

**VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The St. Bernard Village Council Meeting was held on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Council Chambers.

The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A Moment of Silence was given in honor of Don Harrman.

A motion by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to dispense with the reading of the last council meeting minutes and approve of the written minutes of the last council meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Minutes stand as submitted.

**REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS**

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you Mr. President. First, again like to offer my sympathy to the family of Don Harrman who passed away April 10th. Don proudly served the Saint Bernard Fire Department for 31 years, retiring at the rank of Captain. I also like to offer my condolences to the family of Henry Wahl, who was a longtime resident of Saint Bernard before moving to Maple Knoll Village and passed away April 12th at the age of 103. I had the pleasure of presenting a proclamation to Mr. Wahl in 2021 for his 100th birthday, which was a true honor. Godspeed to both of you. I'd also like to thank our awesome recreation department, our service department, police and fire departments, and our incredible community for making this year's Easter celebration such a great event. Families were out in full force, and we didn't let a little rain spoil the day. I would also like to thank Mr. Williams for diving right into all of the many issues that he is working to accomplish during his tenure here in the village so far and offering his professional recommendation on numerous items in the village. It is greatly appreciated. One very important item that we have been discussing is creating an in-house position for a Zoning and Code Enforcement Administrator. This is a process that would be going to be starting on immediately to try to get more properties in compliance and being handled of course in house. We'll start working on existing issues before this hire is made. And again, we're in first with high grass violations right now. And I also like to announce that starting next month, we will be starting the process for the search for the permanent Director of Public Services and Safety of course next month. The Police Department has been busy reminding residents about the placement of trash cans in advance of the allowable time frame to be placed at the curb and for allowing cans to stay beyond the allowable time period and initial warnings have been issued. And of course, an escalating fee schedule will be incurred. A copy of the revised ordinance will be placed in the upcoming newsletter as a reminder. Big things are happening with the CIC. We

now have a fully executed purchase and sale agreement with this with Civitas Development Group. We'll be working through their due diligence period to finalize their plans for the project. The wrecking will be starting the demolition of the old bank building, hopefully within the next two weeks. And I'd like to thank fellow CIC board member Christian Meyer for his efforts and the coordination of this process. We will hopefully be moving on to the strip mall portion immediately following the bank building. I also have a thank you from Diane Smith from the St. Clement Food Pantry for us helping promote their Lenten food collection, which of course was a four-day process which they were able to gather 409 rolls of bath tissue, 119 rolls of paper towels, nine boxes of tissues, 43 bars of soap, 36 sticks of deodorant, 52 tubes of toothpaste, hundreds of toothbrushes and 62 boxes of cereal and 500 lbs. of nonperishable food items. Also, they were monetary donations, but again, these donations help them feed and support our neighbors who struggle to feed themselves and their families. So again, they're very thankful for our assistance. Their current hours of operation are 4:30 to 6:30 PM on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. If you need their services or know someone that does, thank you. That concludes my report.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you. Mr. President. Before I give my report, I want to explain something that happened 2 weeks ago. I went over to the Board of Elections to file our levy resolution and apparently our past treasurer had been notified that we are not allowed to do an election in August. So, I did not hand in the information. I asked them if they could please let me know of any future changes, but they said no, they only send it to the treasurer. He said from now on that unless you're in fiscal emergency, you only can do a May and November election. So, I will start the whole process over. I apologize. I had no idea, and he apologized too. So, it is what it is, and I will start the process over. I'll probably put it on the agenda for the May council meeting, and we can start the process again. Then on the agenda is Ordinance 13 2025. Most of it we discussed at the Committee of the Whole. I did make a few additions to it, the first one being county collection fees and the professional services. The professional services is for the auditor department. What happened is we did get a much nicer tax, property tax collection. Instead of being in the four hundreds, it was like \$550,000, but a lot of it was from delinquent taxes. Because it was delinquent, we had to pay more for the collection and the collection took up my entire line item plus, so I had to use all of the county collection fees and I had to use up the professional services. So, this is just basically putting a little more money back into professional services and funding the county collection fees. I'm gathering we probably will not need all this, but I don't know how many more delinquent people are going to pay taxes and until we get the money. The other two that were changed was pool supplies and pool equipment. So, they had a lot of issues going on at the pool of things breaking down, which is what I explained to you last time while they're continuing. So, we're putting a little more into supplies because we used a lot of the supplies to cover the incidentals and now we need to buy chlorine. Speaking of chlorine, the tank went out. So, we had a special order of chlorine tank today and we had to rush order it so it's in in here in time for pool season. For other equipment which is the tank itself, and a temporary tank will cost us about \$5,000. We're working on that right now, and the only other change I wanted to explain is the accumulated employee accumulated retirement time. We used

