

# Village of Bluffton Council Meeting Agenda

February 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM



## **Opening Ceremonies**

Call to Order, Mayor Johnson presiding

Pledge of Allegiance



## **Minutes**

Approval of the minutes for the Village Council meeting held on Monday, January 24, 2021.

## **Bills**

### **Committee Reports**

Ordinance Committee – 01/28

Committee of the Whole – 1/31

### **Boards & Commissions**

Pathway Board – 02/03

Tree Commission – 02/08

## **LEGISLATION:**

### **ORDINANCE NO. 02-2022**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 03-2022**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

### **Emergency**

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PAY INCREASES TO THE WAGES/SALARIES OF CERTAIN VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO, EFFECTIVE AS STATED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT (A), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

## **Village Administration Report:**

Mayor:

## **Safety Services Reports:**

-EMS-

-Fire Dept.-

-Police Dept.-

## **Meeting Dates (meetings held at the Town Hall unless otherwise noted\*)**

Village Council – Monday, February 14 at 7:00 pm

Planning Commission – Monday, February 21 at 7:00 pm

Village Council – Monday, February 28 at 7:00 pm

## **Public Comment**

**Adjournment** – Motion and Second

Village of Bluffton – Regular meeting January 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Johnson presiding. Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia present.

Cupples motioned, seconded by Kingsley, to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on January 10, 2022. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Steiner motioned, seconded by Talavinia, to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

The Fiscal Officer gave the following readings:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading:

Ordinance 02-2022 – An Ordinance approving the annual appropriations for the 2022 fiscal year for the Village of Bluffton, Ohio. Steiner motioned to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Talavinia. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 01-2022 – A Resolution of the Village of Bluffton in support of the Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission serving as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Allen County, Ohio study area and declaring an emergency. Cupples motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Sehlhorst. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Kingsley motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Stahl. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Resolution 02-2022 – A Resolution authorizing the Village Administrator to advertise for bids for aggregate and asphalt material, asphalt application and equipment rental for the 2022 construction year and declaring an emergency. Talavinia motioned to suspend the rules, seconded by Cupples. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved. Stahl motioned to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Steiner. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Talavinia motioned, seconded by Kingsley, to approve Chief Burkholder providing Austin Probst with ammunition required as he attends the Police Academy. Upon completion of the Academy, Austin Probst as agreed to at least a three-year term as a part-time officer. Roll Call: Yes (6) Messrs: Cupples, Kingsley, Sehlhorst, Stahl, Steiner, and Talavinia. No (0), Abstain (0), motion approved.

Cupples motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The following meetings/events were included on the agenda and/or scheduled during the meeting.

Council of the Whole – Monday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Pathway Board – Thursday, February 3 at noon.

Tree Commission – Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Village Council – Monday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Committee – Tuesday, February 15 at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom.

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MAYOR

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FISCAL OFFICER

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON  
VOUCHER REPORT 2/14/2022

VENDOR	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION
ACCENT BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS	60.00	Administrative	PHONES
ALL SERVICE AERATION, INC	535.50	Park	PORTABLE TOILETS
ALLEN COUNTY AWARDS	214.50	Police	SERVICE RECOGNITION
ALLOWAY TESTING	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	50.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	75.00	Multiple	TESTING
ALLOWAY TESTING	75.00	Multiple	TESTING
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	31.60	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	20,074.28	Multiple	ELECTRICITY
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	580.82	Multiple	HEALTH INSURANCE
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	148.50	Multiple	LIFE INSURANCE
ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	15,056.89	Multiple	HEALTH INSURANCE
APOLLO CAREER CENTER	110.00	Multiple	TRAINING
BASINGER, JAN	149.06	Rescue	EMS BLANKETS
BLUFFTON FLYING SERVICE	5,000.00	Airport	AIRPORT MANAGEMENT
BLUFFTON STONE CO.	3,252.52	Multiple	STONE
BLUFFTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL AND PET CARE CENTER	71.35	Police	K9 SUPPLIES & CARE
BRANDI R. SPAULDING, PhD LICDC	225.00	Police	EVALUATION SERVICES
BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION	2,277.00	Administrative	2021 BWC PAYROLL TRUE-UP
CENTURYLINK	273.87	Multiple	PHONES
CENTURYLINK	63.07	Multiple	PHONES
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	131.96	Multiple	CABLE
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	38.85	Multiple	CABLE
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	135.00	Multiple	GENERAL ENGINEERING
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	233.50	Park	SR 103 ACQUISITION COORDINATION
CINTAS	100.83	Administrative	COAT & HOODIES
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	70.56	Police	GUN SUPPLIES
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	136.72	Police	CRUISER GPS UNITS
CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK	403.92	Street	ROAD FLARES
DICK'S TOWING SERVICE	484.00	Police	TOWING
DOMINION EAST GAS	311.59	Multiple	NATURAL GAS
DOTY, MICHAEL	1,305.55	Police	#599 REPAIR
EASTMAN & SMITH LTD	618.73	Land & Buildings	NNEXATION SERVICES
ELAN CITY	5,749.00	Street	SOLAR RADAR SPEED SIGNS
EVERETT J PRESCOTT INC	6,682.24	Capital Improvements	LARGE METERS
FAMILY HARDWARE DO IT BEST	117.29	Multiple	SUPPLIES
FASTENAL COMPANY	510.97	Street	LADDERS
FRESH ENCOUNTER CORPORATE	74.64	Multiple	SUPPLIES
GRAINGER INC	103.48	Land & Buildings	REPLACEMENT BATTERIES FOR EMS FIRE ALARM
GRAINGER INC	745.18	Sewer	REPLACEMENT HEATER
GREAT LAKES BILLING ASSOCIATES, INC.	1,271.02	Rescue	EMS BILLING SERVICE
HACKENBERG, FEIGHNER, BISHOP & WERTH, LLC	2,000.00	Administrative	SOLICITOR FEES
HAWTHORNE-SEVING, INC.	37.20	Street	ANGLE IRON
KALIDA TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC.	273.78	Street	PLOW PARTS
KALIDA TRUCK EQUIPMENT, INC.	114.17	Street	AIR VALVE
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	322.32	Street	VEHICLE SERVICES
KOI ENTERPRISES, INC.	337.82	Multiple	PARTS
LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPLY, INC.	157.12	Police	KENWOOD RADIO HOLDERS
LEIBER GARAGE	193.65	Rescue	EMS OIL CHANGES
LEIBER GARAGE	237.84	Rescue	EMS OIL CHANGES
LEIBER GARAGE	52.05	Police	PD OIL CHANGES
LEXIS NEXIS RISK DATA MANAGEMENT INC.	50.00	Administrative	ADDRESS SEARCHES
MARATHON FLEET SERVICES	1,427.56	Multiple	FUEL
McBRIDE BROS., INC.	6,350.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL PAINTING
MINTEYS MAIDS	100.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL CLEANING
MINTEYS MAIDS	100.00	Land & Buildings	TOWN HALL CLEANING
MPH INDUSTRIES, INC.	1,699.00	Police	RADAR UNIT
NORTHERN TOOL & EQUIPMENT CO.	39.99	Administrative	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE
NORTHWESTERN OHIO SECURITY SYSTEMS	196.00	Land & Buildings	MONITORING
OHIO SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION	51.00	Police	SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING - H. HANNAH

