



**Village of Alexandria**  
**Office of the Village Solicitor**  
P.O. Box 307437  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230-7437

**Michael R. Moran, Solicitor**  
(614) 476-6453  
(614) 476-4157 Fax  
[MRMoran@MRMoran.com](mailto:MRMoran@MRMoran.com)

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Further Information Contact:  
Michael R. Moran, Esq.  
(614) 476-6453

### **Alexandria Mayor Explains Village Operations in Light of Unincorporation Effort**

ALEXANDRIA, Ohio – Mayor Andrew D. Hallam said: “The Village of Alexandria will continue to serve its citizens with effective and efficient small government, striving to make our community a better place for our children. We are vehemently opposing the actions of disgruntled former Village officials who would rather see our beautiful Village dissolved, rather than admit their own negligence in office and lack of oversight. The nonfeasance of these individuals has directly resulted in many of the recent challenges the Village has endured. The Village Council and I have made and will continue to make many strides in cleaning up the mess left by the very people circulating the unincorporation petition.”

Mayor Hallam also cited the tremendous progress the Village has made during his relatively short tenure as the Mayor, including:

- Close to fully staffed employees and appointees, hiring a Zoning Inspector at the next Council meeting;
- New council member recruited and will be appointed at next meeting;
- The Village has met with the Auditor of State and the 2014-15 audit is under way, should be completed by summer 2017;
- The Village recently held a financial cash surplus of over \$30,000, with public works projects planned or completed, including Main Street Repairs, Preventative maintenance of water system under way, Sewer plant life has been extended with new pumps, rail systems, control boxes and outside lighting;

- Village officials are working with County Prosecutor to ensure successful prosecution of former Fiscal Officer VanScoy and obtaining maximum restitution;
- Achieved fiscal accountability by reconciling all financial accounts for 2014 – Present, bonding key employees, joining Ohio Checkbook and adopting an internal controls policy;
- Reorganized Museum Board, after determining that all board members were serving on expired terms back to at least 2009, none were bonded to manage antiquities, including loaned personal property (heirlooms) – The Museum is the second largest capital asset of Village (and liability) behind the sewer treatment plant.

Given the progress made by the Village, Mayor Hallam stated: “Unincorporation is a drastic and unprecedented step that leaves many unanswered questions. Can the circulators of this petition tell the voters in writing that their taxes and water/sewer bills won’t increase drastically? If the Village is absorbed into St. Albans Township, is the Township prepared to deliver the same streets, sewers and water utility services as the Village?” The Mayor concluded: “This ill-advised effort would be better spent on working together to improve our community.”

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