

Village of Waldron
102 S. Main St.
Waldron, MI 49288
March 14, 2023

The 2023 ~~February~~ March meeting was held on March 14, 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.

***Edit to correct which monthly meeting was held March 14, 2023.**

Stephen Newton made a motion to approve the agenda. John Newton and Mark Price supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

George Kintner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 14, 2022. Stephen Newton supported, and it carried by a voice vote.

Mark Price made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of February 25, 2022. John Newton supported, and it carried by a voice vote.

John Newton motioned to approve the special meeting minutes of March 2, 2023. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Reports to Council

Dennis McNett, Fire Chief, presented the proposed budgets for the Wright-Waldron Fire Department. Stephen Newton motioned to approve the Fire Budget as presented. Allison Harwood supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote. Stephen Newton made a motion to approve the Ambulance budget as presented. Allison Harwood and George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

President Russ Platt reported for Maintenance. He and Randy have been picking up brush from the storm and burning as they go.

Street Administrator April Platt reported to Council on the following: Act 51 report requirements regarding documentation for expenditures, the expenses from the last month that could be reimbursed from the Streets accounts, recommended maintenance and tasks, inventory needs to be done, recommended tools for work to be completed, and the current status of the drains and the recommended maintenance schedule for them, communication with the maintenance person and update on the requests from council for her to do.

No report was given for Code Enforcement.

No report was made for Planning & Zoning.

Committee Reports

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

John Newton reported for Utilities and Drains. Jason Laney had provided two estimates for maintenance contracts for the water plant to service the wells and scales. John Newton motioned to approve \$3000 to be used for upgrades and calibrations. George Kintner supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

George Kintner reported for Legal, stating that they haven't met yet. He has been looking over our current ordinances and those for surrounding municipalities. He hopes to meet once the empty trustee seat is filled.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sarah Newton presented her report and discussed her meeting with Hillsdale County Treasurer.

Clerk's Report

Casey Gravelle discussed the following: budget correction for last fiscal year, she and Sarah had read over minutes from years 2013-2017, raising the water and sewer rates needs to be done through a resolution and needed to be addressed in this meeting, Joe Vandommelen had been in to complete another rate study but was unable to meet with Utilities and Drains due to illness, working on the end of year report for the USDA, behavior amongst the councilmembers, the deed restrictions and ordinances regarding the park, and the bill from Reggie for the brakes needs to be discussed, spring cleanup is May 13th, and there had been an email from a resident. She asked for the questions to be included in the minutes. They are as follows:

1. What was the previous base (\$) amount for water usage? Sewer?
2. Where is the water rate survey posted?
3. What were their findings and recommendations?
4. What are the current base charges amounts and where are they posted?
5. What is the current charge for garbage pickup and what day was it changed?
6. Why are the billing dates less than 30 days for water/sewer?
7. Will the village be getting recycling services from ARS? If so, what would the processing fee to residents be?
8. Will the village be getting unpaid interns for village maintenance, park, clerical etc.?
9. Where are the village ordinances posted?
10. Where are the Zoning and planning commission and subsequent committees' minutes posted?
11. What are the findings for the zoning and planning commission? Where are they posted?
12. What economic development is being planned to attract new businesses and create jobs locally?
13. Do the village trustees have designated areas of the village that they act as alderman for?
14. Where is the rate study for the water posted?
15. Where are the village Budget and Audits posted?
16. What was the past amount of monetary compensation for all village employees, trustees/ council members?
What are the new amounts and when do they go into effect?
17. When will the council start live streaming meetings for residents that cannot attend?
18. Is there a water affordability study in place?

It was discussed for the committees to look over the questions and get back to her.

President's Report

President Russ Platt presented council with a letter from the Village Attorney. He explained that he and the legal committee met with Mr. Lucas the day before the meeting. The letter addressed three issues: vacancy on council, resignation of appointed official or employee, and Open Meeting Act. Concern regarding committees meeting via text or email was discussed. Debate occurred over when a position is vacant after a resignation is given. With the information in the letter, a trustee stated that even though council had made a decision at a prior meeting, when April Platt had given her resignation she was done at that moment, and was effectively no longer Street Administrator. There was confusion regarding the vacancy on council. The letter stated there was a 3 to 3 deadlock over two applicants, implying a vote had

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

been taken already. When the fact the President had pecuniary interest in the other applicant being placed on council, President Russ Platt withdrew one letter of interest.

Allison Harwood addressed the bill from Reggie's Automotive regarding the brakes. The spending limit for the president was briefly touched upon and what would be acceptable moving forward. Allison Harwood motioned to pay the bill from Reggie. John Newton supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

George Kintner motioned to pay the bills, with Stephen Newton supporting. It carried with a voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stephen Newton made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-01, to raise the ready to serve rate for water and sewer by 30%, the water usage rate to the recommended level of \$8.73 per 1000 gallons, and increase the sewer usage rate by 15%, effective January 25, 2023. Allison Harwood supported. It carried by a voice vote.