to call that the employee accumulated sick time. Well, after thinking about how this line item is used, I just renamed it, which doesn't need to be voted on, but I wanted to explain it to you. So, in the future when somebody retires, they get the option of cashing out their vacation time from just that year and then DTO. The vacation time and the DTO comes right out of that department's funds, so it always throws their budgets off because they don't know if or when someone will retire. So, I'm going to change that. I'm going to kind of talk to all the chiefs and see what they think we might need in the future, especially with three people retiring and I probably will be asking for an additional appropriation to that. I won't have to be worrying about the salary line items either. So, if you're just wondering what the name of that one is, that's what that is about. Are there any questions? That concludes my report.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- Thank you. I had mentioned at the Committee of the Whole possibly putting together a resolution regarding retaining the services of the Energy Alliances group, but I didn't because they want a contract signed. Mr. Morton forwarded that to me during the meeting. So, I've looked at it. I have one or two questions and following up on that with Energy Alliance. So, I'm going to have something ready for you to look over at our next meeting at the Committee of the Whole. We can move forward with it at that point. So, and there were questions at the Committee of the Whole meeting about house numbers. I had previously provided some information to Mr. Asbach. I've now forwarded all that to you all. You should have gotten that e-mail. I had checked previously and didn't see anything that required houses, staff, residences, or buildings to actually have house numbers on them. Mr. Schildmeyer thought it might be in our zoning code. I had looked through that and I forwarded that to you. I asked our building personnel about it and Jerry said no, that we don't have anything. So, he confirmed that I wasn't finding something because I didn't see it because we don't have anything on the subject. He said there wasn't anything. So. Mr. Schildmeyer, if you have something more specific for me to look at, I'm happy to do so.

Council Member, Mr. Schildmeyer- Valerie, can you check our codified ordinances? What I found was 1301 as our building code, and it says our building code is composed as the composition of Ohio basic building code and Ohio's residential code. Ohio's residential code in section 319.1 talks about addresses and how they're required to be posted. So, I think that ties us into that but please double check that.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenberg- I will look into that, thank you. In addition to what I provided Mr. Asbach, I also provided some examples of ordinances that other communities around us have done in case we're interested in doing something and laying out something more specifically. I'm happy to prepare something or if we want to put it into committee and we talk about it as they did give examples, I'm happy to work on that. I do need to go into executive session to talk about ongoing litigation at the end of the evening. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Treasurer, Ms. Darrenkamp- Absent.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Williams- Thank you, Mr. President. I think I gave everyone a more extensive report of some of the activities that I've had going on in the almost month now I've been here at the Village. I first want to say that the staff that I've met, worked with in that time are very helpful, and knowledgeable and it's been a pleasure working with all those department heads and others throughout the village. I think you're very fortunate to have such a great staff here and very much appreciate that. A few items that I want to touch on are the erosion control issues that we've been working on. As a result of the construction of the new school next door, you've noticed that with the new wall that there were some erosion control issues there, some of which were a little concerned that maybe the school during the construction didn't follow all the erosion control requirements that were put in place. GMA, our engineers are looking at that right now. They're also looking at the elevation over there to understand what the flow of the water is and how it's changed since the construction took place and ensuring that when we go back and fix the area of the street next to the wall that we do that such a way that we can handle the flow of water that's going there. They are also making sure that hopefully the erosion is going to be fixed as well that's taking place on the school property. We went out and looked initially with a contractor at the failing retaining wall at the Baker Street parking lot that we own and after really looking at it little bit more closely, we felt like that it was necessary to get our engineers involved in that as well. It's a fairly extensive wall over there, and Mr. Goedy concurred that likely that we'll need a structural engineer to look at it for repairs and replacements that we do on that. So, we're trying to look at options and hopefully the most effective and least costly option for the village that we can do with that wall. Also, I wanted to note that we've received 4 proposals for the Vine Street Heritage District redevelopment plan. If you recall, Hamilton Planning gave us a mini grant is what it's called to be able to study that. We're working with Alloy Development. They prepared the RFP for that, and we're fortunate to get 4 very good companies to propose on that. The next step in the process, we've put together an ad hoc committee of four members. The mayor and I will be on that committee. We have a resident in the community and business owner on Vine Street that will be working with us as well as Alloy to review those and hopefully narrow them down to the top one or two for an interview. Expect a recommendation from that committee within the next couple of months, if not sooner. And then finally, I wanted to note that I've spent quite a bit of time looking through our insurance coverages. As you know, we changed to insurance last year, the old policies and the current policies overlapped and there weren't any gaps. So, we did find one that we worked on. We got resurrected, we got corrected, and then we have one more on cybercrime that we're looking at just to make sure that the current policy we have in place is as robust as what we had with the last policy. So those are some highlights. If you had any other questions, I'd be happy to answer those. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

