

Vice Mayor Byington shared that there was a recent *Dayton Daily News* article about Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel's goal of putting the checkbooks of all local governments online in an effort to promote financial transparency. Mandel argues that giving citizens full access to local government expenditures will hold local governments accountable. The story went on to say that the effort comes with a potential upfront taxpayer price tag of \$2.7 million dollars payable to OpenGov. OpenGov would set up a website for the Treasurers Office and then all local governments that choose to contract with OpenGov for this project would be charged a startup cost ranging from \$7,500 - \$15,000 based on the size of the local governments budget as well as additional annual maintenance fees totaling thousands of dollars. Some of the interesting facts from the article were that Mandel has asked and received approval from the Ohio Controlling Board for the ability to forego the bidding process for this project. In addition to the startup and maintenance fees, the contract obligates Mandel to promote OpenGov products and in return gives the Treasures Office a 20% credit for services purchased by local governments. The city of Oakwood has been contacted and has met with Treasurer Mandel regarding the potential for Oakwood participating in the Online Checkbook. In Oakwood, transparency has been an integral part of Oakwood's budgeting process for decades. The city is fortunate to have a 35 member Budget Review Committee made up of citizens who volunteer and represent all of the different precincts in Oakwood. Rather than providing Oakwood citizens with a website full of cancelled checks, the city works to make sure the citizens fully understand the city's budget priorities before the checks are even written. In addition to the Budget Review Committee, comprehensive financial reports are provided to all citizens on the city's website.