

SARDINIA VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING DATE OF MEETING: January 10, 2022

Roll Call:

Bill North - Present

Dustin Puckett - Present

James Schroeder - Present

Angela Lyons - Present

Anna Turner - Present

Peggy Vance - Present

Reorganization of Board for 2022: Mayor Townes asked for nominations for President Pro Tempore for the 2022 year. *Angela Lyons nominated James Schroeder to serve as President Pro Tempore. Anna Turner seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. James Schroeder accepted the nomination. Council all voted yea to the nomination.*

Council reviewed the minutes from the December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting. *Motion to accept the minutes was made by James Schroeder. Dustin Puckett seconded the motion. All yeas, with James Schroeder abstaining. Motion passed.*

Council reviewed the bills to be paid. Karen stated that she is still waiting on a year end bank statement for one of the accounts. She will have the December bank reconciliation at the February meeting for their review. *Motion to pay the bills was made by James Schroeder. Bill North seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed.*

Zoning:

- James Townes was absent due to illness but he provided Council with a year end summary report for their review. He will be at the February meeting to go over the report.
- Solicitor Tom Mayes stated that the Brown County Landbank will be receiving funds from the State of Ohio to assist with clean up and/or demolition of blighted and brownfield properties. He stated that if a property owner would like assistance with remediation or demolition, the Brown County Landbank can pay for the cleanup with the grant funds and the property stays with the current owner. The Landbank will assist as long as the current property owner does not owe the County or Villages any money and property taxes are current.

Police Department: Chief Jim Lewis

- Tickets written for the December 31 court date totaled 15, 13 of those were written on SR 32. 2 reports were taken.
- Shop With a Cop was December 14. We took 2 boys and 1 girl, all of whom were picked by the school. The gifts and a meal donated by Kroger was delivered on Christmas Eve to the families. A total of 50 children participated this year; 35 from Brown County and 15 from Highland County.

Administrator: Karen Miller

Water Meter Grant: The State of Ohio awarded us the grant to replace all the water meters in the Village. We were just informed that this is a reimbursement grant – This was not mentioned anywhere in the initial grant paperwork. Karen will submit for reimbursement of expenses. She wanted Council to be aware that this may affect the Water Fund balances for 2022. When we were awarded the grant in 2021, we appropriated and encumbered those funds thinking we would be receiving the funds in 2021. Since we are not receiving the funds until 2022, it looks like the Water Fund balance is low. The funds will be replenished as the reimbursement payments come in.

Mayor: Tina Townes

2022 Cemetery Mowing: We advertised for bids to mow the Sardinia Cemetery for the 2022 season. We received 2 bids. Mayor Townes opened the bids for Council to review. Doss Mowing bid a total of \$19,600.00 for 14 mowings and 7 trimms. Don's Lawn Service bid a total of \$18,550.00. Solicitor Tom Mayes stated for the new Council members that Council does not have to accept the lowest bid – They have to accept the best bid. Council discussed the bids. *Dustin Puckett moved to accept the mowing bid from Doss Mowing in the amount of \$19,600 for the 2022 season. Bill North seconded the motion. All yeas with Angela Lyons abstaining. Motion passed.*

2022 Council Committee Assignments: Mayor Townes provided Council with the Committee assignments for 2022 along with the Committee Meeting schedules.

3rd and Final Reading of Ordinance 1290-22 for the 2022 Rates of Pay for Village Employees: Mayor Townes read title of the said Ordinance. This will serve as the third and final reading. *James Schroeder moved to adopt Ordinance 1290-22 setting the rates of pay for Village Employees. Peggy Vance seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed.*

Water and Sewer Rate Ordinances: Karen stated that we contracted with RCAP to complete the 5-year Rate Study. This is the 3rd time they have completed a Rate Study for us. Wayne Cannon with RCAP was at the December meeting to go over his findings and recommendations. His initial recommendations were for a 2.5% increase of the water rate over the next 5 years. In the sewer, he recommended no increase for 2022 with a 2.25 % increase the remaining 4 years after. When he come to the December Council meeting he had adjusted his recommendations due to the fact that inflation is in the double digits now and it doesn't look like it will be going down anytime soon. Karen provided Council with a little history of the 5-Year Rate Studies. In 2010 Council did not go with Mr. Cannon's recommendation on the water rate and Council had to adopt an emergency rate increase for the water rate. Karen stated that Mr. Cannon has been spot on with his estimates each time he has completed a Rate Study for us.

