

2007

STATE OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT GILEAD, OHIO

The year 2007 saw Mount Gilead forge ahead preparing for the future. The future looks very promising for the Village, but we must manage wisely to continue this course.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FUNDS REPORT

The fund balances continued to grow in 2007. This shows that the Council, Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer and Administrator worked very hard to control expenses.

MAJOR COUNCIL ACTIONS FOR 2007

The new wastewater treatment plant was completed. We approved the purchase of an additional police cruiser, bringing the total to four (4). Two new service trucks were purchased for the water, sewer and street departments, and a new truck was ordered for the fire department, with delivery due in Spring 2008. Phase I of the interceptor sewer line was completed, looking towards Phase II in 2008. Construction in the WODA housing addition was begun. Out of 53 building permits for 2007, 40 were for the new homes in this addition.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

This was the second year of our combination daytime staffed/volunteer fire department, and it has proven to be successful. Their number of calls increased for 2007. Chief Staiger does an excellent job of management. He also tracks all types of calls and reports them to Village Council at regular meetings. The village is very fortunate to have this well-trained fire department

Police Chief Zerman put together an excellent year-end report, charting various activities. In 2006, accidents had decreased, but they went back up in 2007. In 2008, we will have two new cruisers. One was ordered as a regularly scheduled 2-year replacement, and the other will replace the 2006 cruiser that was totaled in an accident in December. Thank you goes out to Chief Zerman and his department for the fine job they do.

Clerk Kathy Richards, Solicitors Griffith and Brininger, with Attorney Brent Yager as Magistrate, staff the Mayor's Court. The number of cases for 2007 dropped slightly. This court remains an asset for our Village, and I hope it can continue. Records are efficiently maintained and reported quarterly to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Income tax collections increased from \$931,956.21 in 2006, to \$939,588.86 in 2007. Tax Administrator Robin St. Clair is responsible for the sending out and collection of taxes. She is to be commended for the job she does. Our fiscal future should remain solid with continued income growth and frugal handling of expenses.

Utility Clerk Susan Garverick completed 30 years of service with the Village in 2007. Her diligence in the Clerk's office helps make that department run smoothly.

The Village Services Department worked very hard in the past year on many special projects plus mowing grass, plowing snow, garbage pick-up, fixing water leaks, etc. To name a few personal accomplishments: Steve McKirgin received his Class I Waste Water license and Kit St. Clair completed the course of study for his Class I Water Operator's license. Chuck Benner retired after almost 18 years of dedicated service with our V.S.D. Again, I express utmost appreciation for all employees with this department.

Clerk-Treasurer Sue Mermann and Administrator Dan Rogers have worked hand-in-hand to oversee the Village finances. Among her many duties, Sue keeps a watchful eye on Village expenditures to ensure fiscal responsibility and soundness. Dan has continued to successfully wear his various hats as the Village Administrator. To name a few, he oversaw the completion of the WWTP and daily operations of the Village Services Department. He has applied for several grants to complete special projects.

The Village has several Boards and Committees that do an invaluable service for our town. They all deserve a thank you for the time and effort they put in over the year. Mount Gilead was named a "Tree City" again in 2007. This would not be possible without the involvement of our Tree Board. The Downtown Review Board is being reorganized to encompass the entire Village.

SUMMARY OF THE STATE OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT GILEAD 2007

As the new Mayor, I have had to rely on a number of people's input to do this report and get started on my day-to-day duties. If any items were overlooked, I apologize for this.

I view the State of the Village to be quite well. Due to some recent changes in the local and national economy as I took office, we must remain vigilant in our finances to keep 2008 going as well as past years. I look forward to many years of working with you.

Respectfully submitted:
Mike Porter, Mayor