Present: Mayor Baker, Trustee Tartaglia, Trustee Cristelli, Trustee MacPherson, Trustee Hoskins

Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Lisa French

Guests: Denise Singlar, Bill Dann, Debra Tompkins-Cornett, Gary Wilson, Doug Barnard, Gary Cornett, and Andrew Kantor – The Reporter.

Mayor Baker opened the Public Hearing Local Law #1- 2024 Authorizing a Property Tax Levy in excess of the limit established by General Municipal Law Section 3c enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Sidney at 7:00 pm.

Gary Cornett – what is the deadline for Local Law #1-2024 to be completed? Once the Board of Trustees approves the Local Law, it must be filed with New York State immediately. Follow -up question, do you know how much over the 2% increase you want to do? At this time, no, however, we must file this Local Law with the Secretary of State of New York prior to increasing the tax rate.

Denise Singlar – Do you know roughly what the 2% would have been, if you had stayed within the 2%, what would have been generated? At this time no, we realize the 2% will not generate enough money to fully fund our budget and we need to reduce our reliance on the fund balance.

Gary Wilson – The number of properties no longer on the tax rolls, approx. 130 properties, which have been torn down. The County owns these properties and per FEMA agreement these properties cannot be built on in the future. Will the closing of ACCO influence the property tax base and does the Village have solutions to compensate for the loss in tax revenue? The Clover Lane development will be a step in the right direction to increase the property tax base in the village.

Trustee MacPherson moved; Trustee Cristelli seconded the motion to close Public Hearing. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Mayor Baker opened the regular meeting at 7:15pm

Debra Tompkins-Cornett inquired about the old Chinese place on Mang Drive, what is the new construction for? Auto Zone purchased the property and is building a new auto parts store. Auto Zone prefers to build near an Auto Parts store, believes the proximity promotes better business. What is the status of the old buildings behind McDonalds? The buildings are privately owned, owners reside outside of the area. Aldi’s inquired about one of the buildings, however, did not meet their needs. Follow-up question, is the board working to bring in another grocery store? The old plaza (Great American) has a new owner, Fox Management, it is a father & son company out of Long Island, which is eager to bring in stores to the plaza, they have reached out to several grocery stores in the area, including Aldi’s. Aldi’s is not interested in a location in

the village. Pine Hill and Peckham’s properties will the Village sell these properties? We have done some research, these properties are ready to be logged, it is more beneficial for the Village to have the properties logged right now than to sell the properties. We have a company preparing an estimate for the sale of timber.

Doug Barnard – President of Veteran’s Memorial Park. Looking to have sidewalk installed from the last house on River St. to the Veteran’s Park approximately 250 feet. This is the only section of River Street without a sidewalk. Asking this is put into the budget in the next couple of years. Will investigate other funding to install the sidewalks. The park is growing and is looking to have more walls added in the next 3 – 5 years, to hang the plaques honoring our local Veterans.

Trustee Cristelli moved, Trustee MacPherson seconded the motion adopting the January 22, 2024, minutes as written. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Mayor Baker noted that he will have the department head meeting tomorrow, the second Tuesday of the month.

Trustee Cristelli moved; Trustee Tartaglia seconded the motion to adopt the proposed Local Law #1-2024 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established by General Municipal Law§3-c. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Tartaglia moved; Trustee MacPherson seconded the motion authorizing the Clerk to sign Northeast Timber proposal to prepare an estimate for sales of timber on Village owned property referenced as: Tax Map #. 244-1-13; 244-1-6; 244-1-12.9; 139-1-5; 116-1-50.1 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Cristelli moved, Trustee Hoskins seconded that the 2023-2024 Tax Pendency list of delinquent Village taxes in the amount of $161,025.83 be received and the Clerk be directed to publish each property and amount due in the Village official newspaper and to include a fee of $3.00 to cover the cost of publication which is included in the total amount. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Tartaglia moved; Trustee Hoskins seconded the motion approving the appointment of Noel Goodspeed to a 5 yr. term on the Village Planning Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Tartaglia moved; Trustee Cristelli seconded the motion approving the appointment of Shari Youngs to a 5 yr. term on the Village Zoning Board of Appeals. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Tartaglia moved, Trustee MacPherson seconded the motion authorizing the mayor to sign Pay Applications #4 ($19,244.15) and #5 ($28,573.25) of A. Treffeisen in the total amount of $47,817.30. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Clover Lane – Delaware County Planning Board developed three concepts for the development, Concept A - single family homes, fifteen lots, Concept B – three set of townhouses with eight units each and nine single family homes, and Concept C – two sets of townhouses with eight units and 11 single family homes. The board’s next step is to prepare the RFP (Request for Proposal) to send to perspective buyers and or investors. Single family housing minimum 1700 sq ft with a garage. A local realtor has three developers who are waiting for the RFP to submit a proposal.