OHIO UTILITIES PROTECTION SERVICE	258.96	Administrative	2022 GOVERNMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PERRY CORPORATION	200.20	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	19.95	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	1,757.61	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	3,433.32	Administrative	CAREPAK RENEWAL
PERRY CORPORATION	1,540.00	Administrative	TOWN HALL TOWER UPS
PERRY CORPORATION	335.00	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	510.00	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
PERRY CORPORATION	256.25	Administrative	IT CONTRACT
SAM'S CLUB	85.00	Police	MEMBERSHIP FEE
SHELL FLEET PLUS	1,885.05	Multiple	FUEL
SMARTBILL	861.60	Multiple	BILLING SERVICES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	52.82	Multiple	SUPPLIES
STAPLES BUSINESS ADVANTAGE	173.20	Multiple	SUPPLIES
TAWA TREE MULCH DIVISION	14,700.00	Administrative	BRUSH GRINDING
TIME WARNER CABLE	154.98	Administrative	CABLE
TOMMY TIRE SALES LLC	1,060.00	Police	CRUISER TIRES
TREASURER OF STATE	68.25	Pool	BOILER INSPECTION - POOL
USA BLUE BOOK	528.73	Sewer	GLOVES, CHEM FEED PARTS
VANCE'S OUTDOOR INC.	689.90	Police	AMMUNITION
VANCE'S OUTDOOR INC.	119.66	Police	AMMUNITION
VERIZON WIRELESS	240.84	Multiple	CELL PHONES
VETTER LUMBER CO.	515.58	Land & Buildings	OVERHEAD DOOR PARTS
VETTER LUMBER CO.	114.94	Multiple	ANGLE GRINDER
VETTER LUMBER CO.	387.47	Multiple	SUPPLIES
WESSLER ENGINEERING	973.75	Sewer	INSTRUMENTATION PRELIM DESIGN
INCOME TAX REFUNDS	1,480.55	Administrative	INCOME TAX REFUNDS
	113,742.10		
JANUARY MONTHLY	2,569.00		
MEDICARE	37.22		
OPERS	192.17		
FICA	40.14		
BIWEEKLY PAYROLL 1/28/21	27,923.47		
MEDICARE	550.49		
OPERS	2,055.95		
OP&F	2,334.96		
BIWEEKLY PAYROLL 2/11/21	28,798.42		
MEDICARE	569.73		
OPERS	2,248.93		
OP&F	2,341.11		

Council Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ordinance Committee Minutes

Village of Bluffton

January 28, 2022, Noon by ZOOM

Present: Joe Sehlhorst, Mitch Kingsley

Staff: Jesse Blackburn, Richard Johnson

Public: Andy Chappell-Dick

Presenters: Shane Coleman and Cody Doyle of Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC)

TOPICS:      COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR BLUFFTON

From our last meeting: “We will think about what help we need to move ahead in Bluffton, considering the resources we have: 2006 Visioning; Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission”

- Heard from Shane Coleman (Executive Director) and Cody Doyle (Associate Planner) who described their work with other constituent members of LACRPC in developing Comprehensive Plans. They are currently finishing such with the City of Lima and Village of Elida. As one of the constituents, Bluffton regularly pays dues against which services are charged. This work would be such a service. Mr. Coleman estimates that Bluffton would need to budget about \$4,000 for the work.
- Comprehensive plans have two basic parts: One, the baseline data: census counts, demographics, infrastructure, numbers that indicated the size and status of our Village; and Two, the vision, spirit, and direction of the Village. Part one of such a plan is the primary function LACRPC would fulfill and they are well resourced to do that. Part two would be the primary work of a Bluffton Steering Committee, though LACRPC will support such work as possible.
- The focus of such a Steering Committee would be to elicit community feedback from as broad a range of people as possible. Community surveys, interviews, and focus groups would all be means to gather such feedback. We discussed whether it would be possible to engage Bluffton University – particularly students – in this process. This information would become the heart of the Plan, laying out the vision and direction of our community.
- We have already been collecting names of people from whom we need input for the Bluffton Vision. We will now think about a smaller group of people (likely between 6 and 10) who would make up the Steering Committee for a Bluffton Comprehensive Plan.

-We will send names to Jesse to compile.

Submitted,

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Joe Sehlhorst

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Mitchell Kingsley

**Meeting: Bike and Pedestrian Pathway Board**

**Date/Time: Thursday, February 3, 2022, Noon**

**Location: Via Zoom**

**Members Present:** Dick Ramseyer, Dima Snyder, Greg Denecker, John Rich, Laura Voth

**Members Absent:** Mitch Kingsley, Jane Wood

**Village Liaison Present:** Joe Sehlhorst, Jesse Blackburn

#### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the October 7, 2021, meeting were approved as presented. Dima Snyder made the motion to approve; John Rich placed a second. Motion carried.

#### **BUSINESS:**

##### **New Board Member Solicitation**

Dick Ramseyer gave an update that we are still seeking an additional board member. Several names were suggested.

##### **Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Pathway Guide**

Dick reported that funding has come through and the Pathway Guide is expected to be printed soon.

##### **Courier Article, "Bluffton Fares Well"**

Dick pointed out the many positives about Bluffton's demographics. It was noted that this is something we can share when talking about Bluffton pathways.

##### **Ohio Bike Route 25 (OHBR25) Status**

Joe Sehlhorst has kept in touch with ODOT regarding this project. Kylie Schnipke, Transportation Engineer for ODOT gave the update that OHBR25 has been designated and ODOT is currently working on a signage plan for the route starting with state-maintained roadways. ODOT expects to be working with locals soon regarding signs in their jurisdictions. ODOT hopes to begin construction of the signs in September 2022.

##### **Ohio Action Institute 2022**

Prior to the meeting, Dick shared information about the Ohio Action Institute 2022, which is a series of workshops and technical assistance for Ohio cities, villages, townships, or counties interested in developing and adopting a Complete Streets Policy. ODOT now treats pedestrian and bike traffic as part of the transportation system. Jesse went on to explain that the Allen County Health Department is encouraging Bluffton to establish a Complete Streets Committee. Jesse shared a "2022 Creating Healthy Communities Work Plan" which lays out strategies for establishing a Complete Streets Policy. Jesse and Dick suggested that the Bluffton Bike and Pedestrian Pathway Board might be a natural group to take on this committee work.