Russ Platt presented the letter of interest for trustee to council. Stephen Newton made a motion to appoint Emil Gravelle to trustee. George Kintner supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following result: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – no, Stephen Newton – yes, Mark Price – no, President Russ Platt – no. Motion does not pass. Council has one more regular meeting to appoint someone to fill the council vacancy before having to send it to special election.

There were no letters of interest for Street Administrator.

Russ Platt read one letter of interest out loud for position of Code Enforcer. Stephen Newton made a motion to hire Charles Bragg for Code Enforcer. George Kintner supported the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following result: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – Yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Mark Price – yes. Motion carried.

Russ Platt presented the sole application received for the seasonal positions. The applicant said he was interested in both and would get his chauffer's license to be able to fulfill the driving requirements.

Stephen Newton motioned to hire TJ-Cody Stidham for Seasonal SPRING/SUMMER Maintenance. Allison Harwood supported, and a roll call vote was taken with the following result: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – Yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Mark Price – yes. Motion carried.

Stephen Newton motioned to hire TJ-Cody Stidham for Seasonal WINTER Maintenance. George Kintner supported, and a roll call vote was taken with the following result: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – Yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Mark Price – yes. Motion carried.

With the discussion of hiring another part-time maintenance person, it was discussed to delay hiring for lawnmowing. Stephen Newton made a motion to delay hiring a lawnmowing company. Mark Price supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

John Newton would like to get estimates for underground boring for the work for Bruce Court before moving forward with the needed repairs.

The part-time maintenance position was discussed briefly. A job description needs to be set before posting for the position. Mark Price made a motion to table posting for a year-round part-time maintenance person. John Newton supported the motion and it carried with a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

April Platt summarized the events leading up to Matt Word, County Drain Commissioner, attending the meeting to discuss the Boyd #118 drain. She also introduced Mr. Rod Hamdan and his wife who purchased the land between the Zorn's and Dollar General. She explained the process if the Village Council passed the resolution to file the petition to the Drain Commission for the Boyd #118 drain. Matt Word reiterated and expanded upon the information April gave

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

and answered questions from councilmembers. Brent Leininger, County Commissioner, also added information for the process.

John Newton motioned to make a resolution to file a petition with the County Drain Commission for the repair of drain #118. Mark Price supported the motion, and a roll call vote was taken with the following results: Allison Harwood – yes, George Kintner – yes, John Newton – Yes, Stephen Newton – yes, Mark Price – yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Hamdan explained he had reached out to Dollar General about their drain that dumps water onto his property and the actions going forward for both of them as business owners plan to do regarding the excess water on their properties. He is considering where to place the driveway for his property. He explained why he decided to build storage units in Waldron.

Council briefly discussed the repairs needed for the 1-ton truck. Stephen Newton motioned to table the discussion on what to do with the truck. George Kintner supported, and it carried with a voice vote.

Mike Stuck asked for clarification on what is causing the drainage issue on Bruce Court. Discussion regarding the tiles, drains, and catch basins in that area occurred. Shawn Barnhart wants to know when the holes that were dug in January will be filled. He needs to be able to get his camper out of his yard and cannot do that currently.

Emil Gravelle expressed his frustration in how the meeting was handled. He notified council he already submitted a FOIA request for the letters of interest. When he explained that the letters of interest and applications President Russ Platt removed were to remain with the clerk for filing and retention, President Platt handed them to the clerk. He also pointed out the hypocritical nature of actions taken by certain councilmembers.

Mike Stuck commented again, asking about the sidewalk repairs. They had been bid out last year and approved, but the work hadn't been completed. Shawn Barnhart let council know that Larry Deck marked down the sidewalks that were contracted for work and could be contacted.

April Platt commented that she reached out to Laura Loomis, Financial Specialist for Act 51 money for MDOT. Concern had been expressed regarding the need for a Street Administrator. April relayed Laura's responses, which stated a Street Administrator is required for receipt of Act 51 money and what the responsibilities of said position.

Brent Leininger reported on Consumer's Energy's \$25 rebate they are offering in response to the power outage from the ice storm in February. Public Service Committee meetings were scheduled for the public to voice their concerns, both were on March 20th. He also discussed proper planning when planting trees and not planting them near power lines. He updated council on the work being done on the courthouse. He also expressed the need for workers for the Drain Commission. He also touched upon the flooding on the north end of town and the effects of the potential work to be done on the Boyd #118 drain. Matt Word explained the Board Review would need to be held in a large enough space and stressed the importance of public turnout.

Emil Gravelle asked when President Platt and Trustee John Newton met with the attorney. He also addressed the vehicle maintenance on the 1-ton truck and the importance to investigate the maintenance neglect.

George Kintner made a motion to adjourn. Allison Harwood supported the motion, and it carried by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned until April 11, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Casey Gravelle
Village Clerk

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