

# VILLAGE OF WAPELLA

Village Hall  
312 Main Street – P. O. Box 148  
Wapella, Illinois 61777

## BOARD MEETING – MINUTES March 15, 2016

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

### I. ROLL CALL – 7:00 pm

Name	Title	Status
Nancy Falk	Trustee	Present
John Goergen	Trustee	Present
Suzanna Holland	Trustee	Present
Mandy Huff	Trustee	Present
Rich Karr	President	Absent
Rusty Karr	Trustee	Present
Rosalie Summers	Trustee	Absent
Steve Mahrt	Village Attorney	Present
Kim Yearry	Clerk	Present

### II. MOTION TO APPOINT JOHN GOERGEN AS ACTING PRESIDENT

Result:	Approved
Moved:	Mandy Huff
Seconded:	Rusty Karr
Ayes:	Nancy Falk, Suzanna Holland, Mandy Huff, Rusty Karr, John Goergen
Nays:	

### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### 1. Village Board – Regular Meeting – February 16, 2016

Result:	Approved
Moved:	Rusty Karr
Seconded:	Nancy Falk
Ayes:	Nancy Falk, Suzanna Holland, Mandy Huff, Rusty Karr, John Goergen
Nays:	

**V. MOTION TO APPROVE OKAYED BILLS**

John Goergen questioned the charges on the Altorfer statement. The statement was provided, which outlined cutting for edger, and hardware.

Result:	Approved
Moved:	Rusty Karr
Seconded:	Mandy Huff
Ayes:	Nancy Falk, Suzanna Holland, Mandy Huff, Rusty Karr, John Goergen
Nays:	

**VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**A. Streets**

Rusty indicated they addressed a tree root issue that was blocking drainage on the north end of town and they will be installing a culvert on the south end of town on Thorps Road.

**B. Health and Safety**

Suzanna stated that Rich Karr is sending correspondence to the Woollens on North Oak Street in an attempt to get them to clean up their property. She also asked if the attorney could write an ordinance that would enforce cleanup requests on the property. There are many bags of garbage piled up in the yard.

Suzanna also asked if town cleanup could be on next month's agenda. There will need to be discussion about funding the cleanup as the solid waste fund, which was used to fund cleanup in the past, has no money. In the past we've asked the township board for a donation to assist with the expense, and they have accommodated that request.

Rusty mentioned that no trespassing signs have been installed at the shed, however people are still going there to dispose of large items in the dumpsters.

John stated that Clinton does an electronics disposal event, and he'd like to see the same program for Wapella.

**C. Water Department**

Nancy stated she had issues with the Woollens on North Oak Street in reference to their water bill. She spoke to the in November about paying his water bill, and the resident indicated he would make a payment and catch up in January. Nancy had three discussions with the resident in March, and he now has until the end of the month to bring his account current or his water will be shut off.

John noted that the Village pays for the resident's garbage removal, and he doesn't put his garbage out, and he does not pay his water bill either.

Nancy also stated that other accounts were past due and those residents have been making payments. Nancy asked the clerk if everyone else was caught up. The clerk indicated that there was one more that remains past due.

**D. Zoning**

No Report

**E. Finance**

No Report

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Steve Henricks asked if there was an ordinance for free range chickens in town. John replied that he did not believe there was. Steve continued that he has an issue with free range chickens in that they are getting into his landscaping. He planted about \$300 worth of plants that the chickens destroyed. Rusty indicated that the homeowner would be responsible for that. Steve replied that he has spoken with the homeowner. Ed Fleck asked to speak, and was recognized. He noted that there is an ordinance regarding livestock in the village, and chickens are forbidden.

Kathy Meadows questioned by Greenes were given more time on the bank property. She asked if the judge was given all the documentation that was sent to him. John indicated that at the last board meeting it was noted that a sale is pending on the bank building. Kathy asked if the process would have to start all over again. Attorney Mahrt stated that the Greene building was not in court, but the Greene inoperable vehicles were in court. Kathy stated that the employees should not be cutting the trees in the park, but should be removing the thistles from the flower beds instead. She continued that the cutting of the trees and removing of bushes should not be on the agenda. She stated that is Suzanna's job, and when Suzanna feels the time is right, she will have the employees take care of that. She also asked why Price's trailer has not been addressed, and then questioned the FOIA requests. She indicated she was lead to believe that other people were submitting FOIAs, and she only sees Jane's FOIAs on the website. She asked why other people's FOIAs were not on the website. She stated that everyone's FOIAs need to be on the website. She continued that the clerk is the keeper of all the records and she usually did that along with her job. She knows where the records are and it would be very easy to pull the records and fill the FOIAs, unless that are 15 other people submitting FOIAs, in which case she would like to see them on the website.

