

Village of Waldron  
102 S. Main St.  
Waldron, MI 49288

April 9, 2024

The 2024 April meeting was held on April 9, 2024, at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building. President Russ Platt called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call was taken with Trustees Ryan Belcher, Allison Harwood, George Kintner, John Newton, Stephen Newton, and Dakota Potter and President Russ Platt present.

Stephen Newton made a motion to approve the agenda. Allison Harwood supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

John Newton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 12, 2024. Ryan Belcher supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

Stephen Newton made a motion to approve the public hearing minutes of April 5, 2024. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

#### Public Comment

Amanda Jaqua reported that she is working with the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department and the National Neighborhood Watch to form the Waldron Community Safety Group. It is free to the Village. Any volunteers will be vetted by the Sheriff.

#### Reports to Council

Stephen Newton reported the fire and EMS had a total of 28 calls in February. And they sold the old engine truck at a special meeting in March.

Street Administrator Shawn Barnhart reported for maintenance and street administrator. Maintenance picked up brush, started mowing, fixed holes in road edges, and delivered water shut-off notices. He discussed installing a gate at the bridge entrance, the complaint he filed with the drain commission, presented quotes for tree removal and weed spraying at the lagoons, and a village drain that needs to be repaired. Discussion followed.

John Newton moved to approve Objective #1 on Jay Williams' proposal. Dakota Potter supported, and it carried with a voice vote. More discussion followed. Ryan Belcher moved to approve Objective #2, Option #2, and Objective #3, Option #2 on the same proposal. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

Stephen Newton moved to accept the bid from Farrell Enterprises with the maple removal on Mill St. Allison Harwood supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

President Russ Platt reported for Code Enforcement. He and George Kintner had gone around town to look for code violations. The office did receive an application for the code enforcement officer position.

Emil Gravelle reported for the Planning & Zoning Commission. They did not meet in April. Their next meeting is May 7.

#### Committee Reports

No committee reports were given.

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Sarah Newton presented her report. She made 7 deposits last month.

Clerk’s Report

Clerk Casey Gravelle discussed the following: scanning in records to store as pdfs, the Red Cross along with the fire department are installing smoke detectors in Waldron residents’ homes on April 20, Quickbooks renews at the end of the month and it is going up again, she will be researching other fund accounting programs over the following months, conversation with the village attorney regarding the water and sewer rates and a trustee acting as code enforcement officer, and the response from the USDA regarding the annual report.

President’s Report

He checked some places regarding ordinance violations. Allison Harwood asked about the windows at 100 N Main. He said he has attempted to contact him, but has heard nothing back.

George Kintner moved to accept the budget modification for the General account. Allison Harwood supported and it carried with a voice vote.

Account Description	Budget Amount	YTD Actual	Difference	Recom. Increase	Recom. Decrease	Revised Budget	Budget Balance
Contingency	\$40,000.00	-----	\$40,000.00	-----	\$5,500.00	\$34,500.00	\$34,500.00
Contracted-Fire Protection	\$6,000.00	\$11,500.00	\$(5,500.00)	\$5,500.00	-----	\$11,500.00	\$0

Allison Harwood moved to pay the bills. George Kintner supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mr. Joe Vandommelen with MRWA gave an abbreviated version of his presentation from the public hearing held the previous Friday. Discussion followed.

George Kintner moved to pass the resolution for the water rate increase as follows: to change the flat ready to use fee charging on REU’s to charging per meter size starting at \$35 for ¾ in meters and the larger meters as listed in the rate study from 2023 and charge \$9.95 per 1000 gallons starting with the May 25-June 24, due July 15. Allison Harwood supported. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Ryan Belcher – no, Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Dakota Potter – yes, President Russ Platt – yes. Motion carries.

George Kintner moved to pass the resolution for the water sewer\* rate increase as follows: to change the flat ready to use fee charging on REU’s to charging per meter size starting at \$30 for ¾ in meters and the larger meters as listed in the rate study from 2023 and charge \$5.63 per 1000 gallons starting with the May 25-June 24, due July 15. John Newton supported. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Ryan Belcher – no, Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Dakota Potter – yes, President Russ Platt – yes. Motion carries.

The office received one application for code enforcer. The applicant was Dakota Potter. John Newton moved to hire Dakota Potter as code enforcer. George Kintner supported the motion. A roll call vote was

taken with the following result: Ryan Belcher – no, Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Dakota Potter – recuse, President Russ Platt – yes. Motion carries.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

The floor was opened back up for public comment.

Casey Gravelle missed something in her report. She presented an email from the USGS regarding the well drilling project beginning in June. A decision needed to be made regarding how much they would be charged for the water they need for the project.

Emil Gravelle commented that when they go to work on the ordinance for an annual rate increase to set it to a metric and have a minimum and maximum percentage.

Brent Leininger commented that Dakota would also need to recuse himself on votes when he brings items to the board that need to be voted on as well.

Discussion followed regarding the project addressed by Clerk Casey Gravelle. Stephen Newton moved to set the rate at \$100/1000gal. Dakota Potter supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

Brent Leininger reported for the county commissioners. He discussed the Board of Determination hearing by the Drain Commissioner the following morning. Discussion followed.

April Platt expressed concern regarding the manure that is being spread on the fields in town, including the method. She also reported that she is acquiring 307 Church Street. She asked what needed to be done to have the meter pit removed from the property because she will have the house taken down. Discussion followed.

Stephen Newton made a motion to adjourn. Allison Harwood and John Newton supported the motion, and it carried by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. until May 14, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Casey Gravelle  
Village Clerk

\*Amended due to incorrect wording recorded in minutes, amendment reflects what was stated in the meeting.

\*\*Subject to approval at the May 14, 2024, meeting.