

Village of Waldron  
102 S. Main St.  
Waldron, MI 49288  
March 12, 2024

The 2024 March meeting was held on March 12, 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, and Stephen Newton and President Russ Platt present.

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

Stephen Newton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, 2024. Ryan Belcher supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

John Newton made a motion to approve the public hearing & special meeting minutes of February 28, 2024. Allison Harwood supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

#### Public Comment

Fire Chief Dennis McNett presented the proposed budget for the Wright-Waldron Fire Department. He also discussed that they need to raise the contracted amounts with all of the municipalities they serve. They are asking the Village to increase their amount from \$500/month to \$1,000/month. They are also reviewing the contract between the Fire Department, Village, and Wright Township. George Kintner moved to approve the increase in the contracted amount. John Newton supported, and it carried with a voice vote. Township Clerk Maghann Zimmerman told them they also need to approve the budget. George Kintner moved to amend his motion to include the fire department budget. Stephen Newton supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

Dakota Potter submitted a letter of interest for the open trustee position.

Ashley Risher, Hillsdale County Captain for Citizens for Local Choice, discussed the Energy Package Governor Whitmer passed in November. It will remove Township rights to set zoning for utilities. They are passing around a petition to fight the legislation passed in November and to place the issue on the ballot for the citizens to decide if they want the control to be in the hands of the state or to keep it in the hands of the townships.

#### Reports to Council

Stephen Newton reported that the fire board meeting would be held this coming Thursday.

Street Administrator Shawn Barnhart reported for maintenance and street administrator. Maintenance picked up brush, cleaned equipment, and completed a detailed inventory of the shop during the last month. He is looking for confirmation to get bids on the projects he requested in his budget. He also included in his report corrections to statements made at the budget hearing. The library is looking to replace their sidewalks with the grant they received and are currently planning on funding the project on their own. They want to verify if they need Village approval for the work to be done if they are paying for it themselves. The Drain Commissioner will be coming to look at the S. Main St. bridge. The white dump truck needs new batteries. Stephen Newton moved to give access to the funds set aside for sidewalks and trees. Allison Harwood supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

President Russ Platt reported for Code Enforcement. He had spoken with the owner of several run-down properties in the village. One is working on repairs. The others are seeking demolition.

Emil Gravelle reported for the Planning & Zoning Commission. They are working on verifying the existing land use. Their next meeting will be the first Tuesday in May.

#### Committee Reports

No committee reports were given.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sarah Newton presented her report. She made 7 deposits last month. She settled the property taxes with the county on March 1.

### Clerk's Report

Casey Gravelle discussed the following: \$30,000 transfer from Major to Local Streets is completed, budgets are set up, working on USDA annual report, letter of discrepancy from SSA, corrected 941s and W-2c's were filed for 2022, updating the records regarding vacated streets in the village, the office closing due to a fuel oil issue at the Rutledge Agency's office, and the boring project EGLE will be completing with the US Geological Survey in June.

### President's Report

No report given.

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

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

With the addition of the letter of interest given during public comment, three letters of interest were received for the open trustee seat. The letters were received from Brian Bernath, Dakota Potter, and Stacie Shamplo. Stephen Newton moved to appoint Dakota Potter as Trustee. A roll call vote was held with the following result: Ryan Belcher – no, Allison Harwood – no, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – yes, Stephen Newton – yes, President Russ Platt – yes. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding posting the red dump truck was held. Concern regarding the condition of the truck was raised. Stephen Newton moved that if they can get it fired up, to post the truck for a \$2500 minimum bid. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Joe Singer presented for his client regarding changing the ordinance regarding marijuana within the village. During his presentation it was discovered that his client did not live within village limits.

The floor was opened back up for public comment.

Brent Leininger reported for the county commissioners. He showed pictures of the work being done on the courthouse. August ballot will have multiple tax issues on the ballot, renewal combinations and ambulance millage back on. Looking for sources of revenue to support needed upgrades in Hillsdale County for the public safety communications system. More discussion regarding the work on the courthouse followed.

Dennis McNett asked that if anyone has any question regarding the upgrade that will be on the ballot in November, please see him.

Shawn Barnhart raised concern regarding basketball hoops being left in the roads and right of ways in the village. It poses a safety issue for the buses and village vehicles.

George Kintner made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Belcher and Allison Harwood supported the motion, and it carried by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. until April 9, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Casey Gravelle  
Village Clerk

\*Subject to approval at the April 9, 2024, meeting.