

VILLAGE OF WALDRON
Council meeting
May 13,2003

The Waldron Village council held their monthly meeting with 36 people from the public attending. Five of those present were guest speakers.

President Rossi asked everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Alliance.

Roll call of council members: Harold Douglas, Bill Hall, Jefferson Davis, Cris Crist, and John Burress. Roy Hall had an excused absent.

Rossi reviewed the meeting agenda.

Motion made to approve the meeting agenda by Crist and supported by Wm. Hall. Burress no, Crist yes, Davis yes, Douglas yes, W. Hall yes, Rossi yes. Motion passed.

The first guest speaker was Keith Brown, District Representative for Congressman Nick Smith. Mr. Brown spoke of keeping the communication lines open. Communication could be directed at to offices in either Jackson or Battle Creek, or on the Internet. He also stated that the amount of the grant Waldron received was one of the best deals that he had ever seen for the size of the village. He also stated and greatly encouraged that another grant that should be applied for would be of interest to the fire department.

The next speaker was Laura Chuhran, regulator engineer for DEQ. Her domain is to protect public health. She conducted a reliability test in 2000 resulting in compliance. Ground water testing has not done yet. While the water system met the code requirements done in 2001, this code is now out of date. DEQ recommendations were given: Water mains need updated and to loop dead ends. Well house is small and cramped. Need separate rooms for chemicals and get them away from the electrical controls. The water tower is 70 years old and if it fails the village would be in a hard place. Until it is replaced alarms could be installed for noting the fluctuating water levels. She is not forcing any of the recommendations given.

Ray Sanholtz; engineer form Feller, Finch, and Associates, Inc. gave a brief recap of his association with the village since 1986. He agreed with the other speakers about the current grave conditions of the water system. He explained the urgency of applying for grants now is there is at least a two- year approval time frame. The fire hydrants are in need of repair, and loop lines are to be installed. He talked about the need to raise the water rates to help fund the project and make the Grant/Loan application possible, because the rates need to be in line with other areas. When asked if he had been hired for the project, Ray stated no, only to help get the project off the ground.

Rossi reviewed the three water budget options: 1) Do nothing; 2) \$8.50 increase in water rates to be able to get the grant and pay back the sewer fund in three years 3) \$10.00 which would provide a reserve.

Public concerns addressed:

Is the water rate increase for current project or one that has not yet been approved? For the Future water project and repay the current loan from the sewer fund, in a three- year time frame.

Are overdue water bills being dealt with? No response as the clerk was absent.

A member of the audience asked:

“Can’t we do both projects at the same time save money?” No, all money received must be used at the time.

John Burress wants to be informed of what’s currently going on and to be enlightened on the water project from it’s beginning.

Motion to certify the election recall results by Burress and supported by Crist. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Parks, trees, and sidewalks: The park shelter roof will cost be less than \$500.00 and be a community project, which will be held on June 13, 2003.

Trent Morse will be handling the scrap metals for the village clean-up project on May 17,2003. He will be paid \$25.00 per weighed tonnage and must provide weight slips for payment.

Labor Day- the fireworks will be held on school property, which will relieve the village of liability.

Sewer and water: It was explained that loan monies would be spent before grant monies.

Public safety- Advertisements for a part-time officer has been in The Jackson Patriot and The Adrian Daily Telegram. Burress would like to see a neighborhood program in place, and stated that the under-sheriff would be willing to give a public presentation. He also working with Doug Sanford from the Hillsdale County Emergency to develop an emergency disaster plan incorporating other required village departments.

Motion to approve consent agenda by Davis and supported by Crist. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve last months meeting minutes by Douglas and supported by Davis, Burress no, Crist yes, Davis yes, Douglas, Wm. Hall yes, Rossi yes. Motion passed.

Guest speaker Allison Macarthur Environmental Quality Analyst, DEO addressed issues concerning the sewer system. She stated several notices have been issued in regards to the lagoon. If efforts are being done fines will not be imposed. Otherwise there could be a fine of \$25,000 daily for non-compliance. She also stated Christie Cook and the Village President have worked hard to get free money for the village sewer project. Her best advice is to take the money and run.

Ray Saneholtz introduced John Stall another associate of Feller, Finch and Associates. John has done work previously in the community on this project and will be the project inspector.

Motion to pay bills submitted by Burress and supported by Davis. Motion passed unanimously. Douglas questioned a bill #11564, which needs to be paid.