- **Water Rate:** Karen provided Council with some options for the 5-Year Water Rate. Option 1 was the first recommendation of a 2.5 % increase over the next 5 years. Option 2 has the updated recommendation of 2.75% increase

each year over the next 5 years. Solicitor Tom Mayes stated that West Union had a Rate Study completed as well and their increase was higher than Mr. Cannon's recommendation for us. James Schroeder stated that we have a consultant who has been correct in his recommendations. Peggy Vance stated that she could not afford a rate increase. Angela Lyons stated that she does not agree with raising rates – she understands why we have to increase rates – she stated that we really need to work on a plan to reduce the rates instead of just raising the rates year after year.

- *James Schroeder moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule. Bill North seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote with Peggy Vance voting no.*
- *James Schroeder moved to adopt Ordinance 1291-22 with the rate increase of 2.75% each year for the next 5 years. Anna Turner seconded the motion. Motion passed with a 4 to 2 vote with Peggy Vance and Dusty Puckett voting no.*
- Sewer Rate: Karen provided Council with options for setting the sewer rates as well. Mayor Townes stated that she was very happy when the first recommendation came in with no increase for 2022 and then a 2.25% each year for the remaining 4 years. The revised recommendation was for 2.25% each year for 5 years for a total of 11.25% over the next 5 years. Mayor Townes recommended not doing an increase for 2022 and spreading the 11.25% over the remaining 4 years. Council discussed the options. Dusty Puckett feels that if the rates continue to increase, we are going to have a bunch of empty properties. Mayor Townes asked to adjust the minimum gallons to 2,500 but the contract with RCAP was for our current billing gallons and we would have had to enter into another contract and spend additional funds for the additional contract.
 - *James Schroeder moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule. Angela Lyons seconded the motion. All yeas Motion passed.*
 - *Dusty Puckett moved to adopt Ordinance 1292-22 with the no increase for 2022 and 2.25% each year for the remaining 4 years. Angela Lyons seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote with Peggy Vance voting no.*
- Anna Turner asked if the reason our sewer rate is high is due to the additional water we are treating at the sewer plant. Karen stated that whatever comes out of a house – soapy water, toilet water, etc. - goes to the sewer plant and has to be treated according to EPA regulations before the cleaned water can be release back into the creek. This cleaning process has several stages to go through to get to that point. This process has additional expenses that add to the overall cost of sewer for our customers. If we fail to meet EPA regulations, we will be fined daily until the regulations are met. Karen also stated that she has asked our Public Works Foreman for an inventory of all our manholes to see which need to be regouted to help reduce ground water infiltration into the system. There are about 8 or 9 properties that still need repairs from the smoke testing we did earlier in 2021. Peggy Vance asked if there was such a thing as a sewer meter. Karen stated that a sewer usage is always based on the water meter readings. It was mentioned that we need to send a letter to everyone stating what shouldn't be put down the drains, etc.

Resolution 1464-22 Roberts Rules of Order: Mayor Townes read title of said Resolution 1464-22 adopting the most recent version of Roberts Rules of Order. *James Schroeder moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule, Peggy Vance seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed. James Schroeder moved to adopt Resolution 1464-22. Dusty Puckett seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed.*

Ordinance 1293-22 2022 Ohio Basic Code: Mayor Townes read title of said Ordinance 1293-22 adopting the 2022 Ohio Basic Code. *James Schroeder moved to suspend the 3-Reading Rule. Dusty Puckett seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed. James Schroeder moved to adopt Ordinance 1293-22. Dusty Puckett seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed.*

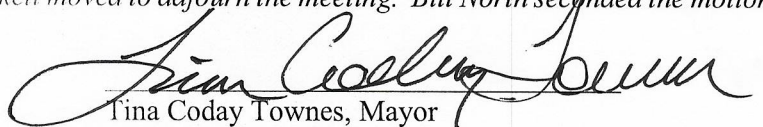
1st Reading of the 2022 Final Appropriations: Mayor Townes read title of said Ordinance. Karen stated that we will need to pass this at the February meeting as an emergency due to the date she has to have the final appropriations to the Brown County Budget Commission.

Council Member Bios and photos for web page: Mayor Townes stated she needs bios and photos of all new Council members for the web page. Tom Mayes stated that we should look into getting Village emails set up for Council Members etc. Karen will contact Village of Lynchburg to see who set theirs up and the cost. Tom said that Jeremy Davis might be able to help with this as well.

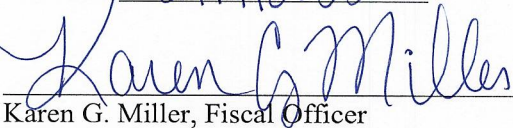
Mayor Townes asked for a motion to adjourn. *Dusty Puckett moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill North seconded the motion. All yeas. Motion passed.*

PASSED

2/14/2022



Tina Coday Townes, Mayor



Karen G. Miller, Fiscal Officer