##### **Potential Future Project - Bike Lanes from Village Park to Lions Way County Line Path**

To further the goal of encircling the village with a bike path, discussion was had regarding the possible installation of a bike lane on County Line Road, beginning at the Village Park and extending north until it connects with the Lions Way County Line Path. Jesse reported that ODOT has no issue with the Village adding an asphalt bike lane between the guardrails and the edge of the road (feasibility yet to be determined). It was noted that there will be a "choke point"

as the possible bike lane reached the bridge. Comments from the Board included: "We have preferred building green space between bike paths and roadways." "Even with a designated bike lane, will parents consider it safe for their kids. Do we want to encourage kids to ride their bikes on that stretch of road?" "Could we simply designate the stretch as a shared road with signage." "Might this be a project that Findlay-Hancock Community Foundation would partner on?" Jesse and Dick will do further research. This stretch of roadway could be part of the Complete Streets Committee review.

#### **Lions Way County Line Path – 2021-2022**

AEP has pushed forward the timing of their pole replacement project on County Line Road. The current plan is that AEP will complete their work between November 2022 and March 2023, after which time the Lions Way County Line Pathway can be installed between April and May 2023. This is later than hoped. Fund raising is complete for this project. Discussed how to communicate an update on the project. A news release will be sent to the ICON, and a letter will be sent to the subdivisions in that area, explaining the revised plan. It was agreed that we did not need to place a "coming soon" sign.

A revised engineering agreement has been received from Choice One which shows only the costs for the bike path and no longer includes the village portion.

#### **Future Pathway – St. Rt. 103 in 2023**

Although the Village didn't enter into the SR103 project with an expectation of Pathway funds, the Village and the PB agreed that a gift of approximately \$100,000 would be a great benefit to the project. Dick led discussion regarding campaign strategy for SR103 Pathway.

- 1) At this point, the plan is to have a Dare To Dream event in 2022 with 80% of the proceeds going to pathway projects and 20% going to fund other Lions Club projects.
- 2) As the Village/ODOT approaches landowners about purchase of right-of-way for the SR103 project, they will share Lions Foundation/Pathway Board information along with an invitation to donate to the SR103 path.
- 3) Because of AEP's delay which postpones construction of County Line Path, we will be starting a new campaign before building the pathway paid for by the previous campaign. We will include information about the anticipated SR103 pathway in the update letter being sent to the residents of the subdivisions in that area.
- 4) Hans Houshower is assisting with writing grant applications to area businesses including Marathon Foundation and perhaps Whirlpool and others.
- 5) The Campaign to be titled SR103 Pathway, will begin the quiet phase in June 2022, and the public phase in September 2022 with potential donations received through 2024.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Next meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at noon via Zoom unless otherwise stated.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
~Laura Voth

Tree Commission  
Village of Bluffton, OH  
February 8, 2022

Present: Ben Stahl, Jon Sommer, Becky Ramey, Jonathan Andreas, Susie Stratton

Tree ordering- Susie Stratton from Stratton Greenhouses met with the tree commission to go over tree selections in order to see what inventory nurseries may have available for this year's plantings. Suggestions included additional hornbeam for the W. Elm St. project; underwire zelkova, autumn blaze maple, elm, and bald Cyprus for Parkview; white oak as a replacement tree on S. Main. Susie also recommended door hangers outlining tree care for residents as trees are planted in their tree lawns, and building in tree maintenance as part of any tree planting projects (i.e. watering gators).

The next meeting of the tree commission will be called as needed.

Jon Sommer  
Secretary



ORDINANCE NO. 02 -2022

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO.

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds for the 2022 Fiscal Year for the Village of Bluffton, Ohio.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO:

SECTION 1: The attached Exhibit A shall be approved as the Annual Appropriations for the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, for the 2022 Fiscal Year. The approved level of control for appropriations is at the fund, function level.

SECTION 2: The effective date of these appropriations shall be March 28, 2022.

SECTION 3: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Passed and Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by the governing board of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SOLICITOR

VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON 2022 APPROPRIATIONS  
Exhibit A

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	Permanent 2022 AMOUNT
<b>GENERAL FUND:</b>		
<b>POLICE EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	567,562.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	206,718.00
	OPERATING	79,967.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>854,247.00</b>
<b>FIRE EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	35,401.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	3,904.00
	OPERATING	39,259.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>78,564.00</b>
<b>STREET &amp; LIGHTING EXPENSES</b>		
	OPERATING	67,302.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>67,302.00</b>
<b>RESCUE EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	64,180.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	9,551.00
	OPERATING	55,164.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>128,895.00</b>
<b>DISPATCHER EXPENSES</b>		
	MISC. SERVICES	53,451.00
<b>COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT EXPENSES</b>		
	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	19,283.00
<b>MOSQUITO CONTROL EXPENSES</b>		
	MOSQUITO CONTROL	12,075.00
<b>CULTURAL AFFAIRS EXPENSES</b>		
A1-3C-52390	MISC. SERVICES	11,000.00
<b>POOL EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	69,000.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	10,710.00
	OPERATING	55,296.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>135,006.00</b>
<b>BRUSH DUMP EXPENSES</b>		
	OPERATING	14,700.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,700.00</b>

**STORM SEWER EXPENSES**

A1-6D-52550	STORM SEWERS	-
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**SIDEWALKS EXPENSES**

A1-6G-52550	SIDEWALK PROGRAM	20,000.00
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**AIRPORT EXPENSES**

A1-6X-52390	MISC SERVICES	70,250.00
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A1-6X-52430	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	4,000.00
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A1-6X-52550	RUNWAY LIGHT PROJECT	-
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<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>74,250.00</b>
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**MAYOR/ADMIN EXPENSES**

PERSONAL SERVICES	166,969.00
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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	45,579.00
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OPERATING	134,150.00
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346,698.00</b>
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**LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE**

PERSONAL SERVICES	24,000.00
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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,271.00
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OPERATING	-
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28,271.00</b>
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**MAYOR'S COURT EXPENSE**

COURT COSTS	-
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**FISCAL OFFICER'S EXPENSE**

PERSONAL SERVICES	66,820.00
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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	17,139.00
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OPERATING	11,393.00
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95,352.00</b>
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**LAND & BUILDINGS EXPENSE**

PERSONAL SERVICES	22,401.00
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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2,997.00
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OPERATING	137,838.00
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163,236.00</b>
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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXPENSE**

MISC CONTRACTUAL SERV	18,000.00
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**AUDITOR & TREASURER FEES EXPENSE**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,500.00
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**DELINQUENT LAND ADVERTISING EXPENSE**

PUBLISHING	-
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<b>AUDITOR'S EXPENSE</b>		
	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	15,000.00
<b>INCOME TAX ADMIN. EXPENSE</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	42,581.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	16,224.00
	OPERATING	50,364.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		109,169.00
<b>SAFETY EXPENSE</b>		
	MISC. SERVICES	-
<b>OTHER EXPENSE</b>		
	OPERATING	97,194.00
	TRANSFERS	733,500.00
	ADVANCES	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		830,694.00
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>		3,081,693.00
<b>STREET MAINTENANCE EXPENSE</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	157,932.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	52,538.00
	OPERATING	590,579.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		801,049.00
<b>SNOW REMOVAL EXPENSE</b>		
	OPERATING SUPPLIES	10,000.00
	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		10,000.00
<b>TOTAL STREET FUND EXPENSES</b>		811,049.00
<b>STATE HIGHWAY EXPENSES</b>		
	OPERATING	21,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		21,000.00
<b>CEMETERY EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICE	5,900.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	912.00
	MISC. SERVICES	18,067.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		24,879.00

