

## SARDINIA VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING September 11, 2023

### Roll Call:

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

The minutes from August 14, 2023, were presented for approval. Several members have not had a chance to review them so a motion to approve will happen during the October meeting.

The financial reports for August 2023 were reviewed by the Council. Discussion was had over several expenses that are part of the GRIT grant. *Ms. Vance made a motion to approve the August financial reports as submitted, a second by Ms. Turner. Roll call was made, all present members voted yes. Motion carried.*

### Administrator

Ms. Mason gave some staffing updates for the Village. An ordinance amending the rate of pay was presented to the council. Ms. Mason hired a temporary employee, Maria Palm, to assist with the police department. We are currently short of two officers. Officer Perry was appointed as the Police Chief at the last meeting. His previous position was an officer for 30 hours a week and Officer Peters resigned and was also 30 hours per week. The public safety committee approved hiring a temp for the police department to assist administratively. Maria Palm is currently being paid \$18.00 an hour. Ms. Mason requested a motion to approve an ordinance amending the rate of pay as an emergency measure. *Ms. Webster made a motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion. Roll call was made, all members voted yes. Motion carried. Ms. Vance made a motion to approve the ordinance, Ms. Webster seconded the motion. Roll call was made, all members voted yes. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mason presented a resolution to accept a records retention schedule for the Village of Sardinia and its archives. Ms. Palm will also be assisting the Village in purging old records that need to be removed. Mr. Mayes explained that we must abide by the Ohio Municipal Records Manual, which is quite extensive. This resolution just allows us to purge or archive records according to that policy. Ms. Mason explained to the council that storage of more than 20 years of the mayor's court proceedings and utility bills is still stored in the basement and some records back to the 1980's and 1990's. There are more than 30 boxes of records that need to be reviewed. The goal is while we have the extra administrative budget right now is to work to get all those things cleaned out. Once we determine all the records that need purged, we will notify the Auditor's office of the date we want them destroyed. We must give the State Auditor at least 15 days' notice so they can review their records and make sure they do not need any, and then we will pay a company to destroy them. Ms. Mason requested a motion to accept the resolution. *Ms. Lyons made the motion to accept the resolution; Ms. Vance seconded. Roll call was made, all members voted yes. Motion passed.*

Ms. Mason proposed another resolution authorizing Mayor Bill North to prepare and apply to participate in Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program and to execute

contracts as required. This resolution was drawn up and requested by Kurtis Strickland, Regional RCAP MIS Coordinator. A letter was also included for the mayor's approval to allow Kurtis Strickland to work on behalf of the Village of Sardinia to secure funding. The grant that he is working to secure would repair our blowers at the Sewer plant and replace and repair the pump stations in the Village. *Ms. Turner made a motion to accept the resolution; Ms. Webster seconded the motion. Roll call was made, all members voted yes. Motion carried.*

Ms. Mason updated the council on the budget and completion of the Workforce development center funded by the GRIT grant. The total grant money available to the Village for this project is \$291,396.60. This is a reimbursement grant. All funds must be used, and receipts submitted to GRIT by September 30, 2023. The sign has been installed. The company will be back to finish the installation. The parking lot has been repaved and striped. The three glass doors have been installed since the last meeting. The upstairs remodel is mostly done. The plumber will complete the bathroom installation this week. The furniture for upstairs has all been ordered. The budget includes \$20,000 for repair or replacement units. We might be putting three Mini splits upstairs to improve the temperature. The IT and security installation will begin next week. The camera and badge entry system will allow the workforce development center to be accessible even when the office is closed. Ms. Webster gave an update as to how the workforce development center will benefit the community.

Ms. Mason notified the council that a request for a liquor license has been received for Maddy's pizza. The economic development committee met last week and invited Ty to give us a history and explanation of what his plan is with the request for the liquor license. The village received an official request from the Ohio Department of Commerce to approve this license. We have three options: we can sign the document, request a hearing, or request a 30-day delay. How many liquor licenses are available to a community is based on population. So based on the population of Sardinia, three licenses are available. A D-1 license is beer only sales, a D-3 includes more alcohol options and a D-5 which is available for a full bar and all alcohol options. Ty filed for a D-1 with the state and was denied because that was not available. The only available liquor license is a D-5. Questions were asked about what businesses in town have the D-1 and D-3 license. Two of the gas stations in town have those licenses. *Mr. Puckett made the motion to approve Ms. Mason signing the document provided by the Ohio Division of Liquor Control on behalf of the Village of Sardinia, Ms. Webster seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Mr. Puckett, yes; Ms. Vance, abstain, Ms. Lyons, abstain, Ms. Turner, yes, Ms. Webster yes, motion carried.*

