

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 10th, 2025

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on April 10th, 2025, in Council Chambers.

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

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the written minutes of the March 27th, 2025, council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- I would like for every house in the village to have a visible address. I spoke with Chief Young about it, and he referred me to the Law Director. Valerie, would you like to add or explain?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Yes, I was asked by the President of Council to look into any regulation or ordinance we might have concerning house address numbering. What we have is very basic and very minimal. It was decades old, but in short, it said to follow the address numbers used previously. It was very very minimal. I did check other municipalities and most of them addressed specifics, for example, it must be visible, an Arabic number, so no roman numerals, and other things about size and visibility. We would need something like this if anything for safety issues for our police and fire departments. So, I put a compilation together and I will forward it to you all.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Valerie, I would check the building codes also. There is a list of stipulations for address numbering for commercial spaces. States how big they need to be and how far away from the door they can be.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- My personal opinion is this should go to the Safety Committee and get with the police and fire chiefs and we can get something on the agenda. Also, about a year or two ago, we passed an ordinance for the garbage cans that are being left on the curb. There are constantly garbage cans in the road and on the sidewalks. Just looking for some direction. Are we going to start ticketing? Moving the cans to the police department? I understand they probably have more important things to do than to worry about garbage cans, but it is driving people nuts, especially me, and my wife won't let me move them back. Any thoughts?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- I would say do not move the responsibility out of the police department. We need to start tagging the individuals. We set up a citation system and it is easier for the police to do it than code enforcement. Yes, we need to start doing more. I will say that some of the complaints are for the cans being in the middle of the sidewalk, they are not necessarily left out outside of the time frame.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- We also have people who store their garbage cans in their front yard. The law states it has to be on the side or the back of the house or in the garage. Some of the people may not realize that is the law. Maybe we could send a letter to them explaining.

Council Member, Mr. Estep- I agree with everything that has been said so far, but I think even more, people put their cans out on Friday when they have pick up on Monday. I think we need to do a call or do a better job and tagging them.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President, just a reminder of the Easter Bunny will be traveling around the village on Saturday, April 19th to see all of the kids and their families before the much-anticipated Easter egg hunt. It will be starting at 9:30 AM. So be ready when you hear the sirens. You can also use the Bunny tracker to see where we are. The Bunny Tracker will go live and on Saturday morning at 9:15am and we'll share the link on the Village and Recreation Department Facebook pages and the Village website. If you miss us, please try to advance to another location, but if you're unable to do so, please call the Easter Bunny's escort, Mayor Stuchell at 513-543-3780 or Recreation Director Paul Schildmeyer at 513-290-5937 and we'll circle back to you. Please spread the word and share the link so that everyone is ready and the route will be available with the link in the newsletter and of course, also on the village Facebook page. Also, just to let you know, we're currently in the interview and assessment process to establish the certified eligibility list for the Police Department. Currently are we are hiring two officers; one is to replace the officer who resigned, and the other is for an upcoming retirement and that concludes our report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President, I have quite a few items on the agenda tonight, but before I start, I want to say a huge thank you to paramedics Melton, Coletti, Martini and Chief Young. As Jonathan said, two weeks ago my husband had a massive heart attack, and they pretty much saved his life. So, one thing I want to say is if you can learn anything from us is call immediately, because as the doctors told us, a few more minutes would have been a different ending. He has a long road ahead of him, but he has great spirits and he's doing absolutely great. After my mother's heart attack, she's making new friends at rehab so she's doing great but i just can't thank everybody enough for their prayers their support and our amazing fire department and they're quick action. Now on to my report. the first thing we have is for the special meeting for resolution 4 2025. We received the money, the amount back and it was lower than we anticipated. I'm not sure why but it has. I'm assuming it just depends on what year they're going with, but the levy would bring in \$599,038. For those that are arguing it, I will tell you when it was started in 2005, it brought in 1.2 million. So, we have lowered it quite a lot, but it is still very necessary to continue the services in our village. Then the other thing on my agenda is an additional appropriation, a new line item, appropriate a new line item and transferring of funds. The best way that I can explain this is when the budget was prepared last year, and I was not part of it for the first time, it was as a very basic operating budget. It did not have anything in the budget for anything that could happen any circumstance and we are getting hit with them big

