

VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

March 13th, 2025

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on March 13th, 2025 in Council Chambers.

Roll call showed all seven members were present: Mr. Moreton, Mr. Stuchell, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Culbertson, and Mr. Estep. Absent: Mr. Schildmeyer.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Estep, to approve the written minutes of the February 20th council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. Just a reminder the CIC is accepting mowing bids for the 2025 mowing season bid packets are available on the village website and in person at City Hall. Bids must be submitted by 5:00 PM Monday March 24th. The successful bid will be awarded at the March 25th CIC meeting that will be held here in council chambers at 6:00 PM. Also, this evening during the special council meeting I'm asking for approval of Ordinance 9 2025 to go under contract with Timothy Williams, who will be serving as interim Director of Public Services and Safety for a six-month period commencing March 26th and that concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you Mr. President. I would like to ask council to consider putting an ordinance on the table for the next council meeting. It is an additional appropriation. The first part being \$3,264.88 into 7-A-3 for ambulance supplies. This is Money that the fire department received from an EMT grant. The second part is master plan O-5-M-P-1B contract staff in the amount of \$70,000. This was not budgeted for at the beginning of the year. Jonathan is looking at different ideas for the building department but until we do them, we need to put the money into their and at any time if there are changes, we can always decrease the line item at any time. Secondly, we had our first visit from our state auditor. We did fine and we didn't have any issues. This is the first of many visits so I will keep you up to date when he comes back, it will probably be April or May. Thank you that concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place the additional appropriation ordinance on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Absent.

Treasurer, Ms. Darrenkamp- I have our numbers from February 2025. The year-to-date expenses are \$3,002,387.09 and the revenues that we received were \$1,655,932.79 and that is all I have for today thank you.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Werdmann- On Tuesday February 28th we'll be having the bid opening for the Langley Ave. project that was discussed at the last public improvements meeting. We're on somewhat of a tight timeline to try to get the project underway as we also have the Greenlee project that's going out for bid later this spring. I'm going to be asking for legislation to be placed on the table to allow the Director of Public Services and Safety to enter into a contract with whichever contractor ends up getting the bid because the bid is not going to be until next week. We don't know who that is obviously, but by the time the council meeting rolls around, we will have that, so it will be included in the ordinance at that time. I wanted to get the ball rolling and get that legislation in place for when that bid comes in. Second, just to provide additional information to Peggy's report. With my impending departure from the village, I wasn't able to implement some of the cost saving strategies that I had expected to complete during the course of the year and that's the reason that the additional funding is being requested in the appropriation. The good news is that increase should be partially offset by some of the savings on our insurance that we are going to see from moving to the Ohio Plan as we discussed last month but I did want to try to make sure that we took care of that issue before I left so we did not leave it with Mr. Williams. Finally, speaking of Mr. Williams I believe that he will be in place as the interim director by the time the next council meeting occurs. I just wanted to publicly thank everybody that I've had the pleasure of meeting and working with here in the village of Saint Bernard and I wish you all nothing but the best is to continue to move forward, thank you.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place an ordinance on the table for the Langly Ave. Project. Motion passes 6-0.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- February 2025 end of month receipts:

- Tax collections for February 2025: \$653,492.
- February 2025 is up 7.0 % or \$42,764 from February 2024.
- Refunds for February: -\$3502.84.
- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$833.62.
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$31,160.73.

Also, a reminder you must file your tax return by April 15th and you will need to attach your w2's, Federal 1040 and federal schedules to the return.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President. The Finance Committee met on Tuesday March 11th to discuss the needed budget amendment regarding our building and inspections department and the proposed levy, both of which the committee voted unanimously to advance and endorse passage respectively. The minutes for that meeting have been submitted I would like to thank Safety Service Director Werdmann, Auditor Brickweg, Councilman Stuchell and Mayor Stuchell for their attendance. I want to thank Tim Werdman especially for his valuable contributions to our committee and to our village these past seven months. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall. Tonight, we'll also be discussing Resolution 2 2025 which allows our village auditor to begin the administrative process of getting a renewal levy back on the ballot. I want to emphasize that this resolution like the energy aggregation ordinance is necessary to put this decision in the hands of the voters in our village. A yes vote tonight is not equivalent to an endorsement of the levy itself

instead a yes vote tonight represents our trust in our neighbors to make the best decisions for themselves. I see a no vote to advance this resolution as a sign of distrust in those same voters which is something I do not feel is rational. Only after passing this resolution will we be able to receive more accurate estimations of both the expected incremental tax revenue received by the village to maintain our second to none police fire and service departments and the estimated property tax liability for our property owners around the village. Because of these reasons and many others, the Finance Committee unanimously endorsed the passage of this resolution and the subsequent ordinance to place this levy in front of the voters to decide. The Finance Committee also discussed timing and agreed that placing this levy on the August ballot similarly to other municipalities in our area is to the benefit of our residents. One of the many reasons for this is to eliminate the noise of other upcoming elections so voters can make a fully informed decision. In summary the finance committee, myself included, endorses the passage of Resolution 2 2025 and its resulting ordinance to trust our community to make the best decision for themselves in August. That concludes my report.

Service, Ms. Stuchell- The Service Department will resume yard waste collection on Mondays and Tuesdays, starting March 31st and running through October 1st. This service will utilize a dedicated garbage truck for yard waste collection. Residents should place all yard waste in a garbage can without any trash. Per Chapter 923: Waste Collection and Recycling, all branches and limbs placed in these cans must be neatly bundled and should not exceed 2 inches in diameter or 5 feet in length. Any branches or limbs that exceed these dimensions should be placed at the curb for regular disposal. Lastly, as another reminder. Clean Up St. Bernard Day will take place on Saturday, April 26th from 12:00pm-2:00pm and shred day will be held on Saturday, May 24th down at the Safety Center from 9:00am-12:00pm. All residents are encouraged to participate in these events to help keep our community clean and well-maintained.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, but I'd like to give credit to the service department. As I walked over the weekend, I noticed that no parking sign on Bertus was knocked down in another was knocked down and damaged over the weekend. I'd like to thank the service department that have already repaired and put them both back up. This level of service doesn't exist in many places, and we have an excellent service department along with our other services, which is another reason why we need the levy to be passed in August. Thank you that concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Absent.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. Please mark your calendars for the Village's annual Easter egg hunt. The event will be held at Vine Street Park and starts at 1:00 PM April 19th. The next Historical Society meeting will take place on Monday March 17th at 7:00 PM in the municipal building. This meeting is about the St. Bernard Annual Quiz. The St. Bernard Garden party has very limited space available for the upcoming grow season, however they have classes events and parties scheduled throughout the year. These meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM in centennial hall. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- No report.
No audience participation.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to excuse the absent member.
Motion passes 6-0.

The next council meeting will be held Thursday, March 27th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting is adjourned.