<b>PARK EXPENSES</b>		
	OPERATING SUPPLIES	260,259.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		260,259.00

<b>BENROTH BRIDGE EXPENSES</b>		
B5-6G-52430	MAINTENANCE	-

<b>COURT COMPUTER EXPENSES</b>		
B7-1A-52420	OPERATING SUPPLIES	-

<b>DUI ENFORCEMENT EXPENSES</b>		
B8-1A-52390	TRAINING	-
B8-1A-52420	OPERATING SUPPLIES	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		-

<b>PERMISSIVE LICENSE FUND</b>		
B9-6A-52550	STREET CONSTRUCTION	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		

<b>BLUFFTON IN BLOOM FUND</b>		
C4-1A-52390	MISC SVC	7,500.00

<b>AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT</b>		
C5-5J-52560	SYSTEM EXPANSION	326,869.00

<b>STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT EXPENSES</b>		
D2-6D-52390	MISC. SERVICES	-
D2-6D-52550	STORM SEWERS	103,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		103,000.00

<b>FIRE &amp; RESCUE IMPROVEMENT FUND</b>		
D3-1B-52520	EQUIPMENT	78,437.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		78,437.00

<b>POOL IMPROVEMENT FUND</b>		
D4-3D-52510	POOL CAPITAL ITEMS	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		10,000.00

<b>EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT EXPENSES</b>		
D5-1F-52520	EQUIPMENT	-
D5-5X-52610	PRINCIPAL	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		-

<b>AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT EXPENSES</b>		
-------------------------------------	--	--

	OPERATING	164,000.00
<b>Total</b>		164,000.00
<b>TOWN HALL IMPROVEMENT EXPENSES</b>		
D8-7E-52510	BUILDING IMPR.	20,000.00
<b>POLICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSES</b>		
D9-1A-52520	POLICE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	70,274.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		70,274.00
<b>WATER EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	88,527.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	41,485.00
	OPERATING	842,605.00
E1-5X-52710	TRANSFERS	50,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		1,022,617.00
<b>SEWER FUND EXPENSES</b>		
	PERSONAL SERVICES	114,009.00
	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	48,182.00
	OPERATING	412,381.00
	TRANSFERS	210,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		784,572.00
<b>REFUSE FUND EXPENSES</b>		
E7-5K-52390	REFUSE SERVICE	291,124.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		
<b>WATER/ SEWER IMPROVEMENT FUND EXPENSES</b>		
	OPERATING	725,019.00
	DEBT	1,043,962.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		1,768,981.00
<b>POLICE CONTINUING TRAINING</b>		
F4-1A-52390	TRAINING	7,000.00
<b>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT</b>		
F6-6B-52420	OPERATING SUPPLIES	4,000.00
<b>SHANNON CEMETERY</b>		
F7-1A-52390	MISC SERVICES	-
<b>F8-1A-52390</b>	<b>K9 EXPENSES</b>	2,060.00

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-2022  
VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PAY INCREASES TO THE WAGES/SALARIES OF CERTAIN VILLAGE EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO, EFFECTIVE AS STATED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT (A), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, two-thirds (2/3) of all those elected or appointed thereto concurring:

**SECTION 1.** That effective immediately upon adoption of this Resolution, the wages and or salaries of Village employees shall be increased as listed herein on Exhibit (A), shall be effective January 1, 2022.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio, and for the further reason it is immediately necessary to enact said increases without further delay.

**SECTION 3.** That is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were made in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in accordance with all legal requirements of the Open Meetings Law including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**WHEREFORE,** This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law and approval by the signatures below.

Passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by the Council of the Village of Bluffton, Ohio by the following vote:

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Nays: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
SOLICITOR

RESOLUTION NO. 03- 2022 (A)  
VILLAGE OF BLUFFTON, OHIO

Pay Increases Effective on January 1, 2022

Jan Basinger – Public Works Department	
Old Base Wage : \$23.26/hr	New Base Wage : \$24.66/hr
Clint Dailey – Public Works Department	
Old Base Wage : \$19.53/hr	New Base Wage : \$21.7/hr
Nathan Jordan – Public Works Department	
Old Base Wage : \$23.92/hr	New Base Wage : \$25.36/hr
Scott Phillips – Public Works Department	
Old Base Wage : \$25.27/hr	New Base Wage : \$26.79/hr
Kyle Swank – Public Works Department	
Old Base Wage : \$18.53/hr	New Base Wage : \$20.64/hr
Bryan Lloyd – Assistant Administrator	
Old Base Wage : \$62,279.57/Year	New Base Wage : \$66,016.34/Year
Kevin Nickel – Fiscal Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$63,036.00/Year	New Base Wage : \$66,818.16/Year
Jesse Blackburn – Administrator	
Old Base Wage : \$66,103.75/Year	New Base Wage : \$70,069.98/Year
Ryan Burkholder – Police Chief	
Old Base Wage : \$64,819.89/Year	New Base Wage : \$68,709.08/Year
Mathew Oglesbee – Police Lieutenant	
Old Base Wage : \$61,378.23/Year	New Base Wage : \$66,060.92/Year
Tyler Hochstetler – Police Sergeant	
Old Base Wage : \$54,494.02/Year	New Base Wage : \$57,763.66/Year
Lonny Kent – Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$27.53/hr	New Base Wage : \$29.18/hr
Hope Hannah – Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$22.30/hr	New Base Wage : \$23.64/hr
Abigail Michael – Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$22.30/hr	New Base Wage : \$23.64/hr
Dominic Francis – Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$21.79/hr	New Base Wage : \$23.1/hr



Eric Rayle – Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$21.79/hr	New Base Wage : \$23.1/hr
Jared Arnold – Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$19.00/hr	New Base Wage : \$19/hr
Angie Essinger – Utility Clerk	
Old Base Wage : \$16.81/hr	New Base Wage : \$18.57/hr
Rhonda Hohenbrink – Income Tax Administrator	
Old Base Wage : \$19.75/hr	New Base Wage : \$20.94/hr
Bernie Ludwig – Cemetery Sexton	
Old Base Wage : \$5,105.92/Year	New Base Wage : \$5,412.28/Year
Nathan Jordan – Part-time Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$14.91/hr	New Base Wage : \$15.8/hr
Charles Montgomery – Part-time Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$15.48/hr	New Base Wage : \$16.41/hr
Elliott Tyzzzer – Part-time Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$14.34/hr	New Base Wage : \$15.2/hr
Troy Hartzog – Part-time Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$13.76/hr	New Base Wage : \$15/hr
Cody Ganson – Part-time Patrol Officer	
Old Base Wage : \$13.76/hr	New Base Wage : \$15/hr
Richard Lichtle - Seasonal Mower	
Old Base Wage : \$12.24/hr	New Base Wage : \$12.97/hr
Dennis Nestor - Seasonal Mower	
Old Base Wage : \$12.00/hr	New Base Wage : \$12.72/hr
Fire Responders	
Old Base Wage : \$12.24/hr	New Base Wage : \$16/hr
Jon Kinn - Fire Chief	
Old Base Wage : \$5,100.00/yr	New Base Wage : \$5406/yr
Nathan Jordan - Assistant Fire Chief	
Old Base Wage : \$816.00/yr	New Base Wage : \$864.96/yr
Tony Pinks - Fire Captain & Secretery/Treasurer	
Old Base Wage : \$459.00/yr	New Base Wage : \$486.54/yr
Tim Essinger - Fire Captain	
Old Base Wage : \$306.00/yr	New Base Wage : \$324.36/yr