time. So, I will explain to you the different additional appropriations and do my best to explain them feel free to stop me at any time if you have any questions. The first additional appropriation is 2-E-3 tax refunds for 100,000. All I can really say on that one is somebody put in a tax refund of a lot of money and it's going to drain our bank account. I'm asking for the 20,000 to be put back into K-2 because as a lot of things have been happening and that's what I've been going to pay to bills that need to be paid immediately. For general fund 2-P Professional Services I am asking for an additional appropriation of \$55,000. I used it for was the swimming pool roofs. They all needed to be painted and if we didn't get that done soon it wasn't going to be done in time for the pool season, so I use professional services for that, which was \$24,000. We are also looking at cameras for all around City Hall and in council chambers because we've been having some issues and we also feel it's important that we probably have cameras for mayor's court since we have no cameras at all. So that is coming out to be about \$20,000. Then two of these line items will involve these major projects. I don't know if anybody seen it yet, but we have a major retaining wall back at the pool that is falling. We are working on that. We need to get surveys, engineering fees and then the wall on Baker Ave. parking lot is falling also. So, we are talking maybe at least three hundred 400,000 for these and it's major. We don't have any estimates. It might even come in less. I'm going high just so when it does come in, and I'm sure you'll have to be voting on contracts to approve the work, but a lot of the contractors want to see if we have the money to pay for the project. So that is what that is for. We're in the very beginning stages of both. I used professional services for a surveyor to come out for the swimming pool wall. They're going to take pictures of the drainage and what the issues are of the drainage and what is going on. Street line item 33-O-4 which is called SCMR contracts, for \$62,000. The mayor can probably address this if you want to take over for this line item.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Basically, what happened is that we had been working with Roger Bacon and the City of Cincinnati over the last several years. We were able to establish a crosswalk from our side of Mitchell to the other to Bron Bakovic Stadium. But the issue came about once we had done that and even though we had the crosswalk electronic devices is installed as you can see people are still speeding. We've also lost one on our side twice. But point being, it still doesn't prevent people from coming heading east on Mitchell at 60 miles an hour or even people heading down Mitchell, hitting the curve and having an issue. So basically, engineering was done by the City of Cincinnati, and it was recommended that speed cushions be installed. I know that's annoying to certain people, but it's really the only way to slow people down right there. So, what ended up happening is that because they did the engineering, they took the lead on the bidding process. Instead of having each municipality bidding out their own side, you had one municipality bidding out the entire project. And then we would be sharing in the cost, which is right at \$62,000 to have that done. I am waiting on the printout to share so we can do the appropriate ordinance, and we can go under contract with the City of Cincinnati for the work to be done. It worked out for Cincinnati to take the lead because we do not have an engineering department, and Cincinnati has claimed this to be one of their top projects because it is an unsafe area.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Next is 31-22 service department equipment leasing. If council remembers, you approved going with the leasing of equipment for the service garage for three salt trucks, it's for 442,000 which is \$6000 a month in lease payment. So, I have only calculated May through the end of the year. And then I have for 50-1 employee accumulated sick time. We haven't used this in quite a few years, but we always put \$50,000 in at the beginning of the year. Well, we have three people retiring here very shortly. So, they're probably going to eat that up. So, I was just asking to replenish that just in case somebody else retires. So, I'm just asking for that. So, with the capital improvements, I was putting \$500,000 into that to cover all of these projects and any work that needs to be done at the parks or anything else that would come up. The one main thing here is this is what your reserves are for when things happen. So, I know a lot of people like to say we have tons of money in the bank, but we also, and it's no fault to anybody, this village is not great at maintaining. We're getting better at it, but you know, there were so many years where its roads were never done, buildings were not maintained and we're paying the price now. All department heads are working on maintenance lists, so this does not happen again. That is what our reserves are for so now we need to start using them for all these maintenance items. That concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place the additional appropriation ordinance on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Thank you Mr. President. The past several weeks I've been working with the Police Department in reviewing their procedures, especially as it impacts mayors court and how fines are going to be administered and court costs in light of the House Bill 29 which was signed by the governor in January became effective yesterday. At this point, I don't know that we're going to need any updates to our ordinances, but I am still reviewing that. If it does look like we need to try to get that on the agenda for next month and I'll reach out to Mr. Schildmeyer and see if we can get a Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting business point that is under review and that concludes my report. Thank you.

