

THE VILLAGE OF ST. BERNARD

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 11th, 2026

The meeting opened with the Publix Hearing for the 2027 Tax Rates and Budget.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- Thank you, Mr. President, This is a public hearing for the 2027 Tax Budget for the Village of Saint Bernard. This budget will be submitted to Hamilton County for review and action. The 2027 tax budget reflects the Village's General Fund, which is the basic operating fund of the village. The estimated revenues for 2027 are as follows. It is estimated the village's earned income tax of \$12,700,000, expected general fund receipts from property taxes \$1,300,000 total local tax receipts is estimated at \$14,000,000 estimated revenue from state and county from revenue sharing and certain taxes and permits \$237,950. Other Revenues Charges for Services \$850,000 Fines Local licenses and permits \$200,000. Miscellaneous revenue of \$480,000. Total estimated general fund revenue for 2027 is \$15,767,950. The estimated expenditures for 2027, each class of expenditures in the tax budget estimated cost are itemized for personnel, contractual services, supplies and materials and equipment or capital outlay. The classifications are as follows. Security of Persons and Property, which is our police and fire departments, \$5,933,000. Public health services, \$6,300. Leisure time activities, which are our Parks and Recreation, \$337,500. Basic utility services, our service department, \$1,775,000, transportation, which is the senior's shuttle \$17,000 General government \$2,635,250, transfers and general fund to other funds, for example, the street swimming pool, debt, master plan and employee health plan equal 4,800,000. Total expected general fund expenditures for 2027 are \$15,504,050, which gives us an estimated surplus of 7263,900. Any questions? That concludes with the public hearing.

The St. Bernard Village Committee of the Whole was held on May 14th, 2026, in Council Chambers.

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

A motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to approve the written minutes of the May 28th, 2026, council meeting. Motion passes 7-0. Minutes will stand as submitted.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- It was not listed on the agenda, but we have AJ, the Zoning Administrator here to discuss Ordinances 29, 30, and 31 2026.

Zoning Administrator, AJ Schweier- Thank you Mr. President. There are three ordinances that I'm presenting tonight in reference to grass cutting. We've had to cut several properties this year. We issued invoices to the properties. These three properties did not pay their invoices after 30 days. By code, we need to do an ordinance through the auditor to have it sent to the county

auditor in order to recoup the funds from each of these properties. I've done separate ordinances for each property so that we can track when we receive those payments. Any questions?

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld, to place Ordinances 29, 30, and 31 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 5-0.

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Thank you. Mr. President. As you are probably aware, there was another instance where vehicles were forcibly entered, and there was a vehicle stolen through the night. Most of the activity was in the Heger and Chalet area. Apparently, there was also a heavy concentration of activity nearby in Cincinnati as well. Our Police Department is working closely with Cincinnati and Norwood on this activity at this time and we'll keep everyone updated. Please be vigilant and remove valuable items and weapons from your vehicles. The first event for the Heritage Hill District opening of Bernie's will be on June 28th, Sunday from noon to 7:00 PM at the old Police Station on Vine Street. Come connect with your neighbors, enjoy live music from Stagger Lee. Grab great food from a featured Cincinnati food truck. Beer and non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. The band will be playing from 4:00 to 7:00pm, but there will still be music available via DJ beforehand. So come and hang out and have a good time. Also, the pre-ordering Luau swag is available. The link is available on the most recent newsletter and on the village website. The link for nominating a Grand Marshall for the German Luau Parade is available as well on the village website and the most recent newsletter nominations. At midnight on June 30th, registration for the German Luau Parade is available through Monday, July 6th. The link is available again on the Village website and most recent newsletter. The CIC's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 PM here in Council Chambers. The meeting may need to be rescheduled because of vacations and the developer's availability. An announcement will be made once that is confirmed. Also, I'd like to thank the St. Bernard Garden Club for planting the flowers in front of the old shopping center and bus stop. And thank you to the CIC for purchasing the flowers for this wonderful group to plant. We are addressing the weeds and crabgrass. So, the frontage should look nice very soon. And I'm also going to conclude my report with the swearing in of the newest member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, Miss Cassidy Sabers.

Mayor, Jonathan Stuchell swore in Cassidy Sabers as the newest member of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor, Mr. Stuchell- Just while I'm standing here, just a quick comment. We can't really function as a village with our boards without these great volunteers. And we were so blessed to have new fresh faces in the village stepping up to assume positions. I'm totally thrilled. So again, thank you. We appreciate everything you're doing, and everyone else that's involved in helping make this village a better place. So, thank you.

