

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

West Union Village Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on 4-11-2023, at the Municipal Building. Mayor Jason Buda Presiding. Call to order, roll call and pledge to the flag: Mark Brewer – present, Jason Francis – present, Mary Jane Cambell – present, Randy Brewer – present, Donna Young – present, also in attendance: Melissa J. Hall – Fiscal Officer, Shelley Gifford – Treasurer, Jerry Kirker – Village Administrator, JR Kirker – Fire Chief, Chief Ryan Myers - WUPD, Tom Mayes -Village Solicitor, Kent Byan, CT Consultants, Visitor – Randy Adams.

Motion by Jason Francis, second by Randy Brewer, to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting on 3-28-2023 as distributed, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Motion by Mark Brewer second by Mary Jane Campbell, to accept statement of receipts for Mayor’s Court for the month of March in the net amount of \$1,828.00, roll call vote; all yea, motion passed.

Randy Adams – *Contract for Mowing for the Village* – The prices are going up on everything, parts for lawn mowers, and gas is going up. I was mowing for \$50.00 a yard, but I want to see if you would consider \$75.00 a yard because of the expenses. *Jason Francis* – What do we charge the property owners on their taxes? Response was \$75.00. *Jason Francis* – Can we raise that by ordinance? *Jerry Kirker* – No. *Tom Mayes* – No, it is a pass through, you can only pass through what the expenses are going to be. *Jason Francis* – what about an administrative fee, because there are indirect costs? *Tom Mayes* – I don’t know that right off, but I can look into it, as far as what is assessed. I have never seen it done that way. At a minimum, if he mows a yard for \$75.00, we pay him and whatever the cost is to pay him is assessed to the property. *Jason Francis* – Can we increase it and can we assess an administrator’s fee for that? *Tom Mayes* – that has nothing to do with this contract. Shelley and I will need to get together and discuss how the processing fee would look and even then, it would be a nominal amount. Shelley, do you do those all at one time, at the end of the year? *Shelley Gifford*- yes, by October, we have a deadline. *Jason Francis* – so if we made a motion, it we would not need to change his contract, it would be to change our ordinance? *Tom Mayes* – it is not an ordinance. It is by state law that you can assess costs to their taxes. *Jason Francis* – the motion would be that we increase their taxes? *Tom Mayes* – no, the motion is going to change the contract. He will be paid \$75.00 per yard, per the contract. The motion is to accept his revised bid of \$75.00 for the contract. I can revise the contract, that is not a problem. *Jason Francis* – we would not need to bid that out or anything like that? *Tom Mayes* – no, you didn’t have to bid it out to begin with, that is a contract that Jerry can award, we just did it as a transparency. There is no requirement to do that.

Motion by Mark Brewer, second by Donna Young, to pay Randall Adams \$75.00 for mowing, per yard, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Shelley Gifford – we will have the contract when you bring your paper in for mowing and you can sign it then. *Randy Adams* – okay, thank you all.

RESOLUTION 2023-13 - A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE:

Mayor Buda – this is for the Fire Department. This would set revenue for a new fund in the amount of \$10,000.00 on a grant they received. *Jason Francis* – the grant was \$10,000.00, and this is for equipment? *JR. Kirker* – PPE.

Motion by Randy Brewer, second by Mark Brewer to accept **Resolution 2023-13**, roll call vote all yea, motion passed.

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

Report from Jerry Kirker, Village Administrator –

1) *Opened Bids for the North Street Water Line Project* – We opened bids up for the North Street water line project. We had 4 bids and they will go to Kent's office to be reviewed, to make sure everything is right. Probably the next meeting on April 25, 2023, we will announce more on it.

2) *Water leak* – we have another major water leak we are trying to find. We thought we had found it today, but I don't believe it was it, so starting out tomorrow with equipment and we will try to locate it. We think we may know where it is at.

3) *Insurance on the Howlett Property Damage – Tom Mayes* – I talked with the insurance and you all have a policy that would cover \$2500.00, that is all they are willing to cover. They are not willing to budge off of that. There are some steps we would have to take if you want to do that. Voting on that and sending that to them from the minutes. I have seen what they have turned in and I don't know what their insurance has covered at this point and what their deductible and all that was either. *Tom Mayes* – whatever you do, will be precedent setting. *Randy Brewer* – the stuff that is on there, are they going to throw it away, keeping it, or give it to us or what? *Jerry Kirker* – the cleanup company threw it all away, with the time period and because it was contaminated. Further discussion continued about the listed items. *Tom Mayes* – legally, and my role in advising you, the insurance says there is no coverage, which means you are not liable. What you should do or what could you do, is not wrong. *Mayor Buda* asked what Council wanted to do.