- Tax collections for March 2025: \$1,606,173.
- March 2025 is down 17.31 % or \$336,188 from March 2024.
- Refunds for March: -\$24,328.67

- Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$1050.98.
- Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$98,690.35.
- 261 delinquent 2023 tax year assessments were sent to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. The amount sent is approx. \$485,750.

Sharon has deposited the last of the checks from Tax Day today. It will take us about two months to audit all of the tax returns, including the e-files, so please be patient. We will notify you by letter if we have any questions. We have had a lot of residents who want to discuss tax information or tax matters regarding their adult children, grandchildren, boyfriends/girlfriends, etc. I know this may seem to be an inconvenience to many of you but, please understand, it is against Federal/State law to discuss tax matters to anyone other than the taxpayer. Sharon and I want to thank Councilman Jeff Edwards for his very thoughtful and kind gesture. He brought sandwiches to me and Sharon on Tax Day. It was a long day. Thanks Jeff! That concludes my report.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you. Mr. President. The Finance Committee did not meet last week due to there not being any agenda items. However, I am happy to see Ordinance 14 2025 on the table tonight to continue the process to improve Greenlee Ave. which is something that we've talked through in our finance and public improvement committees. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21st at 6:00 PM in the lower level of City Hall. Thank you. That concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- First, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the upcoming retirement of Joe Lengerich, who will be concluding his remarkable career with the St. Bernard Service Department next Tuesday, April 29th. Joe has dedicated 28 years of service to the Village and brought a lifetime of experience to the role. A lifelong St. Bernard resident, Joe attended St. Clement Grade School and Roger Bacon High School before serving four years in the United States Marine Corps. He later spent 9 years working at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Combined with his time at the Service Department, Joe has contributed an impressive 41 years in public service. We thank Joe for his steadfast commitment to our community and wish him the very best in retirement. The Waste Collection Fee Report for March 2025 shows that \$ 26,493.70 was remitted to the Village. As part of the Waste Collection Report for the month of March, the Service Department completed the following:

- 34 dump trucks spotted at residences.
- 22 dumpsters spotted at residences.
- 167.08 tons of garbage taken to the landfill.
- 20.8 tons of recycling material sent to Rumpke Recycle.
- 8,135 lbs. of scrap metal and 155 lbs. of aluminum recycled.

- 32 tires have also been collected.