Auditor, Ms. Brickweg- The Auditor's Department would like to ask for an ordinance for additional appropriation and transfer ordinance to be placed on the table for the next council meeting. In this ordinance is asking for a transfer of \$568,000 with \$543,000 going into capital improvement cash account and \$25,000 going into employee accumulated retirement cash account. Also, in this ordinance I am asking for the following additional appropriations. First one, 2-K-2 miscellaneous for \$10,000. The reason that one is running low is because we've been having it for miscellaneous items such as some of the sports teams didn't have enough children, so we had to refund it. We had some insurance bills, and the insurance line item was out of money, so we had to use that one. If you've noticed all the new beautiful flowers, we took the money for those out of that, and we're now getting lawn service at three of the major city departments. So that's coming out of that. The next one is 2-K-6 insurance. I would like to put \$10,000 in there since we're only mid-year just in case; we have any other deductibles or any other insurance claims that we need some money for. 2-K-7 computer systems for \$30,000, I think Mark has his report and is going to explain. 2-08-C for the building maintenance, we've been having once again a lot of issues with the roof and heating and air conditioning. Asking for \$20,000, but I will be very honest with you needing more. They're having some issues with the boiler at the fire department, and we're still looking for a replacement and a fix for Jonathan's side of their building because it's like 90° there. So right now, we're just asking for \$20,000 just because it's low. I'll have to let you know more about that. 12-P Professional Services \$30,000. This is for Yard and Company. I've already filed all the paperwork. We have a grant and we had expenses and they're going to reimburse us. But until we get that, I would like to replenish that line item and then just deposit the \$30,000 when we get it. This is the second time on this line item, 12-3-3 traffic lights, I don't know what's going on, but they're all breaking down. So, \$7,000 for that line item. 0-7-0-8, capital equipment for \$543,000. This is the third payment on the fire truck, the 3rd and final one. So that's what the transfer is for and that's for the payment. And then finally, 5-1 employee cumulative retirement for \$25,000. I've had to use that. Judy, Mersfelder from the Police Department retired. So, I just want to replenish that back up in case anybody else retires. As of now, I don't know anybody, but you never know. Are there any questions?

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to place the additional appropriation and transfer ordinance on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 5-0.

Law Director, Ms. Van Valkenburg- No report.

Treasurer, Mr. Kathman- Thank you Mr. President. Tonight I have the Star Ohio as of May 29th, 2026, is \$10,248,806.46. Thank you that concludes my report.

Safety and Service Director, Mr. Wendling- Thank you Mr. President. I have the following matters to present to council tonight. The updated village's website is proceeding at a rapid pace, with the debut of the new site expected in late July or early August. As a part of the of the update we would like to have everyone sit down for a new head photo. We'd also like each of you to

provide a brief biography. We will set aside some time proceeding a council meeting for the photographs. I just need everyone to let me know if they're going to be absent from any upcoming council meeting. That I'm requesting 2 resolutions to be placed on the agenda for the June 25th Council meeting. The first is proposed Resolution 10 2026 and it adopts the Village of Saint Bernard Cybersecurity program. This will bring us into compliance with the cyber security standards set by Ohio House Bill 96 and codified in Ohio. Revised Code, Section 9.64 and implements a variety of cyber security controls including multifactor authentication, security monitoring, server backup protection, and asset inventory management to name a few. I think you've all experienced some of these procedures as a part of our recent migration to a new IT consultant. The other part of that is that a lot of our equipment needs to be updated and that has a cost and that's what we were referencing earlier. So, the equipment needs to be updated so that we have the security that is necessary. The passage of this resolution will bring us into compliance with House Bill 96, prior to the July 4th deadline. Proposed Resolution 11 2026 authorizes me as Director of Public Safety and Service to execute an agreement with the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners for participation in the County Entitlement Program for programming years 2027, 2028 and 2029. Through this program, the Village receives Community Development Block Grant funding on a three-year cycle. The agreement is a requirement for participation in the program. You probably noticed the Tower Ave. and lower Washington Ave. project commenced this week with the saw cutting of curbs and some sidewalk removal between Jefferson and Washington Avenues. The bulk of the work over the next few months will occur on the portion of the projects surrounding the state Bernard Elmwood Place School District campus. Tower Ave. will ultimately be resurfaced from Mitchell to McClelland, while Washington Ave. where surface from Tower to Vine. The project includes subgrade repairs, improving placement, and repairing damaged sections of the sidewalk. This project was funded in part through a SORTA grant, and you've probably seen the sign that is now up. That's a requirement for the project. It's up at the corner of Washington and Tower in front of the Community Center. That concludes my report.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Stuchell, to place Resolutions 10 and 11 2026 on the table for the next council meeting. Motion passes 5-0.

Tax Administrator, Ms. Helmes- May 2026 end of month receipts

Tax collections for May 2026: \$624,927.00.

May 2026 is down -12.06 % or \$85,666.00 from May 2025.

