testing. Alderman Christian concurred with waiting to see what resources will be provided.

#### **PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

1. Simmeco – Shawn Simms – President and CEO – here to support BN in any way he can. In the near future the mask price may remain as is but the hand sanitizer may increase in the future.
2. HomeDocs – Dr. Secil stated that she is 100% owner of HomeDocs and 3. Health & Wellness Center for Sunset Hills.
4. Luster Products – No representative

**Q & A FROM CITIZENS:**

**Wanda Lane – 99XX Martingale** – Stated the passion is heard in her voice and shared that someone very close to her and cautious but contacted coronavirus and passed away. Commented that there is a lot of fear regarding the testing. What can be done as far as education to remedy the fear. Is it true that individuals may be denied health coverage? Dr. Secil stated that more education is needed and take precaution by practicing social distancing, hand washing and wearing masks.

**Rhonda Askew-Taylor – 97XX Birch Meadows Ct.** – Commend Dr. for her services and stated that individuals should contact their health insurance company regarding testing. Agree with the testing on the city lots but because this pandemic has been around since beginning of year and spending \$45,000.00 is not in the budget at this time.

**Renata Kirksey – 12XX Forest Home Ct.** – Thank Alderwoman Tatman for this suggestion and is in full support of the testing on the city lots but we should start low on the purchased of PPE equipment and to keep BN tax dollars, residents can show proof of residency.

Alderwoman Tatman made a motion to purchase PPE equipment and set up a permanent testing site. Alderwoman West stated that this should be (2) separate motions. Alderwoman Tatman withdrew her initial motion.


Alderwoman Tatman made a motion to purchase PPE equipment in the amount of \$45,000.00 for 40,000 masks and 25,000 6 once bottles of hand sanitizers. There was no second therefore motion failed.

Alderwoman Tatman made a motion for the Rec Center and City Hall Parking Lots to become a permanent testing site beginning Friday, June 12 and thereafter every Monday – Saturday from 10am to 1pm seconded by Alderman Wiese. Votes are as follows: Alderwoman West-no, Alderwoman Tatman-yes, Alderwoman Reed-absent, Alderman Wiese-yes, Alderman Thomas-yes, Alderman Christian-yes, Alderwoman Dailes-yes, Alderwoman Avant-Elliott-absent. Motion carries.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn Special Meeting made by Alderwoman West seconded by Alderman Wiese. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Fran Stevens, City Clerk

Approved by the Board of Aldermen on June 18, 2020.