

VILLAGE OF BOLIVAR

COUNCIL MEETING

March 6, 2025

The Bolivar Village Council met in regular session at 121 Canal Street SE on Thursday March 6, 2025. Mayor Lloyd was absent. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and was called to order by President Pro Temp, Will Bellinger at 7:03 pm. White opened with prayer.

Bellinger, Conley, Diveley, Oberlin, and White all answered yes to roll call. Pancoe was absent.

A motion to approve February 6, 2025, regular meeting minutes as written was made by Diveley and seconded by Conley. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

A motion to approve the February 2025 bills totaling \$58,773.76 was made by White and seconded by Conley. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

Receipts for the month of February totaled \$66,386.87 which includes \$1,744.07 of interest from Star Ohio and Huntington.

Additions/Correction to the Agenda. Bellinger stated a discussion on the negotiations with the library has been added to the legislation section.

Public Speaks – Laura, Director of the Wilkshire community garage sales, asked council for permission to advertise the Village of Bolivar as part of the Wilkshire Garage Sales for May 8, 9, and 10, 2025. Council agreed but stipulated that all zoning requirements will need to be maintained. Council stated signs would be posted for 7 days only in personal yards, with no signs posted in the curb strips or 3 way stop area.

Carl Beatty requested needed repairs for Lover's Alley at Tuscarawas Street. He asked that special attention be given to the problem with ponding and storm sewers. Bellinger stated that this is being addressed.

Carl stated the Village is not following policy to shut off the water when there is non-payment. Maria App said in the past this did occur, but the problem was taken care of and shutoffs for non-payment are being completed properly. She said Carl is referring to the period of April through August 2024, stating this has long been resolved. She also stated the owner (Carl) is responsible for the water bill, not the tenant; saying Village policy is that the bill be placed in the name of owner, not tenant. Bellinger stated if Carl would incorporate water and sewer into his rent, these constant problems he is experiencing would be alleviated.

Old Business – None.

MAYOR - Bellinger announced the resignation of Chuck Williams as Village Administrator. He said Chuck will remain the Water Operator for the Village.

Diveley made a motion to accept the resignation of Chuck Williams as Village Administrator. The motion was seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE – Bellinger stated that Patty offered to step in for the duty of Village Administrator.

Oberlin stated that in all small municipalities, the Village Administrator position works on utility concerns, has a license for chemical application, and serves as the second position for the street department. Oberlin stated the Village Administrator position is not in charge of the Street Department. Maria stated the Village Administrator position by statute supervises the Street Superintendent.

The council agreed to appoint Patty as Village Administrator. Hold for legislation section.

Maria requested council permission to write off a bad debt in the water utility from 2023 in the amount of \$341.08. Maria stated the property had been abandoned. Bellinger made the motion to allow the write off. The motion was seconded by Diveley. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

Bellinger stated at the March 20, 2025, special meeting, just following Street and Alley, council will have all information and discuss paving 2025. Bellinger requested Patty make sure the county engineer obtains quotes on all paving estimates received so it will be available at the next Street and Alley meeting for discussion.

Bellinger requested council decide this years' donation for the Lawrence Township Compost program, stating \$2,000.00 was given last year. Oberlin made a motion to donate \$2,000.00 to this year's program. The motion was seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

Bellinger stated the bathroom project approved by council in the amount of \$1,815.20 has not moved forward over the winter as planned. He suggested the council rescind this allowance and if the Mayor and Street Superintendent still want to complete the project they will need to come back to the council with a new request and plan for completion and funding in the future. Diveley made the motion to rescind the funding in the amount of \$1,815.20. The motion was seconded by Bellinger. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

Planning and Zoning – Nothing to report.

Safety- Oberlin reported that there were 45 calls this past month.

Chief- Nothing additional to report.

Street & Alley-

Street and Alley met on February 20, 2025. Those who attended were Tim White, Dan Oberlin, Loretta Diveley, Mayor Lloyd, Carl and Jake Beatty.

The committee discussed the budget for 2025, status of Reeves grant for pressure washer, paving/sidewalk needs for 2025, weight limit signs on Park Avenue, and thickness of pavement on Park Avenue. Tim stated the committee will have good numbers for paving and sidewalks in the next few weeks.