Public Safety - Addendum to Police Contract will move the police officers to a 12-hour shift, over a 14-day period officers will work 7 days off 7 days, this change should reduce the overtime. Will allow officers to have every other weekend off.

Trustee Cristelli moved, Trustee Hoskins seconded the motion to approve the Addendum between the Village of Sidney and Village of Sidney Police Department Members Teamsters Local 317. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Tartaglia moved, Trustee MacPherson seconded the motion to hire Kevin McEwan as a provisional appointment as Village of Sidney Police Officer with a starting salary at step 1-$52,736.86 or $25.36 per hour. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee MacPherson moved, Trustee Cristelli seconded the motion to accept the bids from Kevin Isabell of $501.20 for the 2006 Dodge Dakota and the bid of $503.25 for the 2004 Ford Expedition. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Recreation – discussed the possibility of charging kids a flat fee up to $20 to participate in the summer baseball and softball program, at this time the Board will not charge a fee and want to look at increasing the fee the adult sports teams pay to use the fields before charging the kids to participate in sports. The Board agrees to have two types of sponsorship for local businesses to sponsor teams or the fields.

Other Business – Code Officer, Jaime Cole has requested the Village tear down the garage at 10 Smith St. this building has been condemned as unsafe. The Board will agree to taking down the building as long as all proper protocols are followed, and the building is checked for Asbestos.

Trustee Tartaglia moved, Trustee Cristelli seconded the motion to authorize the DPW to take down the garage at 10 Smith St. at owners’ expense and remove materials. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

The outside area of 10 Smith St. was cleaned up by the Village DPW today, and the property owner will be billed for labor and equipment used as well as the cost of disposing of the refuse. DPW reported the yard at 7 Ritton Street was cleaned up by the owner/tenants over the weekend.

Has there been any movement in getting 2% back from Delaware County? There has been some movement, Tina Moli` sent a letter to the Village Mayor in the County voicing her concerns regarding an article in The Reporter about their Association and what they are requesting from the County. The Mayor Association is requesting Three items from the County.

1. Two percent of Sales Tax
2. Making the Villages whole on property taxes
3. Shared Services.

Once they send a formal letter, the next step will be to attend the County Board meeting. The Town of Sidney does support our efforts, cannot speak of other towns in the County.

The WEX fleet card, based on State Contracts wherever we travel we could use this card. Ninety-eight percent of gas stations accept this gas card. Would like to investigate this, would this be a savings compared to what we are currently using for gas cards. Currently we use Mirabito, when traveling outside of the Village, must find a Mirabito station to refuel. Pat Cristelli will investigate the future using this card.

Rotary has approached the Mayor Baker, The Rotary foundation partnering with the United Way would like to update the bathrooms at KCP (Keith Clark Park). Concern is the ongoing vandalism in the bathrooms. Would like to invest in cameras outside the facility to monitor. Update the signs at KCP to be consistent with the time the park closes, currently two signs with conflicting message Closes at Dusk and Closes at 10:00pm. This would help with patrolling the park when closed.

Trustee Cristelli moved, Trustee Tartaglia seconded the motion authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to pay the Abstract #14 dated February 12, 2024, from the following funds:

**Fund Audit**

General $ 91,036.94

Water $ 12,074.43

Sewer $ 11,573.98

Community Development $

Trust & Agency $ 5,026.99

Capital $­­­\_\_\_\_\_48,582.30

**Totals $ 168,294.64**

5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee MacPherson moved; Trustee Cristelli seconded the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:38pm to discuss Personnel – DPW, Police. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Tartaglia moved, Trustee Cristelli seconded the motion to leave Executive Session at 10:11pm. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, Carried.

Trustee Cristelli moved, Trustee MacPherson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:17pm. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. French, Village Clerk/Treasurer