

Village of Waldron  
102 S. Main St.  
Waldron, MI 49288  
PUBLIC HEARING  
April 5, 2024

A public hearing of the Waldron Village Council was set by President Russ Platt for Friday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Waldron Area School.

President, Russ Platt, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call was taken showing Council members Allison Harwood, George Kintner, Stephen Newton, Dakota Potter, and President Russ Platt, present. Trustees Ryan Belcher and John Newton were absent.

Mr. Joe Vandommelen with MRWA presented the rate study for the water and wastewater departments. He reported on the current rate structure of each; the expenses for the systems; replacement schedules, including required maintenance; the rate calculation; and the new rates. A conversation among the public, the board, and Mr. Vandommelen followed. Concerns raised included charging for owners of vacant land if their property has a meter pit, whether a resolution or ordinance would be required, other options for funding, phasing the new rates in over a period of a few years, future rate increases.

The floor was opened up for public comment.

Bill Hall asked how the hearing was advertised. Clerk Casey Gravelle answered that it had been placed in the Hillsdale Daily newspaper, posted at the office and the gas station. He explained that it would have been better to send letters to the residents. He also asked for clarification if all meter pits are being billed. President Russ Platt explained that properties with vacant land that have a meter pit are not being billed currently. Discussion followed.

Emil Gravelle asked Mr. Vandommelen of phasing in the water rates every 6 months as opposed to all at once or phasing it in annually. Mr. Vandommelen explained that it would still be similar to phasing it annually and delays saving for upcoming maintenance and repairs that will be needed for the systems.

Stephen Newton made a motion to adjourn. Allison Harwood supported the motion, and it was carried with a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Gravelle  
Village Clerk

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