Motion to increase the current water rates by \$8.50 by Douglas and supported by Burress. Motion passed unanimously.

Rossi reported that he had received the lengthy report three hours before the meeting. This consisted of two pages for he loan, and twenty-five pages for the resolutions. These are not debatable resolutions and must be adopted as written.

Motion to adopt both the Loan Resolution per RUS Bulletin 1780-27 and the Bond Resolution (Ordinance) by Douglas and supported by Crist. Burress no, Crist yes, Davis yes, Douglas yes, Wm. Hall yes, Rossi yes. Motion passed.

A Motion to approve items required to complete the loan application, close the loan and allow construction to begin on the **Waldron Sewer System Improvement Project** was made by Crist and supported by Davis.

The motion consisted of the following items:

Whereas the Waldron Village Council resolves to:

Approve the **Grant Agreement**.

Establish a **Bond Reserve Account**.

Establish a **Repair, Replacement and Improvement Fund Account**.

Establish an interest bearing **Grant/Loan Funds Deposit Account** to disburse funds for construction.

Authorize Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) by **Preauthorized Debit (PAD)** for USDA loan repayment.

Approve the amendments to the Project Cost Estimates.

Approve the **Final Project Budget**.

Approve **Sewer System Operating Budget**.

Award the **Construction Contracts** to the low bidders recommended by Feller-Finch, **subject to loan closing**.

Bids awarded: Contract A: went to Parrish Excavating of Quincy, MI.

Contract B: went to Gleason of Holland, Ohio.

The Motion passed unanimously with each Councilman voting YES on roll-call vote.

Motion to adopt amended sewer ordinance 31- 03 and to be placed in effect with in two-weeks by Douglas and supported by Crist. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to award tree trimming to lowest bidder (Cutting Edge Pro Tree Care Fayette, Ohio for \$2800.00) with a provision for extra work was made by Crist and supported by Douglas. Tom Brown noted that after

the bids were submitted there were two additional trees needing to be taken care of. Rossi stated that these would also be done also, and the billing would be adjusted. Motion passed unanimously

Rossi read the Maintenance report. Tom Brown gave input on the two lawn mowers tested. The sewer project mandates equipment and the area upkeep. Currently, there is a need for a mower. There are two mowers to choose from. The cost \$7200.00 is the same for either mower. Tom Brown gave input on the two lawn mowers tested and gave his recommendation.

Motion to purchase the "Orange Machine"(Husqavarna) by Douglas and supported by Crist. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to swap old mower for a trailer by Douglas and supported by Crist. Burress no, Crist yes, Davis yes, Douglas yes, Wm. Hall yes, Rossi yes. Motion passed.

Motion to extend the meeting by Douglas and supported by Wm. Hall. Motion passed.

Don Markle has submitted building specs and requested construction approval, Meryl Meller Construction also submitted plans for a small shed.

Motion to approve the building projects, provided that they comply with the building codes and meet Hillsdale County approval, was made by Crist and supported by Burress. Motion passed unanimously.

C & M Pizza request the right to pursue a beer license for their business.

Motion to approve C & M Pizza to pursue a beer license by Davis and supported by Crist. Motion passed unanimously.

Rossi stated he checked with Dan Boyd in regards to the Metro Telecommunications Resolution 'which he received from the Waldron Telephone Co., and Dan's response after checking it over was to adopt it.

Motion to table the Metro Act Ordinance until next meeting for further study by Douglas and supported by Wm. Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Metro Act Permit Application submitted by the Waldron Telephone Co was made by Douglas and supported by Crist. Motion passed unanimously.

Rossi presented the concept of adopting a Municipal Civil Infractions Ordinance whereas village officials or employees could write tickets for violations, allowing ease of enforcement of Village Ordinances with fine monies retained by the Village. It was not acted upon for lack of a motion.

Motion to use the police car only for police business by Douglas and supported by Wm. Hall. Burress yes, Crist no, Davis, Douglas yes, Wm. Hall yes, Rossi no. Motion failed.

John Tanner expressed his concern about trees, which are split or diseased, being cut down and removed from the Rutledge Memorial Park without the consent of the council. Rossi stated he did cut down and remove such trees from the park. Some of the tree cuttings went to the lagoons, some to a youth group, and some went to his residence.

Motion for no trees to be cut and removed prior to the next monthly meeting was made by Wm. Hall and supported by Douglas. Motion carried, Rossi voted No.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Crist and supported by Douglas. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Hotchkiss
Acting Meeting Recorder