

**ST. BERNARD VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 20, 2015**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard Village was held Thursday, August 20, 2015 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Michael Peck – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that four members were present: Mr. Tobergte, Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Kalb, Mr. Asbach. Mrs. Schildmeyer, Mr. Culbertson and Mrs. Bedinghaus were absent.

Mr. Asbach made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Kalb seconded the motion. Council agreed 4-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Burkhardt – The only thing I have tonight is the brochure of why St. Bernard is Cincinnati's best kept secret is now in electronic version and has been put on the web site for everyone to see.

AUDITOR, Mrs. Brickweg – I just want to give you an update on the audit. We received an email yesterday from the audit manager who is basically the boss of the person doing the audit. He was still waiting on some papers from the CIC so he has left and he is going to come back when those papers are available. I talked to Paul today and apparently whoever prepared the Village financials, they weren't prepared the way they should have been. They need to have footnotes and things. So I gave him a number of the person that prepares the financials for the Village and hopefully he'll get with them and hopefully we can get this started again so we can finish our 2014 audit by the end of 2015.

I'd also like to be put on the COW agenda. The Tax Refund line item is running low. Eddie is going to review it. He had enough to get through this time but after we cut the checks for that it's going to be pretty much zeroed out and I also reviewed, he was going to cut some checks and after he cuts those I'll review the expense report and see if any other line items are running low.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Walden – Very shortly, Mayor's Court was last night. I think only two people went to jail so a relatively successful evening but we got a lot of taxes paid after that.

TREASURER, Mr. Ungruhe – I was asked to look at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Memorial Fund to see if we could find out if there was any regulations about using that to pay for other items besides the monument outside here at City Hall. Unfortunately the bank had no records and when I go through the envelop that I have on here there is no written statement as to what the fund is to be used for. However, every invoice that I do have a record of going back about 35 years, they were all used for just the monument out front. I would recommend that we use the money just for that. That's what I could find.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Ms. Van Valkenburg – Absent.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Stegman – I did get confirmation today of the final asphalt coat that will be put on Vine St. this Saturday. So try to stay clear of Vine St. so we can get it paved quickly.

Also, I don't know what kind of rumor that's going around the Village, but we did not run out of chlorine. That's not the reason we closed the pool. There was a little bit of a green tint that was at the lower depth as the kids stopped sweeping the bottom of the pool when it turned dirty at the bottom. It makes it look like when you look down at it that it's green. But the pool was very safe, no problems and we still had plenty of chlorine.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Tobergte – The eighth annual Soap Box Derby will be held this Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Races start at 9:00am. Thanks to the St. Bernard Police, Fire and Service Depts. for sponsoring cars along with Jerry Day Auto, Greenlee Garage, Gerry and Pat Wiedmann and biggest mentor Mr. Gilbert Richards who is sponsoring three cars.

The Police and Fire Benevolent Society steak fry is being held this Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Dinners will be served from 4:00pm until 8:00pm. Tickets are \$15.00 and you can purchase them from any Firefighter or Police Officer.

I would also like to thank Norwood Canine Officer Borchers and his partner Moore for his demonstration at the last Block Watch meeting.

SAFETY, Mr. Culbertson – Absent.

SERVICE, Mr. Asbach – No report.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mrs. Schildmeyer – Absent.

LAWS, CONTRACTS AND CLAIMS, Mrs. Bedinghaus – Absent.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Kalb – This past week I was approached by the owner of the St. Bernard Pub to try to get a small bar association together with the other bar owners and they asked to meet with me so I will be trying to get a date together that works for all four bars here in St. Bernard hopefully after the St. Clement Festival when my schedule frees up a little bit and I'll see what they have and I'll bring it back to Council.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

Mr. Asbach – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

Committee of the Whole  
Aug. 13, 2015

1. Council approved the minutes of the Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
2. Mayor, Bill Burkhardt
  - a. Said that the Police Chief is looking for crossing guard subs for this school year. If interested please call Judy Mersfelder at 242-2727 at the police station.
  - b. Thanked Elaine and Lt. Ungrhue for tackling the email change over project. They saved the Village between \$8,000 and \$17,000 dollars.

3. Auditor, Peggy Brickweg
  - a. Said the office was busy this week with the State Auditor. They were doing the audit on the CIC.
  - b. Told Council that a bond came due for about \$240,000 dollars and it was going to be reinvested into the Star One account.
  
