



# Village of Westfield Center Newsletter July 2025

## ***Village Finance***

Very little has changed since my newsletter of January 2024 which outlined Village Finances in depth. Annual Tax Collections remain to be roughly 1 million; continuing to be \$400,000 less than pre-covid revenues. The Village is in solid financial position. However, long term equipment and infrastructure improvements continue to be curtailed and delayed. When Westfield Fire district passes a much-needed levy, we will need to assess the financial impact of the Levy on the Village. This assessment will likely lead to an income tax increase request to cover our obligation with the Levy and allow the resumption of delayed capital expenditures.

## ***Police Chief – David Pries***

Chad Meyers has retired after 6 years of great service to the Village. Please welcome David Pries, our new Police Chief. A Village Council search brought Chief Pries from the Sheriff's department. David started his law enforcement career in the Military Police of the United States Army. After his Army service, he continued his law enforcement career at the Medina County Sheriff's office. He was with the Sheriff's office for 31 years, and this provided him with a wide foundation of law enforcement experience. Many of you may have already met him as he has been on the job since April 14<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to have a Police Chief with great experience and enthusiasm.

## ***Fiscal Officer – Melissa Kurtz***

Our long time Fiscal Officer, Debbie Runser, is retiring after thirteen years with the Village. Debbie has brought knowledge and professionalism to the position. She will remain in our Fiscal Officer until February 6, 2026. We will miss her greatly, and wish her well in retirement.

Our new Fiscal Officer, Melissa Kurtz will join us in late August. Melissa is currently the Westfield Township Fiscal Officer. Of the many candidates that applied, 5 were interviewed and Melissa was selected for the position. We welcome Melissa and believe she will continue to bring the exceptional service to the Village that we have come to expect from Mrs. Runser.

**OVER**

### ***Village Slope Project***

The sidewalk across from Village Hall going west is sandwiched between Greenwich Road and a large ravine protected only by a split rail fence. It has been Council's desire to correct this for many years. The project was always too expensive to consider. The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and the State of Ohio have provided grants of about \$750,000 to make the project happen. Construction will be in 2026 with right of way purchases and bidding completed in 2025.

Sincerely,

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