Treasurer, Ms. Derrenkamp- Thank you, Mr. President. As of March, our totals year to date are as follows: Expenses \$3,588,724.12. Revenues are \$3,359,698.31 and that concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Williams- Absent.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- Absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to thank the folks who attended the Community Connect last week. We talked through a variety of topics, including some ordinance variances, and we're able to walk away with action items, which of course is always important. I want to say thank you to Mayor Stuchell and Council Member Stuchell for attending and for contributing to the conversation. Additionally, I've been in contact with Rich Surace from Energy Alliances to align on what the next steps are for energy aggregation. But before we can use their services, they're missing a service agreement of course. So just to recap, Rich

presented on a few months ago, our collaboration with Energy Alliances doesn't cost the village anything and I know that it was likely assumed by all of us that we're moving forward with this and our approval at the March meeting to get certified. But my question for council and I guess to the administration too, is do we need a resolution to formally instruct the mayor to sign this new cost service agreement or can we instruct him now and allow Rich and his team to begin going to the public and educating them on this issue? I would like to move fast with this. That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Since there is no cost involved, technically I don't think we do but I would still recommend it, and I can prepare it for next council meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Stuchell, to place a resolution on the table for the next meeting to move forward with energy aggregation. Motion passes 7-0.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Service Department has resumed yard waste collection this week. This seasonal service will continue every Monday and Tuesday from March 31st through October 1st, using a dedicated truck for yard waste.

To ensure yard waste is collected properly, here's what residents need to know.

- All yard waste must be placed out by 7:30am on your regularly scheduled pickup day.
- The yard waste truck runs before the regular garbage truck, and there are no return pickups if they already pass.
- Yard waste should go in clean trash cans, free of household trash. If it's clean yard debris, it's good to go.
- Branch and limb guidelines (per Chapter 923):
 - o Branches and limbs must be bundled neatly – no loose piles.
 - o Bundles should be no more than 2 inches in diameter and 5 feet in length.
 - o Anything larger should be placed at the curb for standard pickup.
- Acceptable yard waste includes grass trimmings, plants, bushes, shrubs, limbs, and logs.
- Residents may also request a Village dumpster designated for yard waste to prevent overflow on a first come first serve basis.

For questions, dumpster and dump truck requests, or clarification, contact the Service Department at 513-242-0086. 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. Lastly, bids for the Greenlee Ave Street project will be opened on April 16th, according to JMA. At this time, I

motion to have an ordinance placed on the table to approve the contract with whichever company is awarded the bid in preparation for our April 24th Council meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Stuchell, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place the Greenlee Ave Street project on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- So we were awarded a grant for this project. It is costing us 51%. We are hoping to get this bid awarded and this scheduled so we can start construction this year.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I will need to add this to my additional appropriation ordinance, or I can make a new ordinance for the fund for the project.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, but I would like to bring up an issue that I've had numerous complaints from our citizens. So many of our properties in Saint Bernard need repair, and our citizens ask about the lack of code enforcement. I've seen many other properties myself. So yesterday I tried something new. I left a list of 6 properties I asked our chief building official to investigate. Some were from complaints and some were properties I personally have seen. He might already be working on some or all. So, I asked him to keep me updated. It's important for our citizens to know their officials are on top of this problem. I would also like to invite anyone who has an issue with any problem to contact a council member or someone in the administration. We all want what's best for the village and our residents. We are happy to help. Thank you, Mr. President, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. After I get the paperwork from Valerie and Steve, I will set up a meeting with the police and fire chiefs, the mayor and the Safety Committee, so hopefully I can announce that at the next council meeting. Thank you.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Thank you, Valerie, do you want me to set a Laws, Contracts and Claims meeting up? We might need to so we can discuss the address numberings. Also, Connor mentioned it might be time to start thinking about the committees for the next group of council member. Is that a Laws, Contracts and Claims item or a Committee on Committees discussion?

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- We may need to once I get through my review. I am currently working on the items for mayor's court. I need to review the current ordinances and if I find we need changes, I will get with you to get something scheduled.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- The way it is written now, the President of Council sets the committees. So, until the election, I think we address that at that time because that is how it's in our rules on setting the committees.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- It was already decided, because of the lawsuit, that it would be decided at a COW meeting, after the election was done, so it could be an open meeting, so we don't get sued again. That was part of the settlement.

Council Member, Mr. Moreton- I was not aware of that process. That would be preferred. I just wasn't sure due to our recent charter elections, with the staggering on seats. I thought maybe it would have been worth having the conversation since some council members might be losing their seats. It might be still worth having the conversation. Is that process written down anywhere? I think there might be a lot of questions and details that might need to be written down, so we know what to expect.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- I'll have to look into it and refresh my recollection, and I will get back with you.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 10th, 2025

The St. Bernard Village Special Council Meeting was held on April 10th, 2025, in Council Chambers at 7:30pm.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to place Resolution 4 2025 on the table for the special council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- I have been hearing a lot of people saying we do not need this tax levy. That we are already over charging the residents on property tax. I would like everyone to go to Hamilton County Auditor's website and look at the pie chart on where your property taxes are going. I can tell you the village brings in about \$930,000 in property taxes. The majority of your property taxes are going to the school, you have the zoo, you have some hospitals, but majority is not the village. The business are the ones bringing in majority of the income tax to the village.