Ms. Mason informed the council that an appeal has been requested from the zoning committee. The previous mayor, Jim Schroeder, denied a zoning request because it did not meet the requirements. The plan was to deny the request because that is legally what had to be done and then have the resident to appeal to the zoning committee for a variance. Mr. Cramer has a piece of property on Pleasant Lane that he is sectioning off into two separate lots so that a family member can build an additional residence. The zoning ordinance requires a 40' wide drive back and he only has approximately 33' available. The council needs to appoint a new member to the zoning committee since Ms. Webster resigned her position when she was appointed to the council. Ms. Mason requested the council to appoint Mr. Schroeder to the committee since he is familiar with the process and had advised Mr. Cramer on the process prior to resigning from

being Mayor. *Bill North, current mayor, nominated Jim Schroeder to fill the vacancy on the zoning appeals board. Ms. Webster made the motion to appoint Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Puckett seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, Ms. Webster abstained, all other members voted yes, motion carried.*

#### Committee Updates

**Public Works Committee** update by Bill North: Weight limits on the roads were discussed in committee. The committee requested Mr. Mayes to begin researching ordinances to limit trucks over a certain weight limit from accessing roads in the Village of Sardinia. The plan to remain EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) complaint for the sewer plant since we do not have a sewer operator currently employed by the Village was reviewed.

**Public Safety Committee** discussed the same topic from an enforcement standpoint. It was discussed in council to have one committee address this issue and then make a recommendation to the other committee. The Public Safety committee is going to oversee this issue. A meeting to discuss further was scheduled for September 20, 2023, at 5pm.

**Finance Committee** discussed the budget for 2024. We also reviewed the financial contract with Greg Wilson to provide coverage for our sewer plant to remain EPA compliant.

**Economic Committee** update was given by Ms. Webster. She reviewed the meeting with Ty about his request for a liquor license. Ms. Webster also updated the committee's decision to name the workforce development center *Sardinia Outreach* and reviewed more details of how to advertise and fill space once the center is open. A committee meeting was scheduled on September 18, 2023, at 10am to discuss forming a CIC to benefit the Village of Sardinia and the open house for Sardinia Outreach grand opening.

#### Police Department

Chief Perry updated the council that no additional officers have been hired yet. The search is still ongoing. K-9 officer, Ghost, is now certified for tracking. Chief Perry and Ghost are currently in patrol and obedience training. Chief Perry reviewed the equipment that had been repaired and updated. The K-9 cage for the Tahoe was donated to the department and has already been installed. Additional equipment was donated to keep Ghost cool and to prevent overheating. Mr. Feinen updated the council that Chief Perry is unable to attend the newly appointed chief training required by the AG office because they have no availability for the training currently. Chief Perry reviewed his traffic stops and Mayor's court for August. Details are included in the report.

#### Mayor:

The mayor opened nominations to elect a council president since Mr. North was the previous council president and he was sworn in as mayor at the conclusion of the August meeting. *Ms. Lyons nominated Ms. Webster; Ms. Turner seconded the nomination. Roll call was taken. Ms. Webster abstained; all other members voted yes. Motion passed. Nominations were closed. Ms. Vance then made a motion to appoint Ms. Webster as the council president, Ms. Lyons seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, Ms. Webster abstained, all other members voted yes.*

#### Audience:

Ms. Weis updated the council of the next meeting for Hope and Promise on September 19, 2023, at 5pm. Hope and Promise would like to start a farmers' market or something that would benefit

the Village at the location the village owns that used to have the gas station on Maple Avenue. The council does not have any specific plans for that location and is open to hearing a presentation in the future from Hope and Promise about possibilities. The economic development committee will hear this proposal in the future.

Melissa Zeller notified the council that there is a large hornet's nest over the roadway on Graham Road. She requested that it be removed. Ms. Mason will investigate what is needed to remove the nest.

Mr. Mayes asked if anyone was present to interview for the open council seat. Mr. Troutman was the only one present.

*A motion was made to go into executive session per Ohio Revised code 121.22G1 to interview candidates for the open council seat. A motion was made by Ms. Vance at 8:13pm, seconded by Mr. Puckett. Roll call was made, all members voted yes. The council room was cleared.*

*A motion was made to exit the executive session by Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Puckett. Roll call was made. All members voted yes. Executive session ended at 8:24pm.*

The mayor asked if there was any action coming out of executive session. Mr. Puckett made a motion to appoint Mr. Troutman to fill the remainder of the open council seat that expires 12/31/2023. Ms. Webster seconded the motion. Roll call was made, and all members voted yes. Motion passed. Mr. Mayes will swear him in at the next council meeting.

A round table discussion was opened. Ms. Lyons asked about old cars and backyards that are messy. Ms. Mason reviewed the ordinance, and it does require the yards to be cleaned and cars to be operational. Ms. Mason has not made citations recently due to the workload of the GRIT grant. Ms. Turner asked about the creamery. Ms. Mason updated us about the delay for a permit to complete the remainder of the complete tear down. Ms. Vance notified of a citizen complaint about firearm discharge in the Village. Ms. Vance recommended they call the Police for these concerns. She also expressed concerns about Rumpke and how hard they are on trashcans which are privately owned. Ms. Vance would like to review the Rumpke contract and a copy can be sent to Mr. Mayes. Ms. Turner discussed the funeral home and rumors that it is for sale. The condition of the home is in poor condition. Ms. Turner submitted a card thanking the previous mayor for his service to the Village.

*Ms. Webster made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Turner, all approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.*

Passed:

10-16-23

Bill North

Mayor

Ashlie Webster

Ashlie Webster, Council president