

Perrysburg Village Board prepares to close the door on the village after 95 years of incorporation

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Village Trustees Tracy Gurney and Michael Cooper with Mayor Anthony Kota at the last regular meeting of the Perrysburg Village Board on Dec. 15.

Mayor Anthony Kota gave a farewell address at the final regular meeting of the Perrysburg Village Board on Dec. 15. He acknowledged a bit of sadness at the passing of the village into history after 95 years of incorporation. Village voters approved a dissolution referendum in the March 2010 elections, following a study by the Rochester-based Center for Governmental Research that recommended merging the village into the Town of Perrysburg.

Kota said he looked forward with anticipation for the future of Perrysburg residents, citing the close cooperation the town and village have had for many years. With many shared services, it seemed logical that the two entities should combine. Formerly provided by the village, sewers, street lighting and fire protection will become town services after Jan. 1. Lighting and fire protection items will be included in the town tax bill that is mailed in January, as will a charge for the sewer district debt until it is paid off. Trash and garbage pickup will be paid for by purchasing stickers at the town hall.

Kota expressed his disappointment that the town has decided not to plow the sidewalks this winter, and that village employees will be losing their jobs. He hoped that all residents will realize some tax reductions that were projected by the dissolution study. He also thanked Village Trustees Michael Cooper and Tracy Gurney, and Clerk Christine Bartlett for the fine job they have done for the village. He commended Cooper for his hard work and efficient efforts dealing with the aftermath of the August 2009 flood that caused more than \$400,000 in damage within the village. He said the stack of paperwork that Cooper went through in securing funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency stood about a foot high, but Cooper was on top of

the situation every step of the way.

He went on to acknowledge former board members he worked with in his 13 years on the board, including former Mayor Donald Butcher, and Trustees David Smith, Dorothy Wescott and the late Buddy Beaver. He also recognized former Village Clerks Lori Dankert, now the town justice; Carol Badurek and Laurie Kazimer. Kota also thanked Jack and Kathy Berry, accountants from Franklinville, for their invaluable help over the years.

Kota commended the board for their thrift in formulating village budgets, and for keeping tax increases manageable. He said they have tried to run the village like a business and listen to the concerns of the residents. He encouraged town residents to communicate their needs and concerns to the town board, and said it is important that local officials have feedback from their constituents. Finally, he said he looked forward to spending more time with his family, including his three grandchildren.

In other matters, the board established a capital reserve fund to be known as the “Sewer Major Repair Reserve Fund” to accumulate monies to finance the upgrade of equipment for the sewer system in the future. Kota said the village has about \$40,000 in remaining fund balance that he intended to put into this reserve account. He said the sewer system is 18 years old, and some original equipment such as generators will probably need replacement in the near future. He said he hoped the town would continue using this reserve fund for sewer equipment replacement.

Code Enforcement Officer James Pacanowski thanked the board for their cooperation during his term of service, citing the re-opening of the restaurant and major renovation of the tavern as positive improvements, as well as blight removal at certain locations. Pacanowski remains as CEO for the Town of Perrysburg.

In other business, the board approved payments from the following accounts: General Fund, \$2,968.59; and Sewer Fund, \$215.31.

A special meeting of the Perrysburg Village Board will be held Thursday, Dec. 29, at 6 p.m. at the Perrysburg Town Hall, 10460 Peck Hill Road. It will be a wrap-up meeting to address any last minute concerns prior to the dissolution of the village at the end of the year.