

PRESIDING OFFICER, THOMAS J. GARDNER, MAYOR

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Joe Bourne, Brandie Bourne, John Little, Ed Steffek, Nate Penrod, Steve Adams

ABSENT: N/A

OTHER ATTENDEES: Rick Swiger, Donna Meek

VISITORS: Nancy Bourne, Kristy Sullivan

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE

The meeting was opened with The Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Gardner.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Brandie Bourne and seconded by Nate Penrod to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the minutes from regular meeting held January 21, 2025. All council members present were in favor.

VISITORS

* Resident -Kristy Sullivan voiced concerns about the adjoining property to the Speed Shop off of Main Street (Sullivan owner of Speed Shop). Sullivan indicated that the Speed Shop are having issues with the rental tenants of an adjoining property. A near miss car accident with a Speed Shop customer was noted, a finding of a needle, dog running at large, etc. Sullivan indicated that the home owner is delinquent on property taxes and asked if the village council would consider on taking steps to force a sheriff sale on the property. This conversation leads into a review with the village solicitor on multiple properties which are grossly delinquent on property taxes in the village. Mark Perlaky(village solicitor) advised the council on the steps of proceeding with sheriff sale properties. Heard that the cost of \$2500 would be needed to begin the process for a sheriff sale property. Council President Joe Bourne had a list of properties which are delinquent on property taxes in the village. After reviewing multiple properties which owe thousands of dollars in delinquent property taxes; the council decided to proceed with taking action.

Motion was made by Joe Bourne and seconded by Nate Penrod to proceed with the notification and sheriff sale procedure on all properties in the village who are in excess of \$2500 or more with delinquent property taxes owed. Roll call taken as follows:

Joe Bourne yay, Steve Adams yay, Nate Penrod yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Ed Steffek yay.

PAY BILLS

***Motion made by Brandie Bourne** and seconded by Nate Penrod to pay bills from respective funds. Roll call as follows: Joe Bourne yay, Brandie Bourne yay, John Little yay, Steve Adams yay, Ed Steffek yay, Nate Penrod yay.

POLICE

*No Reporting-Absent

STREET

*No Reporting

SOLICITOR MARK PERLAKY

*No Reporting-Discussion under visitor section

INCOME TAX ADMINISTRATOR

No Reporting

ZONING/ADMIN ASST.

No Reporting-Absent

MAYOR

*Mayor Gardner informed council that the Tony Mart is wanting to expand. And that there is a 15 ft. strip (unnamed alley) between the Deli and the Garage that the owner will be requesting the village to vacate in order to expand the Deli. The property owner is also purchasing some of the Canal Property in that area for the expansion. The property owner will handle all surveying and paperwork and will bring to council for approval of the alley vacation in the near future.

*Mayor Gardner indicated that he would like to see a fire well installed in the area of Bremer Street and Arch Street near the elementary school. This would enable preventive fire destruction in that area; as well as enable better water service to that end of the village. Council was in agreement. Gardner and DJ Meek (Admin Asst) will possibly file for a local grant to cover the expense of the project.

JOE BOURNE

*Bourne reported three calls for the month of January handled by the Delaware Volunteer Fire Dept. One auto accident, one assisted call to Tri County EMS, and one assisted call to Newcomerstown.

*Bourne reviewed various facts about the Fire Dept.:

1. There are nearly 1.4 Million calls handled per year with Ohio Fire Departments.
2. Ohio has 1,180 Fire Departments with approximately 70% being volunteers.
3. Volunteer Fire Fighters typically have other full-time jobs, but are willing to be trained and called upon to assist in the event of an emergency.
4. The Delaware Valley Fire Dept. received 43 calls in year 2024.
5. From 2018 to 2020 the calls to Fire Departments in Ohio have increased 9%
6. From 2018 to 2020 the number of volunteers in Ohio have decreased 6.5%
7. The primary service area of the Delaware Fire Dept. is Port Washington and Salem Township. However, they also provide mutual aid with assistance to neighboring departments in Tuscarawas County and portions of other counties.
8. The Delaware Volunteer Fire Dept. handles Auto Accidents, Wildfires, Rescue Calls, Provide Fire Protection and Fire Prevention, provides training and joint training with neighboring departments as well as hosting fundraising events.

Bourne stressed the need of more fire fighters for the Delaware Fire Dept and asked that anyone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer fire fighter to contact a local fire fighter from the Delaware Fire Dept or call the Ohio Fire Academy at 614-752-7196.

NATE PENROD

*Council member Penrod requested that the village move forward in issuing citations for junk vehicles and clean up issues with properties. Penrod indicated that this has been an ongoing issue and understands that 10 day notices have been issued; but that is where it ends. Penrod feels that the next step is to cite the owners into court when they are not in compliance of the 10 day notice. Village Solicitor Mark Perlaky indicated that he has no issues in representing the village in prosecuting property owners for the lack on complying with village ordinances for clean up and junk vehicles. Mayor Gardner will contact Police Chief Dusenberry for a sweep of the village on owners who are in violation of the village ordinances. Penrod indicted that he would offer his assistance in cleaning up and removal of items if the property owners need help.

BRANDIE BOURNE

*Reminder – Delaware Volunteer Fire Dept. Breakfast will be held on February 8, 2025 from 8-11am at the Fire Station.

*No Breakfast in the Month of March due to the Spaghetti Dinner will be hosted on March 16th from 12-3pm.

STEVE ADAMS

*No Reporting

JOHN LITTLE

*No Reporting

ED STEFFEK

*No Reporting

FISCAL OFFICER

*No Reporting

TREASURER'S REPORT

* **Motion made by Brandie Bourne** and seconded by Nate Penrod to accept the January 2025 Treasurer's report with the following: \$533,542.77 General Fund, \$ 25,322.67 Street Construction, \$1,080.00 State Highway, \$5.37 Cemetery Fund, \$9,091.67 Permissive Vehicle Tax, \$3012.63 Capital Project, \$0 Mayor's Court. With a total of all funds \$572,055.11. Reports included the Bank Reconciliation Report, bank statements, payment listing, receipt detail report, fund status report, appropriation status report. All council members present were in favor.

Next meeting will be February 18, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned

Thomas J. Gardner, Mayor

Date

Darissa R. Lute, Fiscal Officer

Date