Lastly, our annual Clean Up St. Bernard Day is happening this Saturday, April 26th, from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. All participants are asked to meet in the lower-level parking lot of City Hall before the event begins. Trash bags, gloves, and garbage pickers will be provided for all volunteers. For residents on Chalet, Heger, and in Alpine Terrace, longtime St. Bernard resident Kelly Valerius has kindly volunteered to lead a cleanup group focused on the condos and neighboring streets. If you're joining that group, please meet outside the pool's clubhouse at 12:00pm to receive your supplies. If you have any questions, you can contact her at 513-227-8838 or myself at 513-543-9044. To wrap up the event, we invite all volunteers – and anyone else who'd like to join – to stop by the pavilion at Vine Steet Park for a community grill out. It's our way of saying thank you for your efforts in helping keep St. Bernard clean and beautiful. Feel free to bring a chair and a cooler with your favorite drinks. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you participated in the cleanup. Thank you that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President. There was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, but I would like to thank Mr. Larry Phillips for presenting a great program this month on Lafayette for the Saint Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society. Lafayette was a statesman soldier and aided our country greatly in winning its independence from England. I learned many things I never knew before, and the program was very interesting and entertaining for all who attended. If you would be interested in attending a meeting, they occur on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the main hall of the Municipal building. Although it's a month away, I would like to encourage all Saint Bernard residents to turn out to attend our Memorial Day service honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Last year, the Scout Master commented to me that the crowd seems to be smaller every year. These heroes deserve their names to be read, heard and remembered by their neighbors. Please join us. I'm hoping for a huge crowd to honor those who protected us. Thank you, Mr. President. This concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- Thank you Mr. President. Before I read the police and fire department reports, I did want to announce that the Safety Committee will be having a meeting set for Tuesday, May 6th at 6:00 PM here in Council Chambers. Some of the topics being discussed will be the parking issues in the parks and the streets of Saint Bernard, code enforcements, ticketing for trash cans and, like Valerie had mentioned, display address numbers on homes and apartment buildings so that they can be easily identified, especially in case of an emergency. First off, I have the Saint Bernard Fire Department report for the month of March: structural fires 3, other fires 7, vehicle fires 1, auto accidents 9, hazmat incidents 4, service calls 8, fire alarms 12, CO alarms 1, EMS assists 10, Total of 55. Mutual aid given: Elmwood 3, Norwood 8, Lockland 3, Little Miami 1, Colerain 1, and mutual aid received was 0. EMS incidentals: transports 53, non-transports 46, for a total of 99. Mutual aid given: Elmwood 6, Norwood 8, Reading 1, Mariemont 1. Mutual aid received: one was from Norwood. All personnel completed Mayday search operation training. All paramedics attended EMS training with Doctor Jason McMullen and that completes the fire department report. Also have the Police Department report for the month of

March. The Police Department had 682 calls for service, resulting in 538 contacts. There were an additional 474 other service calls, details that were not necessarily called in by the public. These calls for service included 43 total criminal offenses and resulted in 110 criminal arrests, 26 traffic citations as well as 77 traffic warnings. They responded to 20 accidents, five of which included injuries. Under the news and notes, the hiring process nearly completed. We are conducting background checks and various assessments on the candidates in an attempt to fill two spots in the Police Department. One of those are due to the pending retirement of Lieutenant Ungruhe. If you get the chance, wish him well on his well-deserved retirement after nearly 30 years of service to the village. Reminder that May is Bike Safety Month, so please be cautious and aware to ensure your safety as well as the safety of others. Also, the Police and Fire Benevolent golf outing is set for May 17th at Witton Woods. If anyone is interested in playing, sponsoring a hole, or helping out, please contact personnel at the Safety Center. Thank you, that concludes my reports, Mr. President.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- No report.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. The deadline to sign up for t-ball is next Friday, May 2nd. Please stop by City Hall to sign up between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The Village's 2025 Special event schedule has been completed. Please go to the Recreation Department Facebook page for more details. The opening concert in the Pavilion takes place on May 17th at 7:00 PM with music provided by Slow Train. Thanks to Joe Lengerich and his upcoming retirement and thanks to all the departments, Recreation, Police, Fire Service, the administration for the wonderful Easter event over the weekend. It was a great turnout. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Mr. Estep- No report.

Committee of the Whole, Ms. Stegman- Thank you Mr. President. The minutes for the last meeting were submitted April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and I have not communications this evening.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 13, 2025

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS AND APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND CREATE A NEW LINE ITEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Estep, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 13 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to adopt Ordinance 13 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 14, 2025

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ADLETA INC. FOR THE GREENLEE AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to suspend with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of Ordinance 14 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Mr. President, I do have a brief remark. Just so everyone's aware, the project may be identified as \$964,482.34. For the grant funding that came into play, and we do have a 51% obligation, which basically equates to \$491,885.99 as of right now. So again, we're not on the hook for the whole amount. So just wanted everyone to realize that.

Motion made by Mr. Schildmeyer, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adopt Ordinance 14 2025. Motion passes 7-0.

Motion made by Mr. Moreton, seconded by Mr. Culbertson, to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion passes 7-0.

No audience participation.

Council enters executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Council returns from executive session.

The next Committee of the Whole will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting is adjourned.