Dale asked if the trailer issue is in court yet. The attorney replied no. He indicated he never filed on the trailer issue; he has written him a number of letters asking him to comply, and there is a question of whether he can comply. He has not heard back from the attorney. Dale asked if we needed to send him another letter. The attorney replied that we probably need to file against him.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Repairing Pump House Roof**

Rusty stated that there are leaks inside of the pump house. The tuckpointer who was working at the pump house indicated that there are a couple bad areas on the building that may need addressing in the future.

**B. Tuckpoint Block at Pump House**

This was discussed above.

**C. Hydraulic Assist on Big Truck**

Rusty indicated that when you turn the bed up, something with the hydraulics seems in to out of balance. This probably needs to be addressed before next year.

**D. Hire a FOIA Assistant**

Rusty stated we get lots of FOIAs some months, other months we don't. Therefore, we made need assistance some months, and not others. Suzanna noted that last time it was discussed that the clerk was spending about two hours per week on FOIAs. The clerk clarified that in addition to the time she spends on the FOIAs, she also gets assistance from Rosalie and Lauren. Suzanna asked if the website was current on the FOIA listing. The clerk replied affirmatively. Suzanna indicated perhaps the request needs to be reassessed. Rusty replied we need to be prepared, to have a system in place. Nancy agreed. John said perhaps that board members can help. John added that there is only 5 days to fulfill a FOIA. Rusty stated he wants the clerk to have help. John said he is willing to volunteer however he can.

John noted that Trustees taking FOIA training is also on the agenda. It was noted that all trustees are required to complete the online FOIA training within 6 months of taking office. The attorney noted that there is both a FOIA and an open meeting component of the training, and it is available online. John stated that the trustees who are present at the meeting should complete the training.

**E. Update on Trees in Park**

Suzanna stated that she had FS come out and do an analysis on all the trees in the park. Over, everything is in good shape. FS noted that the ash trees that are around the playground equipment will need to be watched for emerald ash borer disease, but presently they all look fine, except for one that was struck by lightning. The Australia pines have been affected by insects and disease. Those need to come out and be replaced. The spruce trees are showing signs of distress, but they can be treated with fertilizer. FS can do that, and they recommend doing two Spring treatments. Each treatment is \$700.00. Rusty asked if Willie had the training and/or certification required to treat the trees. Suzanna didn't know if Willie did or not. Rusty asked if this report was written or verbal. Suzanna replied it was written. She also stated that FS explained that watering the trees would help address the stress of the trees. Rusty asked for a copy of the report. Suzanna said she would supply it.

**F. Employees Cut Trees at Park**

John stated that if trees need to be cut down as Suzanna just stated, can the employees do that. Suzanna stated that if they are going to cut them down, now is the best time to do it, as it's best to plant new trees before the end of April. She continued that she is not suggesting to take them all out at once, but to stagger the removal to allow for the funding of replacing the trees. She continued that many of the trees were donated as memorials for loved ones. Suzanna would like to work with Willie directly to come up with a plan.

**G. Take Out Bushes at Front of Park**

This is tabled.

**H. Cut Ornamental Grass at Park**

Suzanna noted that this is part of annual maintenance that Willie takes care of every year, so she is not sure why it is on the agenda.

**I. Trustees to Take FOIA Training Online**

This item was cover previously in the meeting.

**J. Separate Clerk and Collector Positions**

This was Rosalie's item. Nancy stated that there was previous discussions, and Rosalie thought it might be a good idea to separate the positions so that one person would not have to commit as much time. This item is tabled. John asked if that would mean another salary. Suzanna asked if the positions could be separated. Attorney Mahrt stated it will need to be looked into, as there are statutory provisions to consider.

**K. Vote to Appoint New Clerk**

Attorney Mahrt noted that the Mayor must make the appointment. This is tabled.

**L. Vote to Appoint New Collector**

Attorney Mahrt noted that the Mayor must make the appointment. This is tabled.

**M. Vote to Extend Water Main Out Division Street**

This is Nancy's item, although she indicated she is not requesting a vote, but rather a discussion. The resident that owns the home on Division just past Autumn is currently in a nursing home and is not allowed to return to him home because his water is bad. Wapella can provide that water source if the main is extended. Rusty stated that the property must be annexed into the village before that can occur. Nancy has spoken with Clyde regarding this project, and he indicated it would cost approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000. Clyde would also install the autoflush there. Nancy questioned if we have easements to work outside the Village limits. The attorney asked if there was intervening property. Nancy and Rusty replied no. Rusty said it would involve annexing his house only, and not his entire property. Attorney Mahrt stated there could be an annexation agreement whereby the Village agrees to extend that water main. Oftentimes, property owners will share in the cost of running an extension