4. Safety Director, Valerie Van Valkenburg
  - a. Reported that the smoke detector blitz scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled by the Red Cross due to lack of volunteers. They hope to reschedule at a later date.
  - b. Said that the Fire Department will be hosting three classes in the month of September. 1) Health Care Professional refresher on Thursday Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2) Heartsaver CPR on Tuesday Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. 3) First Aid on Thursday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. All classes are for St. Bernard residents only and will be held at the Fire Department from 6:30-9:00 PM. To register, call 242-2727 and ask to talk to the fire department officer in charge. This information is also on the website and posted at City Hall.
  
5. Service Director, Phil Stegman
  - a. Reported that the Ross Ave. resurfacing project will begin on Friday and Saturday with the milling on the old blacktop and the leveling course applied on Monday.
  - b. Said the final course will be applied to Vine St. on Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - c. Said the Duke Energy project was near completion and if any resident has any issues to please call him so he can take care of the issue.
  
6. Tax Commissioner, Ed Geiser
  - a. Gave Council a copy of the earned income annual receipt comparison report.
  
7. Treasurer, John Ungrhue
  - a. Reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Safety 4<sup>th</sup> of July fund was \$5,625.38
  
8. Finance, Don Tobergte
  - a. Said that the Police & Fire Steak Fry is Friday Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> with dinners served from 4-8 at Vine Street Park.
  - b. Reported that the Police Chief and Jeff Eiser, Principal at St. Clement, have discussed the potential traffic issues due to the reduced parking along Vine St. They have a meeting set up for next week to finalize the initial plans to help reduce congestion. St. Clement is having an Open House on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>, the day before school begins, at which time the recommendations will be discussed with the parents. There will be a noticeable police presence the first few days of school to assist with educating the parents and determining if additional strategies need to be implemented.
  
9. A young member of the audience said that there were young people doing illegal things at Vine St. Park. The Mayor will give him the Safety Director's number. Another resident said that her house was having a roach problem due to the old Moon Tavern building. The Service Director will have someone there to keep spraying to correct the problem. A resident talked about the proposed Urgent Care on Vine St. and that she was against the project. She also said that we still need to market the Village to attract new businesses. A business owner near the proposed project said that the whole reason of the streetscape was to bring in new businesses. She feels that if the right questions are asked and our expectations are made clear that the Urgent Care could work. A resident asked who owned the property at 4631 Vine St. The CIC is the owner and he addressed the roach problem among others. The building is slated to be torn down soon. He also asked for a copy of our Block Party application. Apparently there was a permit granted for the 200 block of Cleveland Ave last week, but it turned out to be a private party. The Mayor will review this with the Police Chief and change the policy.
  
10. Council voted 5-0 to excuse the absent members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Asbach  
President of Council, Pro-Tem

## COMMUNICATIONS

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like my opinion to be heard regarding the early closing of the aquatic center this year. Can explain the reasoning for closing it after 8/16? I can understand having it closed during the weekdays after 8/16 due to school, but why can't we have our pool open through Labor Day? We pay full price for a pass and we aren't getting a full season! Staying open through 9/7 would equal seven days! If money is the reason, have the hours changed – perhaps 12-6 instead of 8. We suffered last year with the pool opening after Memorial Day and closing early – it's time to give us the amenities that we deserve and pay for with our tax dollars. I look forward to hearing the reason for the early closer. Decisions like this drive people away from our community!

Respectfully,

Patty Wilson – 301 East Ross Ave.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to receive and file the communication.

Mayor Burkhardt – I'll be getting back with Patty on that. We had long discussions at the beginning of the year as to what hours to have and how long to keep it open and that's just what we came up with at budget times. We can relook at it next year and maybe keep it open longer. I don't want to shorten the hours. I think the longer hours seemed to fit everybody so we definitely need to keep the hours where they're at but we will look at keeping it open on weekends next year.

Ms. Hausfeld – Just so you guys know, I was approached by the people that run the concession stand and they said that they were told that the pool was staying open even though kids were going back to school. I don't know if it was just the weekend hours or whatever. I don't know if you guys are aware of this but they went out and bought enough supplies to last throughout the rest of the season and then the next day or whatever I was told you guys decided to close it. So I just wanted to give you guys a heads up if you didn't know that apparently they went out and bought a few hundred dollars worth of supplies and it's one of those things they can't take back or whatever so I just thought that was a little bit unfair but I did want to let you guys know in case you guys didn't know because I was just approached by that the other night.

Mayor Burkhardt – Yes, I talked to her about that and I don't know who told her that the pool was staying open longer because that was never from the get go, it was always going to close on this date. It was miscommunication or whatever. That's one of the reasons that we're having the family swim night down there Saturday night to kind of help her sell some of that stuff. She did tell me she was able to take some of that stuff back. We will have to do a better job of communicating because from the get go it was going to close on this day but somewhere along the line it got messed up.

