

Village of Waldron  
102 S. Main St.  
Waldron, MI 49288  
October 11, 2022

The 2022 October meeting was held on October 11, 2022 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. Shawn Barnhart and Darcie Salmon were absent. All others were present.

Additions and changes to the agenda: Bill Hall added Water Rate Study to Old Business.

Bill Hall made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition as presented with the addition. Phyllis Worsley supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Karen McNett made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 13, 2022. Bettie Salmon supported and it carried by a voice vote.

#### Public Comment

Emil Gravelle notified council that he filed a complaint with the District 32 Engineer regarding Keri Burress treating the water as someone who is not certified.

Mark Price asked about the trash can situation. Dawna Popejoy reported that the software failed to transfer more than one trash can per account when the software was updated earlier in the year. It was for the months of May and June. The Village was out \$1200 because of the error. It has been fixed. Russ explained the inventory process and that we will be sending 10 trash cans back to A.R.S.

Brent Leininger, County Commissioner, reported Ambulance services contract has not been signed yet for the upcoming year. The commissioners held a special meeting that day regarding the Senior Center and whether they would extend the contract for 15 years, the life of the recently approved millage, but the commissioners did not support that length. They are looking to be consistent with all contracts. Work is continuing on the Courthouse. They are working on finalizing the County budget for next year.

#### Reports to Council

Karen McNett, Fire Board, gave her report last month. The Fire Board's meeting was scheduled for October 13, 2022.

Russ Platt reported for Maintenance. The truck is ready to go and pick up leaves. There are bags at the office for residents to use for collection. Residents may also rake them to the curb. He would like Casey Gravelle to post the information to the website.

Russ Platt reported that we have had no letters of interest for the position of Street Administrator.

There was no report from Code Enforcement. Brian Bernath was absent. Bill Hall asked if Russ had called him, which he has tried. Bettie Salmon made a motion to notify Bryan to respond or the Council would need to remove him as Code Enforcer. Motion died from lack of support.

Phyllis Worsley, Planning and Zoning, reported that Mark and Joel were almost done, but the work wasn't adequate. She noticed when she was going to the printers some of the areas were not finished. It will be extended. She is heading to the printers this week with the updates. It will then need to be reviewed by council.

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

#### Treasurer's Report

Read aloud by Russ Platt in Keri Burress's absence. Since the last meeting, Keri Burress collected \$6,556.29 in taxes. In addition there have been water assessments paid in the sum of \$1,640.48 and sewer assessments paid in the sum of \$258.63. She turned in a bill to collect for administration fees of \$639.81 on September 30, 2022.

#### Clerk's Report

Casey Gravelle discussed the following: the changeover from Marge Burress to herself was met with difficulty, Representatives from Premier bank would visit October 13, Beth Town had been in to help, reconciliations are overdue and reports cannot be considered accurate representation of funds and accounting, the RRI funds for water and sewer have not been receiving the required yearly deposits as per the USDA, access to the Village website, yet to receive the Treasurer's Report that is a required by the first Monday of the month by law, requested an ordinance be added for President and Trustee compensation to be compliant with MCL 64.21.

She reported that Shannon Johnston, President of the Village of Clayton, called and complimented the work done on our streets and that they looked very good.

#### President's Report

Russ Platt had nothing to report.

Bill Hall made a motion to pay the bills. Bettie Salmon supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Water Rate Study was done in the spring. Bill Hall wanted to know if the Water Committee had been able to get together to discuss the water rate increases that were proposed. Russ Platt has heard nothing from the committee regarding the water rates. Bill Hall and Phyllis Worsley voiced their concern that rate increases need to be decided on to ensure proper funding of the water and sanitation infrastructure.

Casey Gravelle reported on the audit. She spoke with Jon Nowinski the Wednesday prior. The audit hasn't been started yet, because he had not received everything he had requested. She discussed what The Lally Group was charging to perform the audits for the fiscal years ending in 2021 and 2022. Reconciliations need to be fully completed before being sent for auditing purposes. She proposed options to get the overdue audits completed. She asked for clarification whether Marge had received approval from anyone on the council had granted approval for the contracts. Kathleen Worsley said she had not. Council asked what would be helpful for the clerk to get it done. Phyllis Worsley moved to get the help needed to clean up the accounting. Russ Platt supported and it carried with a voice vote.

April Platt requested last month for the Village to sponsor 1 or 2 Christmas Pole Ornaments. She reported on how many have been sponsored of the 10 Waldron Community Days wants to get. Bettie Salmon moved to have the Village sponsor 2 of the pole ornaments that are lighted. Bill Hall supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Russ Platt reported that he and Randy have talked to Mike Martin and Mike Phillips at Core&Main. We need new meters but keep getting told we can't get them from the company. So Mike Phillips will be looking into getting us 20 new meters. There are 45% of the meters not reading correctly.

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

Casey Gravelle requested council decide what to pay her. Bettie Salmon moved to pay Casey Gravelle \$12/hour with her hours not to exceed 40 hours a week until the end of the year. Motion was unsupported. Karen McNett moved to pay Casey Gravelle \$13/hour and to work the hours she needs to get the accounting fixed. Phyllis Worsley supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote. Pay may be adjusted once things have settled.

April Platt has offered help the Village apply for a grant to upgrade the electrical at Rutledge Park. She will write the grant application and get bids for the work to be done. Bill Hall made a motion to allow April to write a grant to the Hillsdale County Community Foundation to upgrade the power at the park. Karen McNett and Bettie Salmon supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote.

Casey Gravelle asked for permission to look into using the bill pay at the bank to use the bills. Karen McNett made a motion to look into the Village using the bill pay function at the bank. Bill Hall supported and it carried by a voice vote.

The floor was once again opened for public comment.

Emil Gravelle commented on the terms for Trustee were changed previously where they are no longer staggered. The council may want to investigate that in the future.

Steven Newton commented that the reason there may not have been any interest in the Street Administrator position is because the people may not know what the position entails for only \$400 per year.

Bill Hall made a motion to adjourn. Bettie Salmon supported the motion and it carried by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m. until November 15, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Casey Gravelle  
Village Clerk

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