

SARDINIA VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING June 12, 2023

Roll Call:

Bill North-Present	Dustin Puckett-Present	Angela Lyons-Present
Anna Turner-Present	Peggy Vance-Present	Ashlie Webster-Absent
Tom Mayes, Solicitor Present		Amy Mason, Administrator

The minutes from May 8, 2023, were presented for approval. *A motion was made by Mr. Puckett, seconded by Mr. North. Roll call was made, all members present voted yes. Motion carried.*

The financial reports for May 2023 were reviewed by the Council. *Ms. Lyons made a motion to approve the May financial reports as submitted, a second by Ms. Turner. Roll call was made, all present members voted yes. Motion carried.*

Administrator

Ms. Mason recognized Ms. Emily Carman for her service to the Village of Sardinia as the Utility Clerk. Emily and her parents were present at the Council meeting. Emily was a former student of Ms. Mason's and came in to work for her in September of 2022 after the utility clerk left with no notice. That clerk had only been with the village for two months so there had not been any consistent coverage for the village for several months. Emily cleaned up billing issues and records and helped the Village transition to a new electronic billing system and enter all the new meters into the system because of the digital meter upgrade. Emily had just graduated college with a degree in Social Work. Emily is leaving the village to move out of State and work as a Social Worker. We wanted to take the time to honor and thank her for her service. The mayor recognized her service to the community and thanked her family for attending the meeting.

Ms. Mason updated the council on the two ordinances that she has been working to enforce to help clean up the community. We extended grace on several residences until after the clean-up days, so they had an opportunity to remove trash from their yards. We are currently fining one citizen for \$100.00 a day because they have made no effort to bring their property into compliance with the ordinance. A dumpster will be delivered to the home on June 14th and the public works department will use our equipment to clean up the property. The police will be on site to oversee this project and to provide safety for our employees. We will bill the citizens for this service. The other ordinance we have been enforcing requires citizens to mow their yard. Today, the village mowed four residences.

AC Glass were out to measure the doors for replacement as part of the GRIT grant. The door coming into council will be handicap accessible. GRIT was in the village last week and toured the building and the village again. They are working with us as we move to a new budget year for other ways that they can help the Village. We are still working with the planners for the Appalachian community grant. The historical architect was in the village last week and will return with the planners helping to assess our buildings and grant funding that might be available to help our business owners restore the historic buildings. Three planners were assigned to Sardinia. The point scoring for the grant scores well with historical arts projects as well as historical significance like the underground railroad.

The service department has just recently completed the storm drain repair at the end of Sardinia-Mowrytown road. That was a large project. The next one they will work on is at Charlotte and Tri-County Highway. They installed a flush hydrant on Brown Avenue. They recently cut all the brush behind the guardrails and the train tracks to improve visual clearance when pulling out onto roads in Sardinia. They are maintaining the cemetery, and we have had a lot of positive response to its condition. They will be having some roads repaired in July. There are other funding opportunities to help with road repair that we requested, but we will not know until July if that will be approved. The village does have some money set aside to work on road repairs on some of the side roads.

I am working on a project for the back of the cemetery, the original portion of the cemetery that dates to the 1800's. In the past, many of the records were lost due to a fire. We are receiving a bid next week from a company that works to restore cemeteries in Ohio. If you look at that portion of the cemetery, many stones are laying on the ground or leaning dangerously. This will be a multiple-year project. He did help me learn that the government mapped every cemetery in the country in 1935 and I was able to find those records in the Administration building in Georgetown. I now have a map of the cemetery from 1935 that shows where soldiers are buried. There are three soldiers from the War of 1812 and 19 from the Civil War. Three soldiers are unknown. A long-term project that I will be working toward is ways to fund and restore the cemetery.

Ms. Vance relayed a message from the fire department thanking the village for trimming the growth at the end of Yankee Street. Pulling out onto Purdy felt unsafe previously. Ms. Lyons asked about a previous decision to waive the fee for Mr. Thompson if he put in the sewer shut off. Ms. Mason told her he paid the village to install the sewer shut-off valve and met the conditions the council had given. There are only two digital meters that need to be installed due to the need to be inside the building for installation and two business 2" lines that we are waiting on parts to complete.