Blane Miller - Fire Lieutenant  
Old Base Wage : \$153.00/yr

New Base Wage : \$162.18/yr

BLS - EMT, EMR  
Old Base Wage : \$12.24/hr

New Base Wage : \$16/hr

ALS 1 - AEMT  
Old Base Wage : \$12.24/hr

New Base Wage : \$17/hr

ALS 2 - Paramedic  
Old Base Wage : \$12.24/hr

New Base Wage : \$18/hr

Jan Basinger - EMS Chief  
Old Base Wage : \$5,100.00/yr

New Base Wage : \$5406/yr

Rick Skilliter - Assistant Chief  
Old Base Wage : \$1,785.00/yr

New Base Wage : \$1892.1/yr

Nicole Mikesell - EMS Secretary/Treasurer  
Old Base Wage : \$1,785.00/yr

New Base Wage : \$1892.1/yr

## **Village of Bluffton**

### **Administration's Report**

To: Mayor Johnson & Council Members



**02-14-22**

#### **On going projects:**

- **WWTP Instrumentation Project**
- **Water Main Relocation Project - Bluffton University Campus**

#### **Town Hall Fire System Replacement**

Project will begin Monday, February 21 and will be completed by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Installation being done by Northwestern Ohio Security Systems, Lima, OH.

#### **S.R. 103 Pathway Update - Funding**

Still awaiting funding decision from ODNR expected in Nov. of 2021. \$87,066.75 requested from Clean Ohio Trails Fund (COTF) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for property acquisition. Hopeful for a decision by end of February from ODNR.

- ✓ If purchases are made before funding is awarded and Bluffton is selected for funding – all possible steps have been taken to ensure a Waiver of Retroactivity for money spent.
- ✓ Construction still scheduled for June of 2023.

#### **Chestnut Lane Subdivision**

Overall Development plans have been received. Planning Commission meeting will be on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Town Hall.

#### **Snow Event – first week in February**

- Thanks to all Village Departments involved with maintaining safe roadways:
  - ✓ Public Works Dept. - plowing/salting and Police Dept. – moving downtown vehicles
- Community Reminders: See attached document for Snow Safety Reminders

#### **Managed Network Services – PerryPro Tech – Virtual Server Addition**

An additional virtual server has been created for programs affiliated with Software Solutions, Inc. (SSI) SSI provides technologies that manage Bluffton's public funds including: Utility Billing, Accounting, Payroll and Income Tax. The transition of data to the new server will be completed this week.

- additional server was necessary to provide separate access to public fund (SSI) accounts from other classified Village records in addition to optimizing the processing speed of these programs

#### **Utility Billing: ALL FUTURE BILLS = Due Date of the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month**

Change in billing cycle will occur for bills due March 25<sup>th</sup>. Reading dates will be from Jan 17 – February 28. \*\*This will be a 41-day billing cycle. Future billing cycles will return to 30 days.



**Council Committee Meetings:** Request for meetings with:  
Ordinance –



# **Snow Safety Reminders**

Bluffton Public Works Dept. takes pride in providing our residents with safe streets even in the most trying of winter conditions. It is our goal to be prepared and in front of all snow events. The Department has well-trained, experienced employees that understand the importance of Public Safety for both our residents and emergency vehicles. Please note the following to Help Us Help You!

**1. First and foremost, pull your cars in your driveway.** When 2" or more of snow is on the ground or expected to fall, pull your cars in the driveway.

- **If a Snow Emergency has been declared, and you must park on the street, the Snow Emergency Parking Rules will be in effect.** Our Police Dept much prefers compliance over enforcement, but please understand we will enforce the law.
- **Parking during a Snow Emergency:**
  - On even-numbered calendar days, park on the side of the street that has even-numbered building addresses and
  - On odd-numbered calendar days, park on the side of the street with odd-numbered building addresses
  - All vehicles parked in Village owned parking lots shall be moved at 24-hour intervals until snow is cleaned up.

*The Police Department may cause any vehicle to be towed that is not in compliance at the owner's expense.*

## **2. Do not shovel or blow snow into public streets.**

This not only defeats the purpose of our snow plowing, it causes unsafe conditions for **all** drivers and makes subsequent snow removal efforts difficult.

- ★ We ask all residents when clearing your driveway and walks, place the snow in your yard or in the tree lawn, not the street.
- ★ Depositing snow on the street simply adds more to your drive after the next plowing cycle.  
Patience and cooperation during the snow removal season is a benefit to all.

## **3. Remove snow from sidewalks and hydrants.**

If you live in a portion of the Village with sidewalks, please remove snow and ice from your sidewalk within a timely manner (24 hours after snowfall stops). It is the responsibility of every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person having charge of any building or lot of property in the Village abutting upon any public way or public place to remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of said building or lot of property.

Clear snow and ice away from fire hydrants located on or near your property. Keeping hydrants clear will help save valuable time, should a fire emergency occur in your neighborhood.

**4. Blocked Driveways.** We know it is frustrating to shovel your driveway and then have the plow come by and push snow back at the base. However, to clear the road, all snowplows angle the same way – to the driver's right. When going by they cannot avoid pushing the snow in front of a driveway.

The resident is responsible for access to their driveway. As you prepare to clear your driveway, keep in mind that the snowplow will likely return and push snow and ice back up onto your driveway. Most likely AFTER you have shoveled your driveway. Having to shovel the driveway a second time after the snowplow passes can be frustrating.

**There are ways to prevent this:**

**1. Either,** clear an area before your driveway large enough for the snow coming off the blade to be deposited. We realize this may duplicate your efforts, but it is unavoidable as we make roads safe for travel. Shoveling your snow to the right-hand side (as you look out to the street) may prevent most of your work being "plowed in".

**2. Or,** the only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until Village crews have completed their final clean up on the street.

**5. If possible, stay off the road.**

As much as possible, please avoid driving or parking on the road during heavy snowstorms. Our primary purpose is to clear streets for emergency vehicles. The less traffic our drivers encounter, the faster and more efficiently they can clear the streets.

