

Village of Waldron
102 S. Main St.
Waldron, MI 49288
April 11, 2023

The 2023 April meeting was held on April 11, 2023, at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building. President Russ Platt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken. Trustees Allison Harwood, George Kintner, John Newton, Stephen Newton, Mark Price, and President Russ Platt were present.

John Newton requested to add the Drains for Bruce Court, Larry Drive, and South Main Street and the Truck to the agenda. Mark Price requested to add Posting for Positions When They Become Available. John Newton made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Mark Price supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

Clerk Casey Gravelle pointed out that she had mislabeled last month's meeting as the February meeting, not March's meeting and suggested it be edited. John Newton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 14, 2023, with the edit. Stephen Newton supported, and it carried by a voice vote.

Public Comment

Jean Todd commented that she appreciated Russ Platt and Randy Hardee cleaning up the yard. She also wanted an update on the burned house on Marcus St. Russ Platt explained the house is going up for tax sale.

Emil Gravelle read a list of grievances he has against certain board members and called for their resignation. He stated if they continued without resigning, he would begin the recall process.

Reports to Council

Stephen Newton reported that the Fire Board meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2023.

President Russ Platt reported for Maintenance. Trustee Mark Price has been helping with Village maintenance. They have been continuing to pick up brush from the storm. They are doing a final cleanup.

No report was given for Street Administrator.

For a report for Code Enforcement, President Russ Platt asked the Legal Committee if they had done any work with the ordinances.

Emil Gravelle reported for Planning & Zoning. They have scheduled their first meeting for May 2. He has reached out to Phyllis Worsley but has not heard back. He is checking to see if she wants to be appointed to it as a citizen-at-large. He will reach out to her again.

Committee Reports

Roads and Right of Ways did not meet but had been looking over documents for a maintenance job description. George Kintner explained that without a street administrator it is difficult to move forward on a job description. He also reported further for the Legal Committee regarding the ordinances and were investigating why the courts had dismissed previous citations. They will need to reach out to the Village Attorney.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sarah Newton presented her report. She made 4 deposits for the Village in the last month. She had gone on vacation the previous week and made that deposit that day.

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Clerk's Report

Casey Gravelle discussed the following: IRS return checks, working on prepping for the audit, report due at the end of the month for the Covid money the Village received, Community Days is holding an Earth Day cleanup and would like input from council as to anything it would like to have done, Quickbooks will renew at the end of the month, but the cost is increasing to \$549, she and Allison Harwood delivered the gifts to Chris Douglas and Beth Town, the receipt given to her by Russ Platt for payment to Randy Hardee for the power washer he brought needs to be discussed and motioned on, whether council wished to contract with the Community Action Agency to help Water & Sanitation customers in arears, and shutoff notice change for the water department.

Mark Price made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Community Action Agency. Stephen Newton supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Mark Price made a motion to use the door hanger system. Motion died for a lack of support.

John Newton made a motion to order 250 door hangers. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

President's Report

President Russ Platt reported that there had been an issue with a water meter. Someone requested the meter numbers be double-checked. He further explained that the meter numbers for two properties were switched. He didn't understand why Randy's work was being second-guessed after he has been here as long as he has. Discussion continued about the situation. Dawna Popejoy, Water & Sanitation Billing Clerk, clarified the events by explaining the meters to both properties had been changed at different times. One in December of 2021 and the other September of last year. When a water leak was recently detected at the meter changed in 2021, maintenance noted the corresponding meter/numbers were switched. Verification of the numbers as now stated was requested before making the changes in the office for the accounts. Mark Price stated he went and verified the numbers for the office. Dawna explained whatever had happened with the meters happened before her. She has now resolved the whole situation.

Stephen Newton motioned to approve the proposed budget modification for the General Fund. Allison Harwood supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Account Description	Budget Amount	YTD Actual	Difference	Recom. Increase	Recom. Decrease	Revised Budget	Budget Balance
Contingency	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	-----	\$655	\$39,345	\$39,345
Travel Expense – Treasurer	-----	\$31.96	\$(31.96)	\$35	-----	\$35	\$3.04
Tools	-----	\$282.74	\$(282.74)	\$600	-----	\$600	\$317.26
Travel Expense	-----	\$19.65	\$(19.65)	\$20	-----	\$20	\$0.35

George Kintner made a motion to approve the proposed budget modification for the Water Fund. Stephen Newton supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