Ms. Turner asked about the railroad tracks and the continued deterioration. Mayor Schroeder is still working with the railroad for that two events are slowing down any progress, the East Palestine derailment and the State of Ohio deciding to put in an Amtrak line from Cincinnati to Columbus and Cleveland. The same gentleman assigned to Sardinia is over those two projects. We do not have a timetable moving forward.

Police Department

Police Chief Pangallo presented the police report and went over all categories with the council. That report will be included with the minutes. The officers completed their annual training for shooting, rifles, and side arm.

Ms. Lyons asked the Chief if the officers are using their body cameras every time they walk up to a car. Chief Pangallo admitted that body cameras are newer for this department. They have been using them for about two months now. The policy states that they are to turn them on every single time.

Committee update:

The Public Safety Committee is making a recommendation to add a K-9 to the Sardinia Police Department. This would include bringing Officer Perry on 30 hours a week. Officer Perry has a K-9 dog the Village would have to insure at \$421.00 annually. What we are insuring is that when the dog (Ghost) is working for the Village of Sardinia, if he is injured or killed, the insurance would pay up to \$18,000 to replace the dog and the training to certify the new dog as a K-9 officer. The Village will not own the dog. We are working with local police departments to install a cage into one of our cruisers for Ghost or trading vehicles with a local department that has an SUV for a K-9 that they no longer need.

A roll call vote was requested by the mayor to approve the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee to add a K-9 unit to the Sardinia Police Department. *Mr. North voted yes, Mr. Puckett voted yes, Ms. Vance voted yes, Ms. Lyons abstained, Ms. Turner voted yes. Motion carried.*

Mayor

A third reading of the ordinance to approve and adopt and enact ORC 505.375 and ORC 505.391 was made. *A roll call was taken to approve the ordinance. All present members voted yes. Motion carried.*

A second reading of an ordinance setting requirements for restaurants and commercial kitchens regarding grease traps, interceptors and separators was made by the mayor.

The mayor presented an ordinance amending the rate of pay for designated employees of the Village of Sardinia. Two of these were approved by motion last month but needed an ordinance. The third is a raise to the Administrator's salary to \$60,000 per year that will put her back to the highest paid employee over the Public Works Director. The mayor discussed reasons that he feels the Administrator deserves this pay rate.

A motion was made by Ms. Vance to suspend the rules, seconded by Ms. Turner to consider this on an emergency basis. A roll call vote was made, and all present members voted yes.

A motion was made to approve ordinance 1304-23 to amend the rate of pay by Ms. Turner, seconded by Ms. Vance, roll call was taken and all present members voted yes. Motion carried.

The mayor requested moving the meeting in July from the 10th to the 17th of July. *Ms. Lyons made a motion to change the July meeting to July 17th, seconded by Ms. Turner, roll call was taken, all present members voted yes. Motion carried.*

The mayor gave an update on a timeline for the tearing down of the equity building. The bids will be approved at the July 6th land bank meeting. We were told it would be completed by June 30th. That obviously will not happen, but it should still take place this summer. There was some litigation that slowed the process down.

The Car Show is moving back to the center of town on August 19, 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Puckett to close the roads necessary in Sardinia from 8am-5pm on August 19, 2023. A second was made by Mr. North. Roll call was taken, and all present members voted yes. Motion carried.

Audience:

Mr. Stan Purdy addressed the council. He is representing a festival in Ohio in 2026 celebrating the 250th year of our independence. This will take place in Brown County in Georgetown, Ohio on July 4th, 2026. A committee has been formed to begin working on this festival. They would like Sardinia to send a representative to join the committee. The next meeting is on July 19, 2023 at 7:30pm at the tech school on Hamer Road. We will see about appointing someone to that committee.

Mr. Puckett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. North, all approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Passed: 7/17/23



James Schroeder, Mayor