If you must be out, please use extreme caution. Many motorists drive too fast for conditions or try to stop too quickly. Drive slowly and watch at intersections. Turn on your headlights when precipitation starts. Do not follow our plows too closely. State law requires that you **stay at least 200 feet** behind a working snowplow. When following a snowplow, make sure that you can see the driver's mirrors, so the driver is able to see you. Use extreme caution in passing our plowing and salting equipment.

- ★ We encourage all residents to please **assist your elderly neighbors** with snow removal tasks whenever possible.
- ★ Please remind children playing in the snow or building snow forts, snowmen, etc., to **stay away from the street.**



**Avoid the "Second Shovel"**





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**Date:** February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**To:** Mayor Johnson and Council

**From:** Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

**Reference:** Police Department Monthly Report

### **POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

**February 2022**

Police Calls for Service – 595

Traffic Stops – 63

Citations – 13

### **CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS**

Agg. Assault with Weapon	-	1
Criminal Damaging	-	1
Driving under Suspension	-	4
Menacing	-	1
Miscellaneous	-	1
O.V.I	-	1
Plates from another vehicle	-	2
Theft	-	3
Theft of Motor Vehicle	-	1
Warrant	-	2
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>17</b>



## Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 02/01/2022 13:36  
Login ID: rburkholder  
Year: 2022

Bluffton Police Department  
ORI Number: OH0020100  
Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Accident Property	5	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Accident w/Injuries	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Administrative	81	97.6	2	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	83
Aiding Other	23	95.8	1	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	24
Alarm	9	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9
Animal Complaint	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Assist Police	4	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Court	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Criminal Damage	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Domestic	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Drug Abuse	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Escort	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Fight Complaint	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Follow Up	7	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Hit Skip	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
House/Building	287	97.6	7	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	294
Investigate Vehicle	19	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	19
K9 Request	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Lock Out	7	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Menacing	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Mentally Ill Person	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Miscellaneous	50	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	50
Motorist Assist	5	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Paper Service	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Pedestrian Stop	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Stolen Vehicle	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1





# Incident Breakdown By Month Report

Print Date/Time: 02/01/2022 13:36  
 Login ID: rburkholder  
 Year: 2022

Bluffton Police Department  
 ORI Number: OH0020100  
 Incident Type: All

Incident Type	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Yearly Totals
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Suspicious Person	4	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
Telephone	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Theft	5	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
Traffic Stop	61	96.8	2	3.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	63
Unsecured Door	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Unwanted Guest	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Warrant Service	3	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Total:	595	98.0	12	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	607





# Ticket Statistics

Print Date/Time: 02/01/2022 10:15  
Login ID: rburkholder  
Statute: All

From Date: 01/01/2022  
To Date: 01/31/2022  
Ticket Type: All

Bluffton Police Department  
ORI Number: OH0020100

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Totals
<b>Criminal</b>													
2925.141 Marijuana Drug Paraphernalia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Criminal Totals</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Warning</b>													
4511.12 Obedience to Traffic Control Devices	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
73.10(B)(1)(a) Speed - 20 MPH (School Zone)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
72.032(A) Fail to Yield Stop Sign	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Warning Totals</b>	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>Traffic</b>													
4511.21B3 Speed 35 MPH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.21B2 Speed 25 MPH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4503.11A Expired License Plates	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4510.16A Driving Under Suspension - FRA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4511.19A1h OVI Over .17 - Breath	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
4510.12A1 No Drivers License (NO OL)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
4511.19A1a OVI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Traffic Totals</b>	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
<b>Totals</b>	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13



# Bluffton Police Department Award

**Date:** 01-10-2022

**Name(s) of person(s) nominated:**

OFFICER CODY GANSON

**Award nominated:**

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Description of act or achievement including dates:**

Cody Ganson began his career at Bluffton Police Department on March of 2017. Officer Ganson has been an asset for the Village of Bluffton by covering weekend shifts, holidays, special events, and sporting events. Thank you, Officer Ganson for your years of dedication to the community.



**Chief of Police:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan B. B..."

**Mayor:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ganson".



# Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 01-10-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

OFFICER ERIC RAYLE

Award nominated:

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Description of act or achievement including dates:

Eric Rayle began his career at Bluffton Police Department on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017. Officer Rayle has been an asset for the Village of Bluffton by covering weekend shifts, holidays, special events, and sporting events. Officer Rayle's willingness to help cover these events shows strong leadership amongst the officers. Officer Rayle is the department's new Firearms Instructor as well. Thank you, Officer Rayle for your years of dedication to the community.



Chief of Police:

A blue ink signature, likely of the Chief of Police, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A blue ink signature, likely of the Mayor, written over a horizontal line.



# Bluffton Police Department Award

**Date:** 01-10-2022

**Name(s) of person(s) nominated:**

KATO

**Award nominated:**

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Description of act or achievement including dates:**

Kato's career began in April of 2017 as the 1<sup>st</sup> Bluffton Police Department K9. Over the  
years, Kato has done an outstanding job of keeping Village of Bluffton safe and to deter  
drug activity. Thank you, Kato, for your years of service and keeping Bluffton Drug Free  
Community.



**Chief of Police:**

R. B. B.

**Mayor:**

R. B. B.



# Bluffton Police Department Award

**Date:** 01-10-2022

**Name(s) of person(s) nominated:**

SGT. TYLER HOCHSTETLER

**Award nominated:**

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Description of act or achievement including dates:**

Tyler Hochstetler began his career at Bluffton Police Department on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2007.

Tyler has been an asset for the Village of Bluffton by covering weekend shifts, holidays, special events, and sporting events. Sgt. Hochstetler is the department's K9 Handler as well as a Sergeant who oversees the weekend operations. I would like to Thank, Sgt. Hochstetler for his years of dedication to the community.



**Chief of Police:**

Ryan B. B...

**Mayor:**

Paul D. Johnson



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

OFFICER DOMINIC FRANCIS

Award nominated:

ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting.



Chief of Police:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ry - BL", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Johnson", written over a horizontal line.



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

SGT. TYLER HOCHSTETLER

Award nominated:

ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting.



Chief of Police:

A blue ink signature of the Chief of Police, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A blue ink signature of the Mayor, written over a horizontal line.



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

LT. MATT OGLESBEE

Award nominated:

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio, Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Lt. Matt Oglesbee arrived on scene shortly after the shots fired to help set up perimeter and assist in locating the suspect with night vision/thermal imager.

Chief of Police:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Bell", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.





## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

CPL. LONNY KENT

Award nominated:

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Cpl. Lonny Kent assisted in holding the perimeter through the early morning hours and into the next day.

Chief of Police:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Bick", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Johnson", written over a horizontal line.



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

OFFICER ABBY MICHAEL

Award nominated:

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Officer Abby Michael assisted in holding the perimeter through the early morning hours and into the next day.

Chief of Police:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ry - Burk", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard", written over a horizontal line.