Mark Brewer – I would like to study on it until the next meeting. *Tom Mayes* – you could send it to a committee, if you wanted to go through the listed items and determine what you want to cover and what do not want to cover. *Mayor Buda* – it is up to you all, but we need to make a decision. *Tom Mayes* – They have been waiting very patiently. I will say they have been very pleasant, very nice. *Mayor Buda* – you will not find anyone nicer for what they have went through. Discussion on which committee would take it to review. *Jason Francis* - Finance Meeting will be April 25, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss this matter.

Mayor Buda – Does anyone have anything else for Jerry?

4) *Properties that need grass cut - Donna Young* – There are 2 properties in the neighborhood that need the grass cut. *Jerry Kirker* – I will knock on their doors or post a Notice on their doors and they will have 5 days to act on it. If they don't, I will have Randy come and take care of them.

5) *Tornado Siren – Randy Brewer* – did you hear anymore on that? *Jerry Kirker* – I don't know when it will be here.

Report from Kent Bryan, CT Consulting –

1) *Taking bids for North Street – Kent Bryan* – today was mainly taking bids for the North Street project. I will have that back to Jerry by the end of the week or first of next week. We will go through all the unit price numbers, sometimes they make math errors. We had good bids, but there is enough spacing in between the numbers. I don't think it will change, it would have to be a significant mathematical error to change who is parallel bidder and things like that. We had 4 bids, in order: Lloyd Excavating, Isaac Excavating, Unger, and WAI. They were all pretty well evenly spaced. The issue for us will be we have got about \$400,000.00 of grant money on this to use for service line replacements, but we don't know how many out there are really lead service lines, until we open them up. We may get the full value of that \$400,000.00 or we may get a portion of it. We will not know that until we get out there and start. We have maintained \$125,000.00 for an allowance in there for paving, an overlay. That street is already in pretty bad shape, that is the intentions for that money. *Jerry Kirker* – we are talking about applying for the ARC money for curbs and sidewalks. If we get that, we will do that before we overlay the street. *Kent Bryan* – when we get all the water lines done and everything completed and use those funds. *Jason Francis* – would it be possible to run the powerlines underground with that project? *Jerry Kirker* – that is an all together different ballgame. *Kent Bryan* – that would be a big number. *Tom Mayes* – who owns the right-of-way there, I guess my question is

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

who already has utilities in the ground besides the water/sewer? *Jerry Kirker* – Duke. Everything else is overhead, Frontier, Spectrum, AEP is all overhead. *Tom Mayes* – I will give you a frame of reference, we are looking at doing that at the church camp, where I work at and it is a 30 ft. powerline and the difference was \$2,000.00 to repair it where it is at, versus \$12,000.00 to put it underground for 20 ft. *Jerry Kirker* – we just had one done at the Panhandle lift station, 300 ft. and it was \$12,000.00. *Jason Francis* – is that something that could be written into the grant? *Tom Mayes* – the meeting that we were at, no. You can't do infrastructure, that is the thing with that grant, it is in my opinion, it is kind of a two-edged sword. Tom suggested to Jason to talk with the planners to see if it could be written in. *Kent Bryan* – we can look into that. Our company has one of the twenty contracts for the planning part of the Appalachian Grant. *Jason Francis* – are there any other funding that we could request for that, tying it into different projects like that? *Jerry Kirker* – Danielle might be able to come up with some kind of funding. At one time, we talked about Main Street, putting everything underground, we just didn't go on with it. Ripley did it, but they used ODOT money on most of theirs. *Jason Francis* – I know you are not our planner, but did you receive our funding request for the Appalachian funding? *Kent Bryan* - I don't know that I have actually seen the one that you guys worked on. I will have to get that or if you can send it to me. *Jason Francis* – is there a time that Mary Jane and I or whoever else that would like to meet, since you are a planner, we would like to meet and discuss it. The sooner the better. *Kent Bryan* – there are two people in our office that are heavily involved in that, a lot more than I am. I would want to get them to come out and sit down and take a look at that. *Jason Francis* – I will email that to you either this evening or tomorrow. *Kent Bryan* – I will be out next week for vacation, so probably the week after would be a time we could take a look at that. Danielle does a lot of funding and things for us and Shawn is an engineer that is heavily involved in that whole process.