RESOLUTION NO.4, 2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RENEWAL OF THE SEVEN (7) MILL TAX LEVY ON THE CURRENT REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO, CERTIFYING SAID RESOLUTION TO THE HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Resolution 4 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Special council meeting ends.

CONTINUATION OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

April 10th, 2025

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thanks Mr. President, the next Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society meeting will take place on Monday, April 21st at the Municipal building at 7:00 PM. The village Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 19th. At Vine Street Park starting at 1:00pm and as Mayor Stuchell suggest to be on the lookout for the Easter Bunny riding around town before the easter egg hunt. I would like to give a shout out to our sponsors for this even. Thank you to City Electric Supply, Wyoming Air, LaRosa's, Kodiak, Weidemann

Brewery, Next Generation Insurance Agency, Fiechtner Plumbing and Ram Clean. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- No report.

Audience Participation:

Tim Fox, 4814 Greenlee Ave- We have a house across the street, 4813 Greenlee Ave., and I started with the tax department Monday. There are multiple people living there. I don't know if they're legal or what, but I mean, they got 7 vehicles. There are at least five adults living there. And they've lived there since they were rehabbing the house. At first, I thought they were squatting there and then somebody bought the house. But I don't think that's anybody living there. And then I heard that one of the guys that lived there bought the house but I don't think that's the truth either. I spoke to a lady in the tax department about it. She took a report. She was going to have it looked at of how many people live in there. But I mean, I don't think there's any ordinance about how many vehicles a house can have. But they got 7 vehicles. Two of them are commercial vehicles that shouldn't be parked on the street. It's a big van. They got ladders stacked 5 feet high on top of it. It's marked a commercial vehicle. The other one is a 3500 heavy duty 4 by 4 truck. Commercial vehicle says any vehicle it doesn't matter the vehicle weight, but I think people used for commercial purposes because it's considered a commercial vehicle. So, he pulls a trailer, they do roofing because he works for Gary St. Clair Roofing, as a subcontractor, I guess. So, he pulls a heavy-duty trailer behind it, not all the time, but he parks the truck on the street, so it's used as a commercial vehicle. I got a zoning thing here and I'm pretty sure 4813 Greenlee Ave. is residential area. They have a sign out there with his roofing company on it and the Ohio revised code tells right here it's only supposed to be used in places permitted as business and agricultural and industry trade or land used for agricultural purposes. So, the sign in front running this business shouldn't be there. I'm sure pretty sure Saint Bernard doesn't know who's living at that property. That's the main thing. The parking should be a respect thing and respect others who live and park on the street too. I pay taxes and I don't know if they are paying taxes, but there is something going on there. Also, are they paying the \$15 trash fee on their water bill? Another thing is parking on the sidewalks and the grass. I told Connor the other day, if I was a citizen wanting to move here, and I drove up Ross Ave., I would keep on driving. If I was trash, I would say this is my city. It is bad. That needs to be addressed and if the police do not want to ticket for it, they need to do their job. I have the ordinance right here, saying that you cannot park on the sidewalks. That goes for the whole state of Ohio, in their ordinance, right here is the Ohio Revised Code, says the exact same thing. It's been going on for years. That's all I have, thank you.

Council Member, Ms. Hausfeld- Mr. Fox, I do know the street parking thing was just brought up within the last month and I've talked to the mayor, and I've also talked to the police chief in a different part of our village. And unfortunately, they are, well, I'm going to say this, but I don't know that they are resident. I mean they're living there, so they are residents, as far as the legality, as far as paying taxes and stuff, we would have to get the appropriate people on that. But as far as the cars go, if they're paying rent, then they're considered a resident. And correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Mayor, but they have as much right to have as many cars parked on the street as anyone else does. It is a problem here in town, but it sounds like you have the correct person looking into the issues as far as the taxes go and the legality of the people living there.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- If in fact they are paying rent there, Valerie, wouldn't that fall under our short- or long-term rental ordinance, so they should have had an inspection and registered the property?

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Not necessarily. The property is a rental, I can tell, but they may have had someone register, but not as many people who might all be living there. We do have an ordinance as to how many unrelated people can live in a single structure. This can all be researched.

Tim Fox, 4814 Greenlee Ave.- I thought there was an ordinance where people had to register and say how many people are living in a residence?

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- We did pass an ordinance that if it is short term or long-term rental property, they have an obligation to register and tell us who and how many people are living there, and the fire department has the ability to do an inspection. The Tax Administrator is the correct person for that, so you did go to the right spot.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton to adjourn the meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

Meeting is adjourned.