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

OFFICER CHARLES "ED" MONTGOMERY

Award nominated:

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Officer Charles "Ed" Montgomery assisted in holding the perimeter through the early morning hours and into the next day along with handling calls in the village.

Chief of Police:

A blue ink signature, likely of Ryan B. Bluff, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A blue ink signature, likely of Richard Bluff, written over a horizontal line.



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

OFFICER ERIC RAYLE

Award nominated:

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Officer Eric Rayle assisted in holding the perimeter through the early morning hours and to relieve an officer from the event.

Chief of Police:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray - B...", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Simon", written over a horizontal line.



## Bluffton Police Department Award

Date: 02-03-2022

Name(s) of person(s) nominated:

OFFICER HOPE HANNAH

Award nominated:

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Officer Hope Hannah assisted in holding the perimeter through the early morning hours and into the next day along with handling calls in the village.

Chief of Police:

A blue ink signature, likely of the Chief of Police, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor:

A blue ink signature, likely of the Mayor, written over a horizontal line.





## Bluffton Police Department Award

**Date:** 02-03-2022

**Name(s) of person(s) nominated:**

OFFICER ELLIOTT TYZZER

**Award nominated:**

Letter of Commendation

**Description of act or achievement including dates:** On 12-10-2021 at approximately 11:37 pm a Bluffton, Ohio Officer Dominic Francis, attempted a traffic stop at the intersection of Jefferson St. and Huber St. in Bluffton, Ohio. The operator refused to stop and fled from the officer. The Officer Francis pursued the vehicle, which eventually left the village southbound on Bentley Rd. Shortly after exiting the village limits, an occupant, at this time believed to be the operator of the vehicle, began shooting at the pursuing Officer Francis. The operator was eventually identified 50-year-old Ronald David Powell (10-21-1971) (Last known address Findlay, Ohio). A short time later the vehicle came to a stop on Bentley Rd. south of Hillville Rd. Powell and a female exited the vehicle at which time the pursuing Officer Francis and Powell exchanged gunfire. Sgt. Hochstetler arrived on scene to assist Officer Francis as the gunfire was going on. Quickly thereafter Powell and the female fled east into a field and wooded area. The perimeter of the area was immediately contained by responding officers. A short time later the female suspect, now identified as 32-year-old Amanda Nicole Wrede (4-25-1989) (Last known address Toledo, Ohio) was apprehended and taken into custody for questioning on suspicion of felonious assault with a deadly weapon. She is currently being held in the Allen County Jail on the felony charge of aiding and abetting. Officer Elliott Tyzzter contacted the department to see if additional assistance was needed and requested to be put on standby for next 24 hours.

**Chief of Police:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan B...", is written over a horizontal line.

**Mayor:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul J. ...", is written over a horizontal line.



Date: February 8, 2022

To: Mayor Richard Johnson and Council

From: Chief Ryan M. Burkholder


Reference: A Citizen's Reflection

I recently found this comment on Facebook regarding our Police Department and felt this was noteworthy to show everyone.

"Kudos to the Bluffton Police Officer who just stopped on the crappy, windy, cold, snowy night and got out their snow shovel and helped these people dig their car out. When the car was dug out, they shook hands. Good people do exist!"



Respectfully,

  
Chief Ryan M. Burkholder

***Note: Officer in picture is Sgt. Tyler Hochstetler & Officer Michael***

# Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Advocate Newsletter

Keeping Consumers Safe and Informed



February 2022



## How to Take Back Control of Your Data

*The Ohio Attorney General's Office recognized Data Privacy Week last month (January 24-28, 2022). In an effort to help Ohioans protect their personal information, the office is reprinting below an edited version of an article published by the National Cybersecurity Alliance.*

From social media to online shopping, our lives and the digital world become more and more intertwined. Yes, the digital world provides convenience, but it's important to know how to protect personal data to ensure that it's being used the right way by the right people.



In the latest consumer privacy survey from technology manufacturer Cisco, 86% of individuals say they care about their data privacy. That said, even the most savvy digital users can have trouble managing their data.

Here are a few steps to better manage your personal information and make informed decisions regarding your data and how it is used.

### **Understand the privacy/convenience tradeoff**

Many apps, even before you use their services, ask for access to your geographic location, contacts list, photo album and other personal information. This data has tremendous value to businesses, allowing some to even offer you their services at little to no cost.

Consumers should decide whether or not to share their data by weighing the amount of personal information being sought against the benefits they might yield in return. Be thoughtful about who gets your personal information and wary of apps or services that require access to information that is not required or relevant for the services they're offering.

### **Manage your privacy**

Once you have decided to use an app or set up a new account, check the privacy and security settings on the app or website and set them to your comfort level for information sharing. Each device, app or browser may have different features to limit how and with whom you share information.

That said, with so many settings to manage, it can be very challenging to stay on top of them all. Here are some important ones to focus on first:

- **Location data:** In order to provide more relevant results, many apps ask you to share your location data. Make sure you that share this information only with apps you trust and that the apps are using your data responsibly. Also, pay attention to when the app uses your location information. Many apps give you a choice to always keep your location information on, never have it on or have it on only when using the app.
- **Contacts data:** Many email apps and video-conferencing apps allow individuals to automatically sync their existing contacts with their services. Again, be sure that you share this data only with trusted sources, as the data you're choosing to share may belong to others.
- **Camera and photo data:** Social media apps universally ask for access to an individual's photo library and related camera data – which, of course, contains troves of private information. Share it with only the most trusted sources, and, through the settings, control the photos to which those apps have access.

A couple of other suggestions: Be sure to delete unused apps on your devices and keep all apps secure by performing updates.

For additional guidance on personal data, consult the National Cybersecurity Alliance's [Manage Your Privacy Settings page](#).

For more information about the National Cybersecurity Alliance, visit its website at [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org). For cybersecurity tips from the Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section, click [here](#).

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## **Most Common Complaints of 2021**

The Ohio Attorney General's Office works every day to protect families from unfair and deceptive business practices and scams. The office accepts and handles complaints to assist consumers and businesses in reaching a mutual agreement to resolve issues. In 2021, the office received more than 20,500 complaints.

The Consumer Protection Section tracks complaints in several general categories for reporting purposes. In 2021, the categories generating the most complaints were:

1. Motor vehicles
2. Shopping, food or beverages
3. Professional services
4. Home or property improvement
5. Collections, credit reporting or financial services
6. Utilities, phone, internet or TV services

Consumer complaints are typically handled by specialists using an informal dispute-resolution process. A complaint specialist attempts to resolve the dispute by working with the consumer and the business. Complaint resolution might involve, for example, a refund for the consumer or an adjustment of charges or services.