Tim said Rod requested the following:

Dewalt hedge trimmer

Bulk mulch purchase

Crack filling machine with material

Rent a stump grinder and lift from General Rent-All

Tim reported the Skagg mower requires a transmission fluid change. This will have to be done at the dealer.

White reported that the angels will be removed, and the Bicentennial Banners will be installed when the lift is available.

Bellinger requested Patty to ask Rod to make sure a cone is placed in the large deep pothole on Park Avenue until hot patch is available.

Oberlin stated he thought the township offered hot patch assistance. Bellinger said he thought they had rescinded the offer. App said she had heard that if the crack sealing product is purchased from certain vendors, they may offer the use of the equipment.

Curtis asked if the lift the Village rents is ODOT/OSHA compliant. Oberlin said the Police Chief is on the road with lights directing traffic when the lift is in use. Curtis said he is aware of that, but urged the village to make sure the lift is compliant, stating OSHA can impose a fine if it is not.

Shade Tree- Oberlin said he will work on getting tree pricing. He will talk with Maria about the availability of funding.

Parks and Recreation – Oberlin stated the village has the necessary insurance documents from the Baseball Association. He is working on the Football insurance

document. Diveley asked if the soccer leagues use the village fields. Patty said the soccer association has a field in the township.

Oberlin said Nate will be working on the clean-up in the parks when he returns.

Street Superintendent – Tusing absent.

Village Administrator – None.

Fiscal Officer – Maria reminded council of the upcoming March 20th special meeting at 6:30pm.

Zoning Inspector – Bellinger reported Matt Bailey is working on zoning rules and regulations. He is hoping to have a report to the council in April. A brief discussion on the status of the violations was held. Maria stated many of the violations sent out in November have not been complied with. Oberlin said many of the violations will be resolved when the weather is better.

Legislation:

Steve briefed the council on the ongoing discussions with the library to negotiate a new contract and correct the financial deficiencies mainly caused by the cost of utilities. Steve reported that although there was a period of non-response in the beginning, he is happy to say a very productive conversation occurred last week. Steve stated the matter is being presented to the library board and if the board agrees, a resolution will be made soon. Steve said he feels we are on the right path for a new contract that works for everyone. He did say there was one question concerning the \$3,000. Would this result in a credit balance forward or would the \$3000 forgo if they agree to pay the utilities? The council stated they will forgo the annual \$3,000 payment if the library is paying for all the utilities. Will continue to work out these details.

Steve briefed council on a Senate Bill aimed at restricting local governments from regulating short-term rentals (AirBnB). He said if this bill passes, it will preclude a lot of local regulations relative to short term rental. There was a brief discussion on the impact of existing, newly acquired AirBnB, and possible conversions of properties to use as an AirBnB. The OML is trying to rally support to oppose this bill. Steve will keep the council informed.

Steve talked about the 3 readings rule Barb Limbacher had questioned at the last meeting. He thanked her for her questioning of the method of emergency language within the document and declared by title the village uses regularly. Steve reviewed ORC 705.15 and 731.17 and remained confident that incorporating the emergency language and declaring by title is sufficient, however he did say the 731.17 rule of 3 readings on 3 different days, or the $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to suspend the rules would be a more prudent approach and give a 100% surety of being safe.

A second reading of an Ordinance amending Section 3.1.2 of the Policies & Procedures for the Village of Bolivar.

A second reading on an Ordinance authorizing the mayor and/or the Fiscal Officer of the Village of Bolivar to advertise for public bid the 2025 garbage disposal services contract. This will be discussed at the next Street and Alley meeting.

An Ordinance to appoint Patty Smith to the position of Village Administrator; and declaring an Emergency. A motion to appoint Patty Smith as Village Administrator at a rate of \$25 per hour, not to exceed 10 hours per week, was made by Bellinger and seconded by White. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin no, and White yes. **O-8-2025.**

A first reading of an Ordinance authorizing an agreement made between the Village of Bolivar, Ohio and the Village of Zoar, Ohio for the provision of police protection to the Village of Zoar, by personnel of the Bolivar Police Department; declaring an emergency.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting until the next advertised special meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:30PM, , and the next regular meeting scheduled for April 3, 2025 at 7PM, at 121 Canal Street SE, by White and seconded by Conley. Roll Call: Bellinger yes, Conley yes, Diveley yes, Oberlin yes, and White yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Mayor, Robert Lloyd

Fiscal Officer, Maria App