

# VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 17, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sean Barnes at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Council Members Present:** Sarah Chambers  
Herb Lower  
Mitch Peters  
Spencer Giese  
Cari Meng  
Lyle Simpson

**Village Representation Present:** Mayor Sean Barnes  
Administrator Kendra Borrer  
Zoning Inspector Jacob Brooks  
Solicitor David Ball  
Police Chief Dan Bunting  
Fiscal Officer Carol Gissinger

**Citizens Present:** Mike Miller, Claire Lewis, Kevin Lewis, Lewie Miller, Ida Rae, Randall Delawder, Penny Finch, Jordan Lee, Kelly Bunting, Harold Lee, Tad VanNess, Shannon & JT Griffith, Jessica Voit, and Julia Lerner.

## Approval of Council Minutes

Councilwoman Chambers made a motion, seconded by Councilman Giese, to approve the 03/03/2026 Special Council Meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

Councilman Peter made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Chambers, to approve the 03/03/2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Sean Barnes opened with a prepared statement. Exhibit A

### **Citizen Comments (3minutes max)**

Jessica Voit – Thought we were great on communication and appreciates that. Brought a prepared statement. See attached Exhibit B

Mike Miller – would like for council to rethink appropriations. He is aware that council is spending half of budget on police department, not against the police department but we will not be able to take care of our village. If you let our infrastructure die like it is on its way now there is potential for lawsuits in the future. Would like to see council appropriate for Maintenance and hopefully the income tax will go through to have a police department. Potential for tax to pass or police levy to have a police department.

Claire Lewis - Brought a prepared statement previously emailed to council see attached Exhibit C

Tad VanNess – Address the sale of Township building at 19 N. Liberty to the village, disappointed in this council and mayor. A month ago, stated he expressed concerns that council would buy the building and that the village would turn around and sell it for a gain. Had asked Mayor to amend verbiage in agreement. Updated agreement had stated that the township would sell building to village at a very discounted rate and if the village, instead it was stated that the building would be reappraised and then offered to the township at the appraised rate. Obviously, a higher rate. He stated he did not agree with updated contract conditions and in all good conscience could not vote to approve the sale. Felt village forced his hand to make that decision.

## LEGISLATION

### ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

#### AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE 2026 REVENUE BUDGET AND SETTING 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA OHIO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

**Councilwoman Chambers made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to suspend reading of Ordinance 2026-06 and declare an emergency. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried**

Solicitor David Ball asked if it was clear to council what the appropriation numbers are and if they had been distributed?

Council answered yes.

#### Discussion

Lyle Simpson – wanted to provide clarification to public addressed the police department would be receiving a little less than a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total budget, it is half of what is left over after village expenses. If that makes a difference to residents, \$17,280 already set aside for a maintenance person. Important points of clarifications

Spencer – An additional point of clarification to add that appropriations are not the budget, it is the spending of the budget and then identifying what we have left to use to improve and for the upkeep of the village. I feel like why we have pause because we see where we are at after all our appropriations potentially go out. The money left to go out to the community are incredibly limited.

Cari Meng – We just came through a very challenging weekend and knowing where this budget leads us is not reassuring. What Mr. Miller resonates pretty strongly with me. The village infrastructure is not optional; our residents count on that. We relied on volunteer labor to flush lines to make sure we could get the village back into working water, that is not sustainable even for a village our size. If we fund the maintenance position under what the position requires then we should expect continued vacancies. Our job is to protect the village and protect the residents and the people that elected us. We need to plan for emergencies. I personally cannot support the appropriations as written.

Sarah – Agrees with everything that has been said. Brought a prepared statement. See Exhibit D

I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of the appropriations as they are written.

Asked for Dan to tell council last meeting if there was someplace in his budget where he could cut spending.

Councilman Simpson asked Mrs. Borrer what some of the numbers mentioned by Councilwoman Chambers are.

Kendra Borrer – Rinehart Ins agency called to let us know that our insurance premium is increasing for 2026 by \$2187 for the year due to adding 4 auxiliary police officers. That takes us up from \$10,500 premium to \$12,687. It would go down \$1000 by getting rid of 2 vehicles.

Councilman Simpson asked if Mrs. Borrer had any idea how much money we are looking at obtaining by the sale of the vehicles.