Refunds for May: -\$30,303.96. This is up 3.07% from May 2025.

Delinquent tax collected with Capital Recovery: \$206.77

Delinquent tax collected with the Ohio Attorney General's Office: \$66,724.29.

YTD tax department collection: \$5,093,269. That concludes my report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance, Mr. Moreton- Thank you Mr. President. I would like to share a couple updates regarding energy aggregation. The agreed rate is \$0.45 cheaper per kWh than Duke's latest announced rate, but I still want to encourage folks to check their mail for the opt out instructions if they still wish to do so. Lastly, I would like to warn folks of some potential door to door scammers. I received a call from a resident that a representative from an unknown company has been parading misleading energy bills around the village, especially up and down Sullivan in an attempt to sign folks up for an alternate energy supplier. Again, if you would like to utilize an energy supplier other than that within our aggregation agreement, you may opt out at any time, but please avoid signing up through these door to door solicitors. We require permits to sell products door to door, largely to collect company information and to deter scammers. These folks do not have permits, so we have no way to confirm the validity of their claims. A good rule of thumb; don't buy anything from the door to door salesperson. Thank you, Mr. President, that concludes my report.

Service, Mr. Stuchell- The Service Department and City Hall will be closed on Friday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth.

Trash Collection for the week will be as follows:

There will be no trash collection on Friday June 19th

Friday's collection moves to Thursday, and Thursday's collection moves to Wednesday.

Monday and Tuesday collections remain unchanged. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who came out to support our St. Bernard Recycle Day this past Saturday. I also want to extend my appreciation to our event partners and vendors, Shred-It, Hamilton County ReSource, Cohen, and WeThrive, for helping make this event possible. A special thank you goes to local Boy Scout Troop 354 for once again volunteering their time to assist with the event, as well as St. Bernard Service Department employee AJ Holt for his help throughout the day. We appreciate everyone who participated and hope to see even more residents take advantage of this valuable community event next year. Thank you, that concludes my report.

Public Improvements, Mr. Edwards- Thank you, Mr. President, there was no need for a public improvement committee meeting, but I would like to call attention to a couple of the programs at Saint Bernard Branch of the Cincinnati Hamilton County Library has to offer this summer. First is a summer reading program for kids and teens. Visit the library. Pick up your summer reading challenge. You can receive a free book, and a Cincinnati Reds voucher while they last. Kids and teens can also collect prizes all summer long for just reading books. There is also a Camp Read program every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 PM in the months of June and July, with a different topic every week next week. June 16th and 18th will be on Ozo Bots exploring. It sounds exciting. Another program this summer is the Meals and Snacks program for kids and teens. Snacks will be served from 11:00 AM till noon and a meal between 2:15 and 3:00

PM. These meals will be provided Monday through Fridays only in partnership with UMC Food Ministry and meals must be consumed at the library. A blessing in the summer for the families that may depend on the school for meals during the school year. You can visit chpl.org/meals for additional information on the meals and chpl.org/summer about the reading programs. Thank you, Mr. Preidnet, this concludes my report.

Safety, Ms. Hausfeld- No report.

Laws, Contracts and Claims, Mr. Schildmeyer- Absent.

Marketing, Mr. Culbertson- Thank you Mr. President. Mark your calendars for the next two concerts in the Pavilion. First up is Soul Shadow, the tribute to Led Zeppelin on Saturday, June 20th at 7:00 PM. Don't Tell Steve, will be returning to the Pavilion on Friday, July 3rd for the Village 4th of July celebration starting at 7:00 PM. Immediately followed by Rozzi fireworks at Vine Street Park. As always, bring your own chair, favorite drinks and let the recreation department supply the food. The Saint Bernard Garden Club Annual Blessing will be this Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join the community garden near the tennis courts on Tennis Lane. Take a tour of the gardens to see their progress so far this summer. Light refreshments will follow. Finally, the next St. Bernard Ludlow Grove Historical Society meeting is on Monday, June 15th at 7:00 PM in the upper-level Hall of the Municipal Building. This month's presentation is titled King Records, a Cincinnati Museum Center program. That concludes my report.

Business and Industry, Ms. Rytov- Absent.

President of Council, Mr. Asbach- Is there anyone in the audience wishing to address council this evening?

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson Ave.- Ray, in September, three on three basketball game?

Council Member, Mr. Culbertson- I saw that flyer going around on Facebook. Yeah, I can bring it up at a future meeting.

Thomas Fox, 309 Jackson Ave.- Yeah, fine.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to excuse the two absent members. Motion passes 5-0.

The next council meeting will be held Thursday, June 25th at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Motion made by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Moreton, to adjourn. Motion passes 5-0.

The meeting is adjourned.