Complaint specialists are trained to identify problems. If there appears to be a consistent pattern of deceptive behavior, the office may investigate further and possibly take legal action against the business on behalf of all Ohioans. This legal action can be taken in order to stop current bad conduct, prevent future misconduct, or obtain restitution or civil penalties. In addition to helping individual consumers, in 2021 the office continued to take complaints from small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

## **AG Yost's Consumer Protection Wins in 2021:**

- The Civil Investigative Unit opened 146 cases, and the Civil Legal Unit filed 42 lawsuits, obtaining more than \$37 million in judgments.
- The Economic Crimes Unit continued to identify, investigate and prosecute scam artists, opening 393 criminal investigative matters. Working with local law enforcement and county prosecutors, the unit filed four indictments and obtained three convictions. These cases resulted in more than \$465,000 in consumer restitution orders.

- The Elder Justice Unit continued to provide leadership and advocacy to combat elder abuse and exploitation throughout the state by aiding in investigations, forensic analysis, case presentation and prosecution, victim advocacy and assistance, and training and technical assistance. The unit conducted 45 trainings and presentations, reaching 3,469 attendees.
- The Robocall Enforcement Unit encourages Ohioans to not answer or reply to phone numbers they do not recognize. Using a complaint process designed specifically to empower Ohioans to report illegal robocalls, the unit analyzes complaint data to try stop illegal and unwanted calls and texts. The unit received more than 23,000 unwanted call reports in 2021. AG Yost's dedication to combatting robocalls was aided with the passage of Senate Bill 54, which provides additional tools to allow the attorney general to prosecute the use of illegal robocalls with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

### **Tools for Consumers:**

Consumers can also turn to the Ohio Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section to:

- Research a business by searching for consumer complaints as well as lawsuits filed and judgments obtained by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
- Help obtain assistance to rectify the effects of identity theft.
- Request a presentation (virtual or in-person) about consumer scams, identity theft, smart shopping tips and cybersecurity.
- Receive publications about consumer protection issues.

Click [here](#) to learn more or to access the Consumer Protection Section's free services.

Consumers who believe they have been treated unfairly or been the victim of identity theft should contact the Attorney General's Office at 800-282-0515 or visit [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org).

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## **Beware of Romance Scams This Valentine's Day**

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and for many the day serves as a reminder that they are single. That, in turn, can provide motivation for some people to seek out that special someone – and con artists know it.

It's important to protect your heart and your hard-earned money by watching out for online romance – or “sweetheart” – scams to protect your heart and your hard-earned money.

Romance scams typically originate with a phony profile on a dating website or social media as way of attracting unsuspecting victims.

Many con artists claim to be in another state or country, pretending to be a military member stationed overseas or a businessperson working in another country. They might even send fake photos or documentation to “prove” their identity.

Scammers might spend many hours communicating with a victim before asking for money. Or they might request money for airfare to visit, pay a hospital bill, get out of a foreign country or access an inheritance that the scammers promise to share with their victims.

Victims generally are asked to send money using a gift card, wire-transfer service, money order, prepaid card or other hard-to-trace payment method. Once the money is sent, it is nearly impossible to recover.

In 2021, 41 Ohioans reported to the Attorney General's Office sweetheart scam losses totaling almost \$1.7 million.

In one instance, a Ravenna man sent upward of \$300,000 to a woman he met on the internet over the course of seven years via Western Union transfer, MoneyGram, cash in the mail, gift cards, and Bitcoin. She has asked him for money for a new car, plane tickets and new homes.

In another romance scam, a Franklin County woman was scammed out of \$5,000. The initial contact was made through an online Scrabble game with a social component. The criminals asked her to buy gift cards from Google Play, Apple, eBay and other companies.

Victims of such scams fit no pattern; they may be male or female, young or old. The common denominator is that they believe in love and believe the romance is legitimate.

Here are some ways to avoid sweetheart scams:

- Research someone you meet online; do not rely solely on what that person tells you. Conduct internet searches, including reverse image searches, and check with independent sources to verify the person's claims.
- Be cautious of love bombing. Love bombing is a manipulation tactic done by showering a new love interest with affection and/or compliments. Be cautious of individuals who claim that destiny or fate brought you together or claim to love you after a short time.
- Be especially wary if you have just lost a loved one; many times, scammers scour through obituaries to find people who have recently suffered a loss.
- Talk to friends and family members about any online relationships, even if the other person asks you to keep the relationship a secret.
- Don't send money to someone you have met only online, even if you have developed a relationship with the individual.
- Be very skeptical of requests for money sent via wire transfer, Bitcoin, peer-to-peer payment systems, money order, prepaid money cards or gift cards. These are preferred payment methods for scammers.

Consumers who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice should contact the Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org) or 800-282-0515.

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## **Business Impersonation Scams Are on the Rise**

Consumers choose to work with businesses they trust, but that trust can be wiped out in an instant by an impersonation scam. Fraudsters know that consumers are more likely to click on a link that appears to come from a trusted business.

In some instances, the scammer impersonates a popular online business with which many people have accounts. The scammer might call, text or send an email to confirm a purchase that the scammer knows the consumer did not make. After the consumer says that he or she did not make the purchase, the scammer asks the consumer for his/her banking information to initiate the refund process. Instead of refunding money, however, the scammer takes money from the consumer's account.

Here are some ways to avoid a business impersonation scam:

- **Check your accounts first before clicking on a link.** If you receive an unusual text or email claiming to be from a trusted business, do not click on the link in the message. Check your accounts through verified websites or phone numbers to make sure that the accounts are intact and that you have not purchased any unwanted items. Something to look for: Many times a fake link contains a slight misspelling or differs slightly in other ways from the legitimate website.
- **Never call back an unknown number.** Use the information on the company website and not a number listed in an unexpected email or text.
- **Don't pay a stranger with a gift card.** If anyone asks you to pay with a gift card, it's likely a scam.
- **Don't give remote access to someone who contacts you unexpectedly.** The contact might claim to be from a government office, computer repair company or popular online store. Remote access to your computer or other electronic devices gives scammers easy access to your personal and financial information, such as bank account information.

Also, keep in mind that "phishing" emails and "smishing" texts are commonplace. These are communications typically meant to trick the consumer into clicking on links in a message so the sender can steal personal information and/or money.

For example, you may receive an email or text message instructing you to click on a link to confirm your account information. The message will likely include a threat that you must do this within a limited period of time or your account will be suspended. By entering your username and password on a fake account, the scammer can then steal your personal information to gain access to your account.

If you get an unwanted email or text messages claiming to be a business, there are four ways to report it:

- Report it on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
- Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM).

- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud).
- Report it to the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](https://www.OhioProtects.org).

Consumers who suspect a scam or an unfair business practice should contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at [www.OhioProtects.org](https://www.OhioProtects.org) or 800-282-0515.

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## **Consumer Conferences**

- Protecting older Ohioans is everyone's business, so consider joining Attorney General Dave Yost's Elder Abuse Commission on Feb. 23 when it presents the 2022 Protecting Older Ohioans Forum: Responding to Financial Exploitation, Scams and Fraud in Facility Settings. This event is free but requires registration [here](#).
- Registration is also open for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Emerging Trends in Fraud Investigation and Prevention Conference. This event will be held both in person and virtually on May 16-17, 2022. Click [here](#) for additional details, including the agenda and speaker bios.