Mayor Buda – anyone have anything else for Kent? We will skip Danni. *JR.* do you have a report for Danni or anything? *JR Kirker* – no, she went on a squad run.

Report from *JR. Kirker*, Fire Chief, reported the Fire Department had 15 runs this month and 139 runs for the year.

1) *Burning Season - Mary Jane Campbell* – when is the burning season or when you are not allowed to burn? *JR. Kirker* – it goes until May from 6:00 to 6:00. *Jason Francis* – you are not allowed to burn in town anyway. *Jerry Kirker* – you are not allowed to burn within the Village of West Union or 1000 feet of the corporation limit unless you are cooking food over an open fire. If anyone is burning in town, call and get it put out. *Randy Brewer* – what about firepits? *Jerry Kirker* – They are allowing firepits as long as they are contained. *Tom Mayes* – the State code on that is, for Spring is March, April, and May. *Jerry Kirker* – they can stop by the Fire Department. We keep pamphlets that tell you what you are allowed to burn and what you are not allowed to burn, and all that.

Report from Chief *Ryan Myers*, WUPD, we had 482 calls this year.

- 1) *Grants* - I did get information back on grants for our ballistic shields and also AED's. I would like to get two AED's for our cruisers.
- 2) *Jetpack Savings* - Talking with AT&T and trying to get our Jetpacks switched from Verizon to AT&T and it will save us \$400.00 a year.
- 3) *Sharp Containers* - *Jason Francis* – Did those Sharp containers work for you? *Chief Myers* – yes, that is what we carry. I just have to figure out how to dispose of the ones that are full. The Health Department won't take them because they have to pay for them out of pocket. *Jason Francis* – could you get the cost of that? *Chief Myers* – yes, I will talk to them and see how much they charge for it. We usually fill up about two of them a year. *Jerry Kirker* – we get a lot of them down there.
- 4) *Shooting a weapon within the Village* - *Mary Jane Campbell* – is there an ordinance against shooting in the Village limits? *Chief Myers* – yes, nothing with a projectile. *Mary*

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

Jane Campbell – does that include BB guns? *Chief Myers* – yes. Council had a short discussion on issues with the black buzzards ruining things in the neighborhood. *Tom Mayes* – they are protected by the State. According to Ohio ODNR they are still protected under the “Vibratory Bird Treaty Act.” *Mary Jane Campbell* – the black headed ones? *Tom Mayes* – yes, black vultures. *Mary Jane Campbell* – they kill the cats. *Jerry Kirker* – they will kill a young calf. *Mary Jane Campbell* – some of the neighbors have mentioned that it is a problem. A neighbor said they can’t put up their pool, because the buzzards would be out there roosting around the edge. *Tom Mayes* – according to an article from ODNR, the only reason to use lethal force, is to protect livestock.

5) *Staffing issue with the Police Department* - The Adams County Sheriff’s Department – knows we are short staffed and they are working very well with me. They have been great helping on calls. *Jason Francis* – do you have any applications? *Chief Myers* – we have one or two that are interested depending upon the amount of pay.

Report from Tom Mayes, Village Solicitor –

1) *Update on settlement offer* – The check has been cut and you should get it. I thought you would have it by now, but they said they haven’t received it yet. I talked to their attorney today and it has been cut. *Jason Francis* – inquired about Manchester. *Tom Mayes* - they did a direct deposit with Manchester.

2) *Executive session request* - need an executive session under pending litigation.

To the floor for each elected official:

Mayor Jason Buda –

1) *Yard Sales* – Received an email about yard sales, I will summarize it. Last year Council changed the way they had previously done with the village wide yard sale. Prior to last year, they declared the first weekend in June and first weekend in October to be village wide yard sales, weekends with no permit needed. Last year, it was declared that every weekend from the end of May through the end of August were free, but those were Saturday sales only. They were suggesting to go back to the two different times for the village wide yard sales. I know every year about this time, there are questions on the village wide yard sales. *Jason Francis* – I know it is tough times, if you are having a yard sale on Friday and Saturday, that is bringing people from outside the village, inside the village. In my opinion, I don’t think we should charge for Friday or Saturday permits and of course we don’t allow the yard sale on Sundays, but Monday through Thursday we could charge a permit fee. *Donna Young* – I think there should be rules in place. I never did like the idea of paying \$5.00 myself. I think Friday and Saturday are mainly the busiest times, for yard sales and during holidays. *Jason Francis* – Correct me if I am wrong, you said you like that we have rules in place or we need rules? *Donna Young* – rules where they have to take their signs away or they can be penalized \$5.00. *Jason Francis* – so this is my understanding of the reason behind the permit, is so that someone that has a yard sale for five days straight and continues. That permit allows the Police Department to come out and cite them if they have a continuous yard sale going on. *Jason Francis* asked Chief Myers if he had cited anyone on it. *Chief Myers* – I personally have not. *Mary Jane Campbell* – I always sold more on Tuesdays and Wednesdays because normally the ones buying were ones that flea market for a living, where they are set up at shows on the weekends. Further discussions continued about yard sales. *Jerry Kirker* – what does the permits bring into the Village? *Shelley Gifford* – less than \$200.00 a year. *Jason Francis* – I think the permit, stops people from having that continuous yard sale because we are able to cite if they continue. *Donna Young* – we don’t have to decide tonight, but we should by the next meeting we should decide something.

2) *Zoning Interviews* – Since I will not be around, you guys will be having interviews for zoning. I have two applications here and I will give them to Melissa and whoever is going to be here can get them from her. Zoning Meeting is April 20, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

3) *EMT pay* – Last meeting we voted to put Tori Boone on as an EMT at \$90.00 a shift. I guess we had raised the rate from \$90.00 a shift to \$100.00 a shift for starting out and Danni is asking us to consider raising Tori Boone to \$100.00 per shift. *JR. Kirker* – I think she is trying to get it to \$100.00 per shift to get more people coming in. *Jason Francis* – how many part-time employees do you have at the EMS? *Shelley Gifford* - there is between 13 and 15 employees a pay. *Jason Francis* – I feel like every meeting she is bringing new people. Do people drop off or? *Shelley Gifford* – I think they rotate, work other places, so they may not be able to work this week but they can two weeks from now, so they rotate them. *Jason Francis* – I feel like the last two months, we have hired four or five. *Shelley Gifford* – we probably have but her payroll stays the same, between 13 and 15 employees. *Jason Francis* – when someone resigns, is that something we do? *Jerry Kirker* – yes, she brings them to Council and you vote them off. It is just like you do with the Fire Department. *Tom Mayes* – There might be some that are not on shift, there might be some on the roster that don't run. *Jason Francis* – how much time are we investing in these people, for them to just leave? *JR. Kirker* – when they come here from other departments they usually stay here, a lot of them do. *Jerry Kirker* – when they come here, they get a set of uniforms and that is about it. *Jason Francis* – what I am talking about is the indirect cost of training, for example: if you work at a gas station, you have 20 hours of training or 10 hours of training. *Jerry Kirker* – they are already trained when they come here. She has not put anyone through school. *JR. Kirker* – they have to do that all on their own. They pay all that themselves. *Jason Francis* – I don't remember the resignations, but I do remember hiring and I just feel like we have hired a lot in the last few months. *Jerry Kirker* – we have removed two or three. *Shelley Gifford* – she does bring up a resignation letter and I put them in their files. *Jerry Kirker* – you guys vote on removing them. *Mark Brewer* - there has been between four and six in the last 12 months that she has brought in that no longer make any runs. *Jason Francis* – and that is just because they have better opportunities elsewhere or? *Jerry Kirker* – better jobs. *Mark Brewer* – or haven't shown up. *Mark Brewer* – I will recommend they go to. *Jason Francis* – before you do that, can we afford it? *Jerry Kirker* – it doesn't change much, does it as far as payroll? *Shelley Gifford* – right, it is the same amount of people on there. It is just \$10.00 more. *Jason Francis* – I think in the last meeting, we didn't even have enough money to cover payroll, so I just want to make sure. *Donna Young* – is there two crews, one crew around the clock, are we running crews around the clock? *JR. Kirker* – most times we have 2 crews on except for like a Wednesday or a Thursday. There is just one crew on but when it is just one crew, there is not too many that Adams County takes from us. *Mary Jane Campbell* - are they 12 hour-shifts? *JR. Kirker* – yes, they are 12 hour-shifts. A lot of them work like a 24 hour-shift. *Jerry Kirker* – some of them work 36. *JR. Kirker* – there are four of them down there probably working 36 to 48 hour-shifts. *Jerry Kirker* – they are running Green Township from 8:00 to 8:00 then they come back to West Union and run it.

Motion by Jason Francis second by Donna Young, to increase the Tori Boone's pay rate to \$100.00 per shift, starting the next pay period, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Shelley Gifford – I just want to clarify we are just doing her, not all new ones, just her?
Jason Francis – Just her.

Shelley Gifford – Had nothing to discuss

Melissa Hall – Had nothing to discuss

Mark Brewer – Had nothing to discuss

Jason Francis –

1) *Banners* – There is a wire from Rent-to-Own to the pole on the Courthouse square, is it for hanging banners, to hang community banners? *Jerry Kirker* – no, that cable use to have

April 11, 2023

a turn lane sign on it at one time. *Jason Francis* – would it be possible, I don't want to add more work to our people, but say there is a community event, such as the Fair, or something the Lions Club is doing, within the Village, I don't want it to get crazy where we are advertising for businesses or anything like that, but would it be possible if they supply the banner, could our employees hang a banner? *Jerry Kirker* – AEP sets rules on the use of poles. That one we could, but we cannot hang banners for anything from pole to pole like we used to at Dryden's, where we used to hang Christmas lights across there. The wind got to whipping and would take the power out for the Insurance Company and Virgil Dryden's, so AEP don't allow us to hang from pole to pole. *Jason Francis* – so, does that one have electricity to it? *Jerry Kirker* – I don't think so. *Jason Francis* – so since it doesn't have electricity to it? *Jerry Kirker* – I can check and make sure. *Jason Francis* – I just know, for example, the Chili Fest, unless we ask Bob Blake to hang a banner on his fence, there is really nowhere, unless you want a yard sign which a gust of wind will take that. I think it would be betterment for the community. Manchester does it for Jack Roush Days and different things like that. *Jerry Kirker* – yes, I will check on that.

2) OVRDC – I should hear back from the OVRDC on April 28, 2023, if we were awarded funding for the transportation, Active Transportation Grant. Hopefully we did receive that.

3) *State Representative* – we currently don't have a State Representative. The seat was held by Brian Baldridge. There has been a lot of back and forth in the State House and they haven't been able to seat someone for that seat. We have been without a Representative for a few months now. Hopefully in the next two to three weeks we will have one. Right now, if a constituent would call the Representative of the 90th Districts phone number, Representative Bob Peterson of Pike County and Highland County are taking our case work. If a citizen calls you with a State issue, tell them to call the number that is listed on the 90th House Districts website and they will be transferred to Representative Bob Peterson's Office.

4) *EMA Meeting* – On April 20, 2023 after the Zoning Meeting interviews, I have an EMA Meeting. The first one that I have been to this year. Is there anything you guys would like me to bring up to the EMA Board? *Jerry Kirker* – yes, ask them if they are going to cash our check for our dues. If not, Shelley can void it, if we don't pay dues anymore. *Chief Myers* – if you don't care, can you ask about the grants for AED. They had done them before. *Jason Francis* - the first and only meeting I attended they asked us what we would like to see for the FEMA Grant. I got back with them and suggested we would really like a tornado shelter. I had it approved by the Fair Board that we could put a tornado shelter there. It could also be used as a Community Recreation Center. They never got back with me. So, we never got that funding. So, I will try. *Jerry Kirker* – There used to be funding through the EMA office for residential tornado. *Jason Francis* – There still is. *Donna Young* – used to years ago, there was shelter at the old Hospital basement. *Jerry Kirker* – Where do you get the application? I am just asking? *Jason Francis* – I know it was on the State website, because I remember promoting it when I worked at ABCAP, but I will bring that up as well.

Mary Jane Campbell –

1) *Complaints on the lack of phone service* – I don't know if it has to do with where they are replacing the electric around town, but people are not having phone service. Several of the businesses will go a day, day and half with no service. *Melissa J. Hall* – we have been out also. *Randy Brewer* – Spectrum, yes theirs is bad. *Mary Jane Campbell* – Spectrum is bad, Frontier is horrid. I have had four people from the village show up at my office upset with their service over the last month. I gave them the State of Ohio phone number for the PUCO number and told them they have to personally file a complaint. They have said they can't call the doctor, emergency services, 911, so they are upset with the phone service. Verizon is also horrid. Some that have spectrum, I guess through their cable somehow have phone service and it has been intermittent for a couple of weeks now. *Jason Francis* – On November the 29th, when we were having all those issues with Frontier, some people still do not have service from Frontier. I am not sure what exactly happened, but I did

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

reach out to get the State Director's Office number, and I called and they hung up and I tried calling them back but no answer. I did follow up with an email and I never received a response. I believe I filed a complaint with the PUCO on behalf of the Village of West Union. *Mark Brewer* – since April 3rd Spectrum has been out five times. If a person has a cell phone, and they don't have service, they can still dial 911. *Chief Ryan Myers* – Even deactivated phones will work for 911. Dispatch just cannot call them back. *Mary Jane Campbell* – I will let them know. *Jerry Kirker* – Spectrum is doing an upgrade on their system right now. We were out one day and Melissa and Shelley's office was out, today too. *Melissa J. Hall* – yes, it was out this morning. *Jerry Kirker* – everybody is having the same problem. When they call my office, I usually get ahold of Mike Dunn and he checks on it for me.

2) *Stop Light* – Had a complaint on the Stop light at SR. 125 and Manchester Street. If you are coming up by the church and you are going to turn, when the light changes, it pauses for a second or two and then goes on. I thought maybe because it was windy. *Jerry Kirker* – when they are turning toward Panhandle? *Mary Jane Campbell* – yes. *Jerry Kirker* – it doesn't change right now, if it is red, it is supposed to go to yellow and pause, yellow might not even come on, and then it is like 30 seconds or so, then it will drop to green. They have to give traffic time to stop coming in from the other direction. They are coming in to do a yearly inspection, so I will have them check it out. They should be coming in, within the next month. *Mark Brewer* – There is no left turn there. *Mary Jane Campbell* – I have seen people do it, but yes. *Jerry Kirker* – I was setting behind two people today that made left turns. *Jason Francis* - is there a sign next to the light? *Mark Brewer* – yes, it says "No left turn." You can not turn left onto Walnut Street.

Randy Brewer –

1) *Insurance Meeting* – We had an insurance meeting tonight. We went over everything and we think as a committee we are going to go with the Option 1, and with the Super Savers. It will be about twenty some dollars difference in price. Jason has more detail about it. *Mayor Buda* – yes, with the quotes I got, I gave everyone a folder with the quote totals. These totals are not 100% accurate because we have added 2 more employees. Mayor Buda discussed the options listed on the handout with Council. He explained the Super Saver Plan will take off \$3,500.00. They will basically have the same deductible they had before. If we would do the renewal as it is set up now, we will be paying about \$15,317.00 a month, opposed to the \$11,000.00 the other way and you add the Super Saver on to it, we will save about \$3,100.00 a month. We will get two bills, one for the Insurance for \$11,393.50 and one for the Super Saver for \$804.91. They will come out the same day, you just will see two bills instead of one bill. Total overall will be a \$22.00 increase from what we would be if we were on the last year's plan, if it would have stayed the same price. *Jason Francis* – are any of these plans with the Chamber offer? *Mayor Buda* – yes, they are all through the Chamber, because we are currently through a Chamber plan through this company. They both said because they go through "FormFire," they would both be the same no matter who did it. We are members of the Chamber in order to get these rates. *Jason Francis* – what company is this through? *Mayor Buda* – Anthem. Just like the one we have now. There was one that had really good rates, but they refused to give us a quote. The Committee recommended going with the Option 1 with the Super Saver on it. Rich will come down and go through it with Shelley and Melissa, if we need them to. *Jason Francis* – have we asked any of the employees how they feel about it. *Mayor Buda* – not really. *Jason Francis* - So it will only be a \$22.00 increase on them per month per person? *Mayor Buda* – that was for the whole policy. The \$22.00 increase would be for the Village itself over a year. *Mark Brewer* – If people have an issue with the policy, they can call them. *Mayor Buda* – Rich said do not hesitate to call them, because last year he said there was a lot of stuff that was miscoded and that is why people were paying higher deductibles and prices than what they should have been. Since no one called him to let him know, he couldn't do anything about it. He said that is a part of their job, and they are there to help and make sure the employees are not being taken advantage of.

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

Mark Brewer – we started the meeting at 6:09 P.M. because we were waiting for someone. *Jason Francis* – I don't know much about insurance, but to me, just looking at these specs, Option 2, in my mind would be better, could you explain to me why Option 1, is better? *Mayor Buda* – money, the amount we will save. *Jerry Kirker* – and saves the employee money. *Jason Francis* – so for the entire year, what is the increase percentage wise? *Mayor Buda* – if we did the renewal from what we have now, it would be a 25% increase. Option 1, would be about 1 or 2% tops. *Jason Francis* – someone that is over County Government Insurance, that negotiates insurance said that anything over 6%, you should not be paying. So, 1 or 2% is not bad. *Shelley Gifford* – explain the difference with the two bills again. *Mayor Buda* – you will get the bill for the regular insurance and then the Super Saver, it brings these totals down. You will get a separate bill for it. *Shelley Gifford* – will it be like a credit? *Mayor Buda* – no. This is the amount for the 11 employees minus the Super Saver, the \$11,393.50. With the 11 employees and the super saver of the difference, which is about \$800.00, the total will be \$12,198.41. If we would stay with the current plan we are on now, we would be paying based off 11 employees, \$15,317.83. He said the totals can fluctuate through out the year depending on how many are on the insurance at that time. *Jason Francis* – asked whether they offered a wellness program for employees to help lower costs. We need to think about ways we can decrease, things are only going to keep increasing. *Mayor Buda* – I would have to ask. *Shelley Gifford* asked if the employees would be getting a copy of the policy because in the past they have not. *Jerry Kirker* – He did say they would get a policy. *Mayor Buda* – if they don't, they need to call him. *Jason Francis* – continued about the wellness option and asked as to whether or not Jerry thought his employees would be interested. *Jerry Kirker* – if you want them to come down, I am sure they will listen to them. *Mary Jane Campbell* – we only have 11 employees it is not going to be as big of an impact as if you would have 200 employees. *Jason Francis* – but still getting our employees healthy long term will save us a lot of money and save them a lot of money. I want to do what is best for our employees and get them healthy. *Mayor Buda* – we will need to vote on the insurance tonight because it renews May 1, 2023.

Motion by Randy Brewer, second by Mary Jane Campbell, to accept Option 1 along with the Super Saver Plan for the Village Employee Health Insurance, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Donna Young –

1) *Staffing for Water/Sewer Department* – Jerry did you get some help? *Jerry Kirker* – yes, they came to work Monday. It has helped, we have had some issues. They have not been able to start doing what I want them to start doing yet. We have been trying to find a water leak and we had some issues at the sewer plant. But yes, they are going to work out. I had 2 new employees that came in Monday.

2) *Potholes* – I still keep hearing about these potholes. *Jerry Kirker* – I know. *Donna Young*- I thought I would put it back out there in case you would get one not busy sometime and send them out to put a band-aid on some of them.

3) *Parking around the Courthouse Square* – Still receiving complaints about parking around the Courthouse square. There were further discussions on the matter, but no resolution at this time was made.

Mayor Buda – before we go into an executive session, I do have a request for Council, June 20th and 21st is the Mayor's Conference this year in Columbus and right now I can get a reduced rate on the hotel and the conference. I would like to have permission from Council to be able to attend again this year. *Jason Francis* – did you find it beneficial last year? *Mayor Buda* – yes, I did. I made some good contacts.

West Union Village Council

April 11, 2023

Motion by Randy Brewer, second by Donna Young, to authorize Mayor Jason Buda to be reimbursed up to \$500.00 to attend the Mayor’s Conference June 20, and 21, 2023, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Mayor Buda – Is there any discussions or questions regarding the bills?

Motion by Mark Brewer, second by Donna Young, to approve payment of the bills submitted, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Motion by Mary Jane Campbell, second by Mark Brewer at 8:29 P.M. to enter executive session under ORC §121.22(G)(3) Eminent Pending Litigation, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Motion by Randy Brewer, second by Mark Brewer at 8:39 P.M. to exit executive session, roll call vote: all yea, motion passed.

Mayor Buda – does anyone else have anything?

Motion by Jason Francis, second by Donna Young at 9:40 p.m. to adjourn, roll call vote: all yea. motion passed.

Mayor, Jason Paul Buda

Fiscal Officer, Melissa J. Hall