

Village of Arcanum Council Meeting
April 29, 2025
7:00 p.m. Regular Session

Call to Order – Mayor Bonnie Millard opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance along with all present members of Council.

Roll Call – The following council members were present: Eric VanHoose, David Hartley, Ryan Burns, Jerry Boolman, Rick Genovesi, and Tammy Bruner. Also in attendance were VA/Police Chief Marcus Ballinger, FO Karen Deao, Ed Bruner, Missie Shilt, and Pat Jones.

Meeting Minutes – Corrections and Approvals –

Council Member Boolman moved to approve the Meeting Minutes dated 4/8/2025. Council Member Hartley seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Amendments to Agenda –

Comments from the Public –

- Missie Shilt asked about the replacement of concrete around her home that was removed by the street project, which was addressed by the VA. Additionally, she asked whether her yard area that has been tore up by the street project, would be backfilled and reseeded. VA stated that M&T will be responsible on reseeding, and making any necessary corrections to level the ground. Missie stated that M&T does not seem to be doing a very good job at cleaning the areas up, and trying to make them look nice, and they are just doing the very bare minimum. VA stated that he will talk to M&T about getting more fill dirt for around her house.
- Rick Genovesi asked about the electrical line between his property and Joe Hoke's property and getting it leveled and seeded. VA stated that the standard operating procedure is that it has to sit for a year, before grading and reseeding. The Utility Department will be leveling the area once the weather cooperates. Councilman Burns asked where the residents could find and review the standard operation procedures. VA stated that he could probably come up with a blurb of some kind for the website. VA also stated that he would speak with the Utility Superintendent about having a list that could be handed out to residents, when Randy speaks to them about digging in their yards, and what to expect. Councilman Burns stated that having some general expectations for residents to review on the website would be helpful. Councilman Genovesi stated that a year seems longer than necessary.
- Pat Jones – Code Red is being over used, for things that are not emergency or weather related. She was not happy about the most recent Code Red advertising the Smart Thermostat Program. VA stated that Code Red is for anything Village related. Pat stated that in her opinion something like this shouldn't be a Code Red, and should be put in the newsletter.

Administrative Reports –

Mayor: None.

Solicitor: None.

Village Administrator/ Police Chief: VA Report was provided in Council Packets.

- M&T damaged a resident's garbage can at 116 E. Second Street while working on the street project. The Village will pay the resident \$29.98 for a new trash can, and will then charge the cost to M&T at the end of the project. Council Member Hartley moved to approve \$29.98 for a replacement trash receptacle for the resident of 116 E. Second Street, and for the Village to be reimbursed by M&T. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

Council then discussed the number of residents that are leaving their trash receptacles out longer than 24 hours. Many residents, specifically those at the Fine Living Apartments, are leaving them out for several days.

- Permit Refund – An individual paid for a permit to have a bounce house in the park while renting a shelter. It was later discovered that the bounce house was not a commercial bounce house, but a small residential bounce house that the VA does not feel meets the requirement for a permit. VA asked Council for permission to refund the \$25 permit fee to the individual. Council Member Hartley moved to approve a bounce house permit refund in the amount of \$25.00. Council Member Bruner seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.
- Fiber- VA will be signing the Brightspeed agreement by May 7th. They will be completely burying lines in the north end. The Village tried to get them to bury their copper lines as well, but their end plan is to remove the copper lines after the fiber has been installed for a few years. The Village will be working very closely with Brightspeed when it comes to digging, due to the Village gearing up to begin burying electric lines in the same area. Brightspeed will begin in June and will be turning fiber on as they go. NKTelco is in the final stages of their project, and they are just waiting on their building to be set on High Street.

Councilman Boolman inquired on the status of the white-water tower. VA stated that they are in the painting stage, and should be done in a few weeks. They have done a ceramic coating inside two times, at no additional charge. They will have a company come in after completion to smooth out the ruts and reseed.

Councilman Burns asked about the new traffic light on Main & Trojan going all red at night. VA stated that the light

is to be green on Main all the time, until a car pulls up on the side street, triggering the timer after school hours. VA stated that the light has had some sequence issues. VA is working with Capital Electric on those issues. Councilman Burns had been told that around 9pm all four lights are red for the whole cycle. Councilman Hartley confirmed that he has seen it. VA believes that kids on bicycles are hitting the button on the pedestal, and it's triggering all the lights to go red. VA gave Council a few other scenarios that could be causing this to happen.

Councilman Bruner is concerned about one of the child toys in the park. Around the bouncy skunk there is a piece of old metal sticking up out of the ground. VA will get with the Utility Superintendent to have the issue addressed.

Councilman Boolman asked for an update on the East/First/Albright Street project. VA stated that M&T are ahead of schedule, but when they began tearing the street up, it became apparent that the base was not viable. Changes to the original plan had to be made, so that a good base could be laid before any more work could be done. There will be some increased cost, with having to have a whole new base laid. Unfortunately, the bores that were done were done in places that did have a good base. Residents that would be affected by the delay were notified by a letter sent by the Village. It is in the best interest of the Village long term, to take the necessary steps to ensure the street is constructed properly. Councilman Boolman questioned why the whole street had to be done at once, instead of doing in sections so the whole street wasn't inoperable. VA stated that he doesn't like the contractor, but we can't tell them no, because we are under contract with them, and it's their road and responsibility. If anything would happen to someone or their vehicle it is M&T's issue. VA went on to say that M&T does not communicate with the residents, and communication with the Village is one thing one day and another thing the next day. VA stated that M&T is not a company the Village should do business with in the future, or try to avoid it at all costs. The Village did not pick this contractor, and had it been up to the Village we would have taken the advice from other entities who were not satisfied with them, and went with a different contractor. The Darke Co. Commissioners chose this company. Councilman Boolman wants to be sure that all the issues and dissatisfaction with M&T will be relayed to the Commissioners. Mayor Millard stated that she doesn't think that M&T will bid on another project for the Village, because Village Administration has been non-stop with them. Councilman Boolman's concern is for the police department, VFW patrons, and residents coming to the office to pay their bills, trying to go down a torn-up street, causing damage to their vehicles.