Account Description	Budget Amount	YTD Actual	Difference	Recom. Increase	Recom. Decrease	Revised Budget	Budget Balance
Contingency	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	-----	\$30	\$29,970	\$29,970
Travel Expense	-----	\$6.55	\$(6.55)	\$10	-----	\$10	\$3.45
Miscellaneous	-----	\$15.91	\$(15.91)	\$20	-----	\$20	\$4.09

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George Kintner made a motion to approve the proposed budget modification for the Sewer Fund. Allison Harwood supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

Account Description	Budget Amount	YTD Actual	Difference	Recom. Increase	Recom. Decrease	Revised Budget	Budget Balance
Contingency	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000	-----	\$25	\$24,975	\$24,975
Banking Fees	-----	\$12.50	\$(12.50)	\$25	-----	\$25	\$12.50

Mark Price made a motion to pay the bills. Stephen Newton supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Bruce Court Drains and a grading issue on Larry Drive were discussed. President Russ Platt presented to the council one bid for each. A discussion followed. Colleen Roberts expressed her concern regarding how her property is being affected by the standing water. Council explained that if the right of way was regraded near her neighbor’s home, it would solve the problem.

George Kintner made a motion to accept the proposal given for the Bruce Court Drain. John Newton supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

John Newton made a motion to accept the proposal given to grade the right of way on Larry Drive. Stephen Newton supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Colleen Roberts expressed that she wanted to fill in the ditch on either side of her driveway and requested the Village pay for drainage tile to be placed down so the drainage wouldn’t be affected. Council further discussed the issue. Mark Price made a motion to purchase drainage tile. Allison Harwood supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

The office received two letters of interest for trustee. President Russ Platt handed another letter to Clerk Casey Gravelle stating he had forgotten to give it to her. Stephen Newton made a motion to appoint Ryan Belcher as trustee. Allison Harwood and John Newton supported. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – no, Stephen Newton – yes, John Newton – yes, Mark Price – yes. Motion carried.

Two letters of interest were received for Street Administrator. John Newton made a motion to appoint Shawn Barnhart as Street Administrator. Allison Harwood supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, Stephen Newton – yes, John Newton – yes, Mark Price – yes. Motion carried.

President Russ Platt reported to council regarding the hiring of TJ-Cody Stidham and the events following his hiring. He explained Mr. Stidham stopped showing up. President Platt had made attempts to contact him and was unsuccessful. Discussion of hiring procedures followed. John Newton made a motion to terminate and to repost for the position. Stephen Newton supported. John Newton requested to add applicants must pass a background check and drug test. Addition died due to lack of support. Original motion carried with a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

President Russ Platt read a letter from Joyce Gendron at the Waldron District Library. They are planning another car show for the beginning of September and were requesting permission to host the event. George Kintner made a motion to approve the request for them to do the car show. Allison Harwood supported and it carried by a voice vote.

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Discussion regarding the truck began. Two estimates for repairs for the truck were discussed. Stephen Newton made a motion to approve the work to be done on the 1-ton truck by Fix-n-Fab. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Mark Price expressed his concern regarding the process required to post for positions without prior council approval when employees resign. Discussion followed.

Shawn Barnhart spoke up about his expectations in his role as street administrator and his relationship with council and the maintenance person.

Mark Price began a conversation regarding bathroom access for the maintenance personnel. Discussion followed. Allison Harwood and Russ Platt asked for research to be done regarding the situation.

The floor was opened back up for public comment. Mike Stuck made council aware of the ruts that were created while brush cleanup happened, asked for an update on the sidewalks being repaired, and the tile issue on South Main. Discussion followed.

Brent Leininger updated council on the work of the County Commissioners. He reported on unpaid property taxes and properties foreclosed on. He also stated that they voted on increasing the 9-1-1 surcharge on phones in Hillsdale County. Angelica and Joe Havasy expressed their concerns regarding the water bills, water meters, and how changing the ordinances to allow for cannabis in the Village could help bring in revenue from the state.

Emil Gravelle expressed his concern for statements made in the current meeting and reminded them of the park bid and grant.

Colleen Roberts asked about the brush at the park being cleaned up. President Russ Platt said that they were planning on working on the park the next day. He requested he will always appreciate volunteers. Joe Havasy suggested posting when volunteers would be helpful.

Mark Price made a motion to adjourn. Allison Harwood supported the motion, and it carried by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned until May 9, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Casey Gravelle
Village Clerk

ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
Village of Waldron is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer
TTY/TTD 711