Mrs. Borrer – As an example the dump truck is a 2001 Ford F350 the motor alone is worth \$3500 and \$8000. Potentially would get \$1500 to \$3500 per police car. Conservatively we could get maybe \$10,000.

Mayor Barnes - noted that this would be a one-time influx of funds and not something we can rely on moving forward.

Councilman Simpson - asked how much would then come off the insurance.

Mrs. Borrer - reiterated that for selling the vehicles it would decrease our premium approximately \$500 per vehicle. Could me around \$2000.

Discovered officers were not added to insurance until 2026.

Councilman Lower asked if these items were already listed on internet for sale.

Mrs. Borrer – we are in the process of setting up the account with GovDeals to sell with a consultant.

Mayor Barnes - mentioned the savings is good just not sustainable for salaries.

Councilman Simpson - stated that it is good for an influx of funds understand it is just not good for salaries.

Mitch – Water & Sewer - 3 years ago we had many leaks and paying a lot of money to Granville. Those leaks have been repaired, why is there not a surplus. It should be able to pay 100% of Jack and Jacky salaries, a percent

of Kendra, Maintenance and legally Carol's. Leaks have been fixed for 2 to 3 years. Why haven't we recouped lost funds due to higher water bills that are now decreased.

Carol Gissinger - reminded that as a part the village did not increase water rates to residents so the village was not billing enough.

Mrs. Borrer - to answer Councilman Peters, she agreed that in 2025 when the village did an increase when Granville increased our rates again, we had not passed along the increases to the residents for several years, so we built in a tear system for the next several years like Granville is imposing on us \*Mitch interrupted Mrs. Borrer talking over her without getting complete answer\*

Cari Meng - stated that the village was eating some of the cost from Granville.

Mayor Barnes - stated a correction that village water leaks were still being repaired into late 2024.

Councilman Peters - is inquiring where is that money that we are now saving. Where did it go in the last 2 years.

Mrs. Borrer - reiterated to Councilman Peters that 2025 is the only year we had with no water leaks.

Mayor Barnes and Mrs. Borrer - explained to Councilman Peters that the savings has gone to recoup the deficit that the village was left with.

Councilman Peters - wants to know where the money is now.

Councilwoman Meng - reiterated that we are still stepping up to the rate that Granville is charging the village.

Mayor Barnes - tried to explain to Councilman Peters that what everyone is trying to relate to him is that before that we were paying a lot more than what was being collected so we were paying more out of water fund at the same time our billing to resident didn't change until last year so we are just not starting to get the funds.

Mrs. Borrer - explained that the rate increase didn't go into effect until April 15, 2025 as per the letter sent out to residents.

Mayor Barnes - also explained to Councilman Peters that our rate increase was base off the tier increase Granville was imposing on the village over the next 5 years. It takes time to recoup and build funds back up.

Councilman Peters - thinks we can negotiate down our water bill with Granville and if they will not then we should find a new water provider.

Mrs. Borrer - offered for Councilman Peters to come in and help brainstorm anytime, offered to work together.

Councilman Peters - does not think we have 40 hours a week for a maintenance worker.

Councilwoman Chambers - addressed that one thing she believes with maintenance is that a lot of things have been let go.

Councilman Simpson - asked for examples of what is being neglected that is on the maintenance job description.

Mayor Barnes - storm drains water drainage issues it has been about 15 years since cleaned out, look at the debris in gutters, 125 trucks that are putting dirt and debris. Maintaining storm sewers prevents flooding and back yards turn into pond. It took over 2 weeks to get them pumped out.

Example of roads are Church St., Mowing and string trimming, Parker Park with trees down. Can be project manager when larger maintenance needs done. Church street, takes a lot of time to patch them, mowing, trimming, 3 trees down in Parker Park, shelters maintenance. Lewie and Harold taking care of ball park and bleachers would be deteriorated. Integrity of this building. This building is cold due to upstairs being not insulated. Street banners getting changed.

Planning Commission is working on a village maintenance schedule.

Councilwoman Chambers - added it's not a lot of money an hourly wage to try to find someone to work for that.

Councilman Peters - says wait for income tax issue before deciding full time maintenance and keep police.

Councilwoman Meng - asked how does keeping the police solve our infrastructure issues we are having now?

Councilman Peters - stated "They Don't"

Mayor Barnes - Reminder part of the budget is paving streets.

Councilman Lower - reiterated all the debris on the streets blocking storm drains and how village needs the streets swept but in past 10 years have not been able to get it done. Maintenance person could manage it.

Councilwoman Chambers - Can not count on volunteer work to run a village.

Mrs. Borrer - asked if this is the time for experienced persons to pass on knowledge to new people coming in.

Jacob Brooks - passing on of valuable infrastructure knowledge information to those of us coming in for the future.

Councilman Simpson - what departments do we keep, what can we do. What kind of resources to get police back

up and running? What can we do to balance, what are the numbers we are looking at?

Councilwoman Chambers - stated that we cannot count on the outcome of the levy on the May 5<sup>th</sup> since we need this decided no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Barnes - went over numbers at request of Councilman Simpson.

Dan Bunting – stated that he cannot speak on cuts because he did not get the new numbers. The police department is the only department that brings in funds. Solicitors' salary doubled.

Mayor Barnes - responded to Dan that it is the same sheet he was given at the last meeting.

Councilman Simpson - asked if we could cut the police department in half would that satisfy the need.

Mrs. Borrer - Take internet down to 2 cruisers would save but insurance and bonding, I don't see how we can get it down to half.

Councilman Giese – We are at a razor thin margin, if we do not make some hard choices, there will be \$0 to support this village for the next 9 months to support the residents and that is unacceptable.

Councilwoman Meng – I appreciate Lyle's question and I will lose what little popularity I have in this room but I don't see how we can afford to have a police department this year. We all want police and maintenance, if we can not afford both, I think it is wiser for our residents to have potable water and safe streets in the short term, that is what opens us up for liability lawsuit risks, than it is to have a police department.

Mayor Barnes – the Village has essential needs that have to be met.

**Councilman Peters made a motion on appropriations as written, seconded by Councilman Simpson to pass Ordinance 2026-06. Roll Call Vote: 4 No, Peters – Yes, Simpson – abstain. Chair declared motion failed.**

**Councilwoman Meng made a motion to dissolve the police department. Seconded by Councilwoman Chambers.**

Discussion

Councilman Giese - spoke about budget is so tight. It is going to be hard to find a compromise with a budget that doesn't offer that ability.

Councilman Peters - states he thinks it would cost too much to dissolve and then bring back.

Mayor Barnes – what is a reasonable expectation for what the community should be provided by the police department to really truly satisfy the communities issues i.e. crime rate

Councilman Peters – responded first there are speeders and the situation down the street.

The Sheriff predominately responded to those but we only have 1 person on our force.

Councilwoman Meng - stated that we needed to not focus on past spending and trying to have it dictate future spending that is an operational reality.

Mayor Barnes brought council back to question he had posed. With the salary being discussed what hours are we looking at, roughly 15 hours per week police presence in the village. Reviewed what was researched and found at other villages.

Councilman Giese – County Sheriff provides 24 hour a day response. We are trying to be everything to everyone and we cannot.

Councilwoman Chambers asked if the tax levy passes in May, since we did not get rid of anything can the police department be something that can easily be brought back once the money starts coming in?

Mayor Barnes stated it is always able to bring it back.

**Councilwoman Meng made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to state to suspend funding instead of dissolving the police department. Seconded by Councilwoman Chambers.**

**Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried.**

No discussion on motion as amended.

**Roll Call Vote: 4 Yes, Peters-No, Simpson-No. Chair declares motion carried to suspend funding of the police department.**

Jordan Lee interrupted council to make a statement to defend the village police department and went on about danger of relying on County Sheriff instead of village police.

**Councilman Peters made a motion to approve appropriations as amended without police department. No second. Chair declared motion failed.**

Councilman Giese on final appropriations where is maintenance worker salary at on worksheet. Carol Gissinger and Kendra Borrer directed him to the correct line items.

Discussion on maintenance worker hours and salary.

Councilman Chambers is asking to increase hours for maintenance worker from 20 hours a week to \$19 per hour for 40 hours a week

Tad VanNess interrupted council to make a statement. Mayor Sean Barnes brought meeting back to order and council continued discussion.

Kendra Borrer stated that IF we go with \$19 for 30 hours a week that is \$29,640 before OPERS and after OPERS it is \$38,532 per year. Already at \$23,660 for an increase of \$14,872. That is at 30 hours, if it is 40 hours it would be with OPERS it would be \$51,376.

Councilman Giese pointed out that Mayors Court would also be coming off the appropriations and that would be a decrease of another \$10,000.

Councilwoman Chambers asked if we were keeping water clerk becoming deputy clerk for 15 hours a month? Mayor Barnes added that it would only increase by roughly \$1000 that would be for 32 hours a month.

Council woman Chambers reiterated final positions and amounts as follows:

- Maintenance Worker at \$19 per hour for 30 hours a week
- Deputy Clerk at \$18 per hour for 32 hours a month
- Zoning Inspector would go to \$600 a month.
- Administrator Salary of \$24,960 per year
- Water Superintendent 5% increase
- Planning & Zoning at \$6000
- \$24,000 set aside for paving of Church St.
- \$11,000 put aside for 2026 portion of Sidewalk/Crosswalk grant

**Councilwoman Chambers made a motion to approve final appropriations as amended. Seconded by Councilman Simpson.**

Chair asked if there is any further discussion

None

**Roll Call Vote: 5 yes, Peters-No. Chair declares motion carries.**

**RESOLUTION No. 2026-13**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH CHIEF OF POLICE DAN BUNTING FOR THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA**

**Councilwoman Meng made a motion to table pending outcome of tax levy in May, seconded by Councilwoman Chambers to suspend reading of Resolution 2026-13.**

Discussion - None

**Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried**

**VILLAGE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Fiscal Committee**

- The Village has 6 Bank Accounts:
  - a. Bank Statement-1354 Park - Balance as of 2-28-2026, \$18,178.29
  - b. Bank Statement-1357 Sewer—Balance as of 2-28-2026, \$89,700.82
  - c. Bank Statement- 2995 Main Checking Account—Balance as of 2-28-2026, \$200,000.00
  - d. Bank Statement-3894 Museum—Balance as of 2-28-2026, \$32,712.51 – money market acct.
  - e. Bank Statement-8919 Sweep Account—Balance as of 2-28-2026, \$72,660.14
  - f. Bank Statement-3505 Mayors Court—Balance as of 2-28-2026, \$10,757.53
- Gary Walters from Rinehart Ins contacted the Village last week to notify us of our premium increase of \$2187.00 due to the adding of 4 auxiliary police officers. Our Premium will go up from \$10,500 to \$12,687.00 after the Ohio Gov plan credit. After comparable quotes, Rinehart is still the lowest premium for the same coverages.

**Public Safety Committee**

- The reporting project correction on number of police officers
- Officer Clayton promoted to Sergeant
- Monitoring school drop off and pick up
- Reported 3 water tower leaks to Administrator, Mayor and Councilman Peters. Who should be monitoring? Jack. When Jack is out of town Rick should be covering.
- Licking County Crisis and Prevention Team Training from March 16 - March 20

Councilman Peters mentioned Water Superintendents contract with the village

Carol Gissinger asked if he knew where this contract he keeps mentioning is and what it is about and Councilman Peters stated that “I am going on hearsay, so I obviously do not know”.

**Public Service Committee**

- A contractor for Licking County Park District hit the watermain on Granville Street at the bridge on the bike path. Due to this being buried under the creek, the main took in a lot of ground water. Since Kendra was not in office on Friday and Jack was tied up with his FT job in Johnstown; Mayor Sean Barnes took the lead to initiate the management of the issue. Kendra and Jack agreed to call TLV to get the main repaired. Kendra called St Albans Fire Department to notify them of the water situation. Granville Street was completely without water for the day until the repair was made. Once the repair was made, we initiated a boil alert for Granville St. After reporting to the EPA, Jack was advised that since it was a main and it took in groundwater, the entire village needed to be on a boil alert for approximately a week until water tests come back in the safe range. In the meantime, Jack has asked Mitch and Jim to help with the flushing of fire hydrants to pull fresh water through the lines. Boil alert lifted today.
- Water tower overflow took place after the main was repaired due to air in the valve again. Jack believes the standpipe is only at half. Jack has asked Mitch and Jim to help with the manual opening and closing of the valve, like Mitch and the Mayor did last month when this happened. Hopefully this will correct itself again. Kendra has notified the fire department so they can have the tanker truck on standby if needed.
- During all the power surges and outages, compressor number 4 went down at the sewer plant. Jack rerouted the valves on the airlines of compressor number 3 and was able to get air into all the tanks. This was only a temporary patch until he could get someone out to fix it.
- Kendra initiated a whole village email blast, social media posting and contacted Chief Bunting to put signs on businesses in the village and contacted 104.9 radio station in Newark to notify residents of the whole village boil alert.

- We have located the keys for the old Ford dump truck and Kendra went and got a title last week. Pictures have been taken and will be posted to GovDeals.com this week.
- Tires have been replaced and battery charged on the tractor. Jim Jasper said it has always been hard to start and will show Mitch how to do it.
- The park had 3 trees down. We got 1 cut up yesterday. Haul away will happen after weather clears up. Other 2 trees are set to be cut up as soon as weather permits.
- More details on the sidewalk grant information for residents. Grant is for minor extensions where sidewalks do not currently exist. Can we put in to newsletter reminding residents of their responsibility to maintain the sidewalk in front of their property.
- Jacob Brooks has been assessing village sidewalks. Gave a report on what will be determined by the assessment.

## Planning Commission

- Open House on March 24 5-7 pm at 25 E. Main St, lower level at Firehouse.

### OLD BUSINESS

- The Licking County Health Department reached out to the Village regarding the address 2675 Mounts RD. We were informed that the septic system located at this property is failing and causing a public health nuisance. The property is just directly north of the village line but was wondering if there is any possibility that this property could be connected to the Village's public sewer. This would help abate the issue and be the preferred route rather than requiring a new replacement septic system on that property. Per OAC 3701-29-06(I) a property shall be connected whenever a sanitary sewerage system is or becomes accessible. The property to the south is willing to grant an easement if needed to make it easier. Would we require them to annex into the village plus pay tap fees. Does the residents want this option. Kendra to reach out to family to discuss options, water rules and legal options.
- David Ball addressed Tad VanNess concerns with purchase contract for building and stated he put the wording in without briefing council. It is a standard cookie cutter first right of refusal. The original agreement that the township brought to us was for \$38,000 was turned down, with the township requesting the right of first refusal.
- Discussion on the zoning violation notice for the building at 19 N. Liberty on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Jacob Brooks addressed the Zoning violation and the township trustees stated at their meeting last Feb. 2025 it was not being used due to being condemned according to them for electrical and structural reasons. 2 years of non-use that has sat vacant. This violation came before the agreement was rejected. Township has 45 days to respond. No response from township yet. Jacob trying to work in the best way possible for both township benefit and village.
- How much will the village owe for the MUCLC? Mayor Barnes stated that the final cost of the facility master plan was contracted for \$130,000. We are responsible for 10% which is \$13,000 at the end of 2024. Cost share consists of design, planning, and so forth but not legal fees. We are responsible for \$0 of Johnstown or Granville's legal fees. We paid our own legal fees for that. David Ball is involved in the process of figuring out where it stands as of now. Councilman Peters would like a copy of the MOU.
- Park board still working on getting board together, still need 2 village residents, 1 more resident to actually hold meetings

### NEW BUSINESS

None

### Citizen Comments (3-minute time limit)

Ida Rae Kean stated Spencer was right. I am disappointed we defunded the police.

- Tad Vanness – Shame on all you for not reading, understanding and questioning the agreement with the township before voting and signing it. The residents raised that they had concerns that the intent regarding the purchase contract for the township building was just so the village could buy the building and turn around to sell to make money. Shame on all of you.
- David Ball retorted with it was cookie cutter right of first refusal and you know it darn well. Your time is over.
- Mike Miller said St Albans made a deal, and they went back on it and as a village resident I have no respect for a businessman that goes back on a deal on anything. Also check with SWLR water and ask Pataskala what their water rates are because they are also higher than ours.
- Jacob Brooks this is really hard tough decisions, the negativity that has come through this process of making these decisions. We have to protect what we have for now. Don't get bogged down by these tough conversations. Urging to have community and council to come together and work together, especially during times of tough decisions that have to be made.

Sarah Chambers asked everyone to come together to pass tax levy.

Dan Bunting asked for executive session.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Executive Session**

Councilwoman Chambers motioned to move into Executive Session at 9:52pm to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G)(1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code. Seconded by Councilman Peters. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motions carried.

Invited into Executive Session: David Ball & Dan Bunting

Councilwoman Meng moved to return from Executive Session to the Regular Council Meeting at 10:15pm. Second by Councilwoman Chambers. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

### **Meeting Announcements**

AlexNext CAT Meeting March 24, 2026, at 5 pm  
 Planning Commission Meeting March 25, 2026 at 5:30pm  
 Regular Council Meeting April 7, 2026 at 7pm  
 Safety Committee Meeting April 21, 2026 at 7pm.  
 Public Service Meeting April 21, 2026 at 7pm  
 Regular Council Meeting April 21, 2026 at 7pm.  
 Park Board Meeting

### **Adjournment**

There was no more business to come from Council.

Councilwoman Meng made a motion, seconded by Councilman Peters to adjourn the council meeting. All voted in favor; the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:16p.m.

Respectfully submitted, (April 7, 2026)

*Kendra Borrer*

Kendra Borrer, Village Administrator

Certified *Sean Barnes*  
Sean Barnes, Mayor/Chairperson

Date *4/7/26*  
Approved: April 7, 2026

Exhibit A

3-17-2026

I'd like to take a moment to address something that's essential to how we function as a governing body—decorum during our meetings.

Our role here is to serve the public with professionalism, clarity, and respect. The way we conduct ourselves—both in how we speak and how we listen—directly reflects on this council and the community we represent.

Decorum is not about limiting discussion or discouraging differing viewpoints. In fact, healthy disagreement is a vital part of good governance. But it must be carried out in a way that is orderly, respectful, and focused on the issues—not individuals.

When conversations become disruptive, personal, or unfocused, it makes it harder for us to do our work effectively. It can also create confusion for the public and erode confidence in our ability to lead.

Maintaining decorum ensures that every member has the opportunity to be heard, that our discussions remain productive, and that we uphold the standards expected of us in public service.

I'm asking for everyone's cooperation in keeping our discussions respectful, staying on topic, and following established procedures. By doing so, we not only improve the quality of our decisions, but we also demonstrate the professionalism our residents deserve.

Thank you.

Mayor Sean Barnes



AUTHENTICATED,  
OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE  
COMMISSION  
DOCUMENT #236485

## Ohio Revised Code

### Section 3781.26 Protection service for underground utility facilities.

Effective: March 27, 2013

Legislation: House Bill 458 - 129th General Assembly

(A) Each utility that owns or operates underground utility facilities shall participate in and register the location of its underground utility facilities with a protection service that serves the area where the facilities are located. A utility may elect to participate in the service on a limited basis and if it does so, it shall register the location of its underground utility facilities by identifying the municipal corporations, and outside the limits of a municipal corporation, the townships by county and, where applicable, the immediate geographic area in which it has facilities. The service shall establish reasonable fees for limited basis participants.

(B) Protection services, utilities, commercial excavators, excavation equipment dealers, the public utilities commission of Ohio, the board of building standards, local law enforcement agencies, and fire departments should publicize the importance of ascertaining the location of underground utility facilities before excavating and the use of protection services to ascertain that information.

(C) A protection service shall maintain records of notifications received from developers, designers, and excavators, and of its notifications made to utilities, developers, designers, and excavators, under sections 3781.27 and 3781.28 of the Revised Code. The records of a protection service shall identify by reference number, the notifications it received regarding a proposed excavation site, the notifications it provided regarding a proposed excavation site, and the date and time of each notification.

(D) Each utility fully participating in a protection service pursuant to this section shall also participate in its affiliated positive response system. Each utility participating in a protection service on a limited basis shall directly communicate to the excavator the presence or absence of any conflict between the existing underground utility facilities and the proposed excavation site.

Dear Council,

I have attended the last two meetings about appropriations and I would like to share my thoughts.

Please understand this is WAY OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE! Conflict is not something I choose. There are times though, that it cannot be avoided. That said, this is not easy for me.

First let me say, I'm not on anyone's "team". I am TEAM ALEXANDRIA! I want the best for our village. I understand that some have their loyalties, but everyone should be for the Village of Alexandria. That is what we trust you to do, to have our best interests at heart. For the future and currently.

These appropriation decisions are not easy. Your job is hard. Especially when doing the right things that others may not agree with.

It being hard, or you being worried about retaliation is no reason to not do what is ultimately best. I am not a fan of the back stabbing I have seen. And I certainly don't want my name taken in vain.

With all of that being said, tough decisions need to be made.

You spent four hours - Working on getting salaries in place for each position, Then the police department came up and everyone clammed up. Everyone started changing all that had been worked on.

I am always for backing the Blue! I appreciate every first responder and the work that they do. Dan has been nothing but good to me, and I enjoy working with him. I also love Kelly. She has been such a great help to me when I had my Etsy Shop. They are a wonderful and needed asset to our community.

I don't understand how the water clerk situation is any different from the police situation. It doesn't make any sense to pay Jacki the way we have been. In our current financial situation, the same goes for our police department. We can't have half or our budget going to any one thing.

Can you do that in your household budget? I know that we can't. There is lots of stuff that we want to have or do, but we have to either wait until we can afford it or it is off the table.

I may be the only one speaking out, but there have to be others who would agree and are not aware of the situation and can't speak out.

I would just ask that some reevaluation be done and that the future of our Village be your top priority. If the resolution is voted down, you can start over, maybe with more of a sense of the overall good of our Village.

Your work is very much appreciated and I have tried to be respectful of you and your positions on this matter. I hope that you can do the same for me. I just couldn't let this go without saying anything.

It would also really be great if at these meetings, everyone could be more respectful to each other. There are a lot of opinions and high emotions with these decisions. We certainly should conduct ourselves with kindness and respect.

Thank you!  
Claire Lewis

Our previous appropriations meeting lasted more than four hours. Emotions were understandably high, and everyone in this room worked to find compromise. I respect the effort that was made. However, our responsibility is not to defend departments or relationships — it is to adopt a budget that is financially sound and sustainable for the Village.

After reviewing the numbers carefully, I do not believe this appropriation resolution is in the best interest of the Village.

When I first wrote this statement, my numbers reflected the numbers available at the end of the last meeting. I know that Council has been given some new numbers to work with, but the premise is still the same. Please bear with me as I quote those old numbers.

We have a finite amount of available funds, and every essential service must be funded from this limited amount.

**More than half of these funds are allocated to the police department**, leaving all other departments and required positions to share what remains.

Funds for the Village Administrator, Water Superintendent, Water Clerk, Maintenance Worker, Zoning Inspector, and Planning Commission are not optional requests. They are essential for daily operations, compliance, infrastructure protection, and future development. Without adequate funding for these roles, we risk deferred maintenance, regulatory problems, stalled development, and higher costs in the future.

Our funding requests are modest and operationally necessary:

- A maintenance position at \$19 per hour for at least 30 hours per week, preferably 40, to address both immediate and long-neglected needs.
- Water Clerk compensation at \$18 per hour for approximately 15 hours per month.
- Zoning Inspector compensation of \$600 per month.
- The Planning Commission's \$6,000 request, which is already a bare-bones budget.

These are not enhancements. They are core functions of local government.

With a police salary of approximately \$25,200 and operating expenses around \$22,650, we must acknowledge a clear reality: the only place within this budget where a meaningful adjustment can occur is within the police allocation. I believe a reasonable percentage reduction of the police budget must be reallocated to support the rest of Village operations.

This is not a criticism of our Police Chief or the value of police presence in our Village. Our Chief is professional and respected by both residents and Council. I believe that Dan has done everything he can to be a good servant to the people. This is not about that. This is strictly a budgetary issue. When one department consumes over half of our available funds, it creates structural imbalance in the entire budget. It is reasonable — and responsible — to examine whether adjustments can be made while still maintaining a police presence in our Village. That may involve reviewing scheduled hours, evaluating operational expenses, unloading unnecessary equipment and insurance costs thereof, delaying equipment purchases, identifying efficiencies within the department, or a combination of those measures. The specific method can be determined collaboratively. However, financial correction itself is necessary. In all fairness to Dan, I question if the Village can afford to pay him a living wage.

This is not about eliminating the police department. It is about right-sizing expenditures so that all essential services can function.

We are also served by the Licking County Sheriff's Department, and we must responsibly evaluate how to balance local coverage with financial sustainability .The fundamental question before us is this:

The task given to Council is how do we equitably fund all essential services in a way that protects residents, maintains infrastructure, supports responsible growth, and keeps the Village financially stable?

As the appropriation currently stands, that balance does not exist.

We owe our residents a budget that is sustainable, equitable, and responsible not only this year, but long term. For that reason, I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of this appropriation as written.

I remain willing to work toward a revised allocation that distributes resources more responsibly across all essential Village functions.