Fiscal Officer: Check registers, YTD Fund Report, March ¼% Report, and March Reconciliation were provided in Council packets.

- Authorized Expenditures 4/9/2025 – 4/29/2025
- 2024 taxes – Through April \$452,914 has been collected, which is an increase from this time last year. Through the Ohio Attorney Generals, \$21,983 has been collected since the 1st of the year. FO believes the Village needs to continue using the Ohio Attorney General to collect from those that are delinquent.
- 2024 State Audit – Is in the final stages, and should be completed by the end of the week.

Fire Chief:

- 2025 has been a record-breaking year with 11 structure fires to date.
- Vehicles – Many of the vehicles are having to have major repairs done. The maintenance line has had to have monies moved into it to keep up with the repair costs.
- Fire Department received a \$4K donation from a resident.

Safety: Nothing to report.

Utility Committee: Report given by Ryan Burns. Committee met on 4/22/2025. Next meeting is set for 5/20/2025 @6pm.

- Discussed current water & sewer tap fees at the request of Benanzer Custom Homes. The committee recommends not changing the water & sewer tap fees, but the committee discussed possible incentives to those contractors looking to build subdivisions, and allowing those contractors to negotiate with Council on the tap fees.

Finance, Audit, & Personnel: Nothing to report.

Street & Service Committee: Nothing to report.

Leisure: Nothing to report.

Planning: Report given by David Hartley. Committee met on 4/4/2025. Next meeting is set for 5/13/2025 @6pm.

- Committee recommends Council to place on the ballot for November a 1.75mil operating levy.
- Reviewed House Bill 28.
- Discussed increasing the Village Income Tax, which the VA supported, but the committee did not. The committee will revisit increasing the Income Tax, if the levy does not pass.
- Discussed the brick streets and possible alternatives. It was discussed possibly just having the intersections of George be brick, but the remaining street would be asphalt.
- Opera House – Discussed leasing the property to the Preservation Society. To lease the property the Village would be required to advertise for bids of the lease for 5 weeks. The Village would have the right to refuse any and all of the bids.

Councilman Hartley stated that after the committee met, they were advised that the Preservation Society now has some major donors that are willing to step forward. Councilman Hartley stated that he believes the Village

would still have to advertise the property for lease. VA stated that he has been talking with the Solicitor on how to do this process without going out to bid to lease the property, similar to how the Village leases the ball fields to AJBS. VA stated that the Preservation Society is asking for a resolution of support from the Village. Councilman Hartley said once there is more direction from the Solicitor, then another Planning Committee meeting can be scheduled. Mayor advised that the Solicitor found when the deed for the old town hall was recorded in 1888. Administration will get the deed from Twin Township, so that it can be transferred completely to the Village.

Old Business –

1. **Resolution 2025-11** - A Resolution Declaring The Necessity For The Construction Of Curbs, Sidewalks & Approaches On North West Street In The Village Of Arcanum. Exhibit A & B. (3rd Reading). Council Member Hartley moved to adopt Resolution 2025-11. Council Member VanHoose seconded. All present council members voted yea. Motion passed.

New Business –

1. **Resolution 2025-13** - A Resolution Of Necessity To Levy A Tax In Excess Of The Ten-Mill Limitation For The Current Operating Expenses Of The Village Of Arcanum, Ohio. (1st Reading).

Announcements – May 3rd- Serve Arcanum – High School; Invitational Track meet @ 4:30pm. Missie Shilt asked the question who controls the Smart Thermostat. VA advised that AMP controls the Smart Thermostat, and if you change the thermostat from what AMP has it set at, you won't be entered into the drawing.

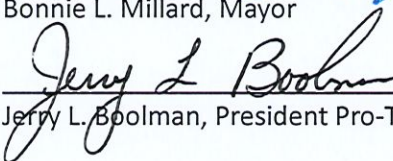
Trailer/Recreational Vehicle Storage- VA will be sending out letters to residents that have been storing trailers/recreational vehicles on the side of their homes giving them until November 30th, 2025 to relocate them within the guidelines set by the Zoning Book. This is an issue that is addressed in the Zoning Book, and the number of trailers/recreational vehicles being stored on the side of homes is growing. The rule hasn't been enforced, but the VA and Mayor are going to begin enforcing the rule. The Planning Commission agreed that what is in the Zoning Book needs to be enforced. Councilman Genovesi stated that the November 30th deadline is ample time for residents to become compliant. Councilman Bruner questioned what would happen if the trailer is moved to the backyard, but the resident does not mow under the trailer. VA stated that if that happens and it is visible, the resident would get a yard maintenance violation. Council was in agreement that the letters should be sent to those residents in violation, and for the rule to be enforced moving forward.

Adjournment – Council Member Hartley moved to adjourn. Council Member Boolman seconded. All present council members voted yea. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

ATTEST:



Bonnie L. Millard, Mayor



Jerry L. Boolman, President Pro-Tem



Karen L. Deao, Fiscal Officer