Mr. Ungruhe – The workers were scheduled to work past that date. They were told, my daughters were scheduled past that date. I guess it was poor

communication because they had their schedules set and then they were told on that Wednesday that Sunday would be their last day.

Mayor Burkhardt – I don't know where the thing was because we sat down with the manager and everything at the beginning of the year and set the hours and the time and the days, so I don't know where that went wrong but I'll find out and we'll make sure that doesn't happen again.

Mr. Ungruhe – And then I also got confirmation that they did sweep the pool every morning so it wasn't because the pool wasn't swept. They said it was algae growing on the bottom and the vacuum wouldn't pick it up. So it wasn't a matter of them not sweeping.

The motion to file the communication passed 4-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to postpone the second reading of Ordinance No. 45, 2015 until Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Council meeting.

## **REMARKS**

Mr. Asbach – There were a couple of changes discussed with the Fire Contract. The Chief is going to get ahold of those and put those hard copies in our box because we can't make changes to it after the second reading so that is the reason.

The motion to postpone passed. 4-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Burkhardt – I didn't mention it in my report but there will be a CIC meeting this coming Wednesday at 5:30 in the lower level.

Ms. Hausfeld – Under the Block Watch, I just wanted to publicly thank Donnie Tobergte. He did a wonderful job. I was down there Tuesday night and he had a very nice turnout and also like he said the police dog that came from Norwood, it was kind of neat to see a police dog in action. I just was hoping that the police dog would get to bite Donnie but he actually bit Derek Setters, the other officer, so anyway I just wanted to publically to thank Donnie because he did a wonderful job putting that on, as always.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Stegman – Being the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Monday there was a meeting about the second hand shop up at the St. Bernard Market. The Board had voted for that to be closed. So they have thirty days to close up shop and move out. We didn't except it because it was not zoned for that properly so it was closed down. I just wanted to let people know that they will be moving out.

Ms. Hausfeld – I'm not on Face Book but just from what I hear there's a lot of stuff going on about the old Police Station. I have actually been out talking to people and every reaction I get, people are really against that. I just wanted to publically let you guys know how, there may be people for it, don't get me wrong,

but everybody I talked to so far is against having a Medical Urgent Care there. I just wanted to let you know what was going on there.

Mrs. Brickweg – I guess I'll go on with that. I just sent out some messages to all the Council members and all the people running for a position last night, if you are on Face Book, I have had a paper, we were discussing a lot of these items and I was actually talking to my son and we were talking about, you know, its sad that there's not a place like a debate or a forum of something where the residents of St. Bernard could ask people questions. So I decided, well I'll run a Face Book page. I set one up yesterday. It's St. Bernard election 2015. Basically, all I ask is that you have respect and you tell the truth. But basically I've invited everybody to come on so they can answer questions and that's kind of where some of that came from because I had put out the suggestion, after talking to other people about taking the old Police Station possibly and making it into a community center/fitness center/recreations center. A lot of people like the ideas of having rooms that we could maybe rent to a yoga instructor, pilate instructor, paint instructor, something the residents could pay to take the class. A place to gather. So that's probably where you were getting some of that from because just last night I had over 20 posts. It seems pretty popular and so I welcome everybody to get on like I just said as long as you have respect for each other.

#### **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Tom Rolfsen, 30 Clay St. – I was here last week with some issues and stuff and I'm back today to thank the following people because they really followed up. By Friday almost everything was addressed. Phil and Mike Wiedmann and his crew, thank you. Mike was up there even taking care of the place. Mr. Kalb, the bug guy now from St. Bernard that took Jason's place was up there spraying the building. The Fire Dept., I think, went up there and addressed the chimney and stuff. Peggy gave me information, Mr. Walden just told me he's got something for me so I just would like to thank everybody here and it was really quick. I didn't expect it that fast so, I don't like to just complain, I like to give praise where it belongs and so I appreciate it and Phil I was down by my property, I think, yesterday or today and the neighbor was complaining and so I gave her my phone to call Phil and when I went back there three hours later, her concerns were addressed too so Phil we appreciate the quick thing. I mean I know some times she calls up and stuff but I went down there and you took care of it and I told her you would so she had used my phone to call you and you probably thought it was me calling you. So I appreciate all you guys do. You really did address everything. We still have a slight bug problem but we're working on it. So thanks again I appreciate it.

Kerri Messer, Tower Ave. – One thing about the Urgent Care, the doctors, if that's going to be on the ballot for the CIC to discuss on Wednesday, because I know they have that meeting coming up, then I'd like to have a fitness center also be on the topic to discuss and decide. Over the past two weeks I've been coming and giving my opinions about it. I've had many more people comment like the conversation on both ends being discussed. But again, unanimously the fitness center which is something that is also being suggested, was the winner, especially with the thought of some of our residents being able to work there. I just feel like introducing an Urgent Care is, in my opinion, this town is too small for that. We're in a crucial time of transition. There's also two Mercy facilities just opened. There's one on Reading Rd. literally five minutes, being built. One ten minutes

away, right off the Hyde Park exit. I see a one doctor, one dentist, the way it used to be, that fits the town more. Patients of an Urgent Care, they're not coming to hang out and enjoy the amenities that we do have. They'll come and they'll leave, get what they need and go. But if it was a fitness center, then people might have the time to hang out and relax and take in, after they work out, because you can see it through the windows. Go get a coffee or go walk down the street and have something nice to eat. It's just a different vision I feel like I have and a lot of people agree with and we, just in general, I would like to vote if it comes down to it. We should have the ability to help make that decision.

Mayor Burkhardt – Kerri, I will bring that up at the CIC meeting.

Mr. Stegman – I would just like to throw a couple ideas with the topic. I don't know what's wrong with the fitness center we have now. I mean it's plenty big enough and we've expanded the hours. I did take a look at the Police Station there to do a lot of remodeling and to make that a fitness center, you're talking about a lot of walls being torn down. The way that facility is cut up, I will walk them through just to show them the set-up of the Police Station but there's going to be a lot of remodeling that needs to be done if we're talking about this type of a fitness center. I thought we were trying to get away from the maintenances of buildings. That's why we put the Fire and Police together so we could cut down on our costs of our overhead of our buildings. I'm open to the suggestions but I still haven't figured out why the fitness center over there. If we need more room, we could stop renting the halls, we could open that Teen Center up and make that the pilates and everything else that people talk about, or yarn clubs or whatever. That might be a possibility to enhance stop paying the halls for that and open them some of these other things that they're looking at. That was just my forethought and the cost that it's going to cost to take and remodel that Police Station for what you're talking about.

Mrs. Brickweg - I know she said a fitness center, I said a community center. It was kind of different and the main reason I'm bringing that up is that is what a lot of other communities offer. We are totally missing it. I'm fifty years old and there's that 20 to 35 year old group that we need to give these one families, these kids something to do. That's what they're looking for. That was the one reason that I thought if we could just come up with some ideas and, I'm not saying that this is the only thing but like I expressed to you on Friday, I get really fed up that every time we have an idea for anything it's one idea and if you don't do it it's oh my gosh what are we going to do. It would be nice to actually everybody sit down and have multiple ideas where we could talk about them and think about them. I was a little shocked to see on the CIC agenda, the Police Dept. So that's talking about the CIC wants Council to give them the Police Dept. I don't know why else it would be on the discussion. That is my only fear. I'm hoping Council will put the brakes on a little bit and talk about multiple ideas instead of just one idea that we always have to go with that just one idea. I've even said I'll look into see if I can find financing, if I can find grants but although we've discussed this before that with the Municipal Building and even possibly the Eagles and other people are looking at that building. We're not saying that we have to keep that building. I mean I don't know but I'm just saying we need to be open minded and think about different things instead of just rushing into one idea. That's the only thing, I'm hoping Council will do that and hold on to that property because we know once it goes you lose all control over it.

Diane Staat, 401 Cleveland – I'm actually for the Urgent Care. I think it's a good thing for the community especially if you get doctors in there. First of all, insurance does not want you going to the hospital for minor things. If I think I've got the flu or something, it would be great to have an Urgent Care here where I could just run down there because it's not as costly for my insurance. I don't have a problem with it. One of the problems a lot of people are having is the particular Urgent Care that, the one you're basing it on is the one on Ridge. Yes, the one on Ridge Rd. is run by the people that own the other three. I took the liberty yesterday to take a look around. I put a lot of miles on my car because I went from Fairfield and Loveland. I checked .....inaudible. But the appearance was clean, they were well kept. There were not a lot of derelicts hanging around. It seemed like a perfectly legitimate business. Granted we would have to keep an eye on them because .....inaudible. But I think being a small community if that happens people are going to jump on them right away and take care of it. I know a lot of other people have the same opinion but they're not going to speak up. The other thing about the website, not the website but the Face Book page regarding the election 2015, my feeling is, I know you told people to be nice but I honestly think that page is going to turn into a gripe session where people will write and nobody will have an opportunity to change it. And also the fact that the Face Book profile picture is the seal of St. Bernard, that bothers me because it looks like it is sanctioned by the City and .....inaudible. That's just my opinion.

Mrs. Brickweg – I think because, I set that up last night and that was the only picture I had and I do have it set up with criteria and to watch the language and things like that.

Diane Staat – Inaudible, from the audience seating.....

Mrs. Brickweg – I actually downloaded another page that my son told me about that I'm notified by my telephone, even though he told me to do that, yeah, so I did that and I'm going to be honest, if people want to gripe, then just let them gripe. If you noticed I put two questions. What do you like and what don't you like? So I'm going to do my best to keep it positive but I don't have a problem either way because some of the griping, some of the people really have some issues that need to be addressed and some of them got addressed and taken care of. I will change the picture and I promise to monitor it very closely and if I see any, like I said any not respect or any untruth I will take care of it.

Diane Staat – That's where I was worried about because if you all remember the Valley Courier and Forum, my gosh, names were mentioned and everything else and that's just not right so I appreciate that Peggy, thank you.

Kerri Messer, Tower Ave. – The only thing, I don't know the last time you were in the gym, but the gym down there is literally, some people call it the dungeon because there's no air, there's not light, it's training in three little rooms. We should just offer more with a fitness center and as far as money concerns, people in certain neighborhoods pay more for it. If you're bound to do some of the things and listen to some of the things you can do for them instead of just jump into something and not asking us. We pay taxes here too, we should get a vote on that and regardless of how someone feels everybody should at least get their opinions heard and have something to do with it.



Ms. Hausfeld – Something that just popped in my head again for you guys, Phil and the Safety Director, at the Block Watch meeting one of the things that came up is going out for grants for more cameras that not only does this part of Vine St. but does the other part as well and some other concerned areas in town. I just wanted to mention that to you guys that the citizens were concerned about that. They said there are grants out there to go for because the Police Officers were telling us they were expensive so it is something to look into. I'm trying to think of a couple of other things that were mentioned that night but that was a big one. The other thing that I had brought up, it was just brought up because I know a long time citizen that is just moving out now because he has small children and his children are around unhealthy activities. I'm not going to say publically what there are but they're very unhealthy activities and it's just a shame that we're not a little better, I guess I want to say proactive on getting rid of the riff-raff and having better, I don't want to say better quality because it's not that, it's just I hate seeing the lifelong residents that grew up here, they're willing to have their families here and raise their families here but because there's so much junk that's going on in town, junk is not the word I want, that they're now moving out. It's just a shame and I just wanted to let you guys know that too.

Mrs. Brickweg – Patty, one other thing that I picked up from that meeting that I thought was interesting that I really think we should look into and some people may laugh at this but the Police Officer from Norwood was with the K-nine dog. I asked him and he said it's about \$13,000.00 to take the training and getting the dog and everything like that but it's little maintenance after that. He said it's like it pays for itself. For an example, I think it was last Thursday or the week before that, that there was a drug bust here, Cincinnati actually had the bust because they saw the people in here. Their drug dogs found \$330,000.00 plus a bunch of drugs. So the City of Cincinnati gets to keep that money. So what I really found interesting was what he called the "probable cause". That if an officer pulls a car over and he suspects something they can't search it, but if the dog walks around it and makes any motion that is "probable cause". So I thought, wow, \$13,000.00 a one-time investment and then the maintenance after that to get the drugs off the street and probably get money. I mean it was, and I kept thinking \$330,000.00 they got just from that dog. I've heard the Police Chief might not be in favor of it, I did not know why yet but I just think it's something that you might want to look into because we know there's trafficking going through here because we've busted quite a few and maybe it could be an asset that we could use.

Brian Young – There's actually a grant from the Matt Haverkamp Foundation where they will actually give you K-nines and all the training for free. And they pay for the start-up costs. It's from the Gulf Manor Police Officer who was killed in a car accident and his family put up that fund. I know Cincinnati PD and a lot of other local agencies who have gotten dogs for free through that foundation. It is worthwhile to look into it.

Ms. Hausfeld – That's actually what I was going to bring up too. The officer was telling us about the grant that you could get. Also, Ben Rothlesburger, I can't say his name, donates two dogs a year to communities in Ohio, I think that's what he said, isn't it? And so it's something to look into. It's another avenue to give us, that if it's not going to cost us much or anything to get a dog, with all the drugs that are going through all the cities now it would be a beneficial thing I think. That is something I would like to see looked into.

Motion by Mr. Asbach, seconded by Mr. Kalb to excuse the absent members.  
Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Asbach – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Motion by Ms. Hausfeld, seconded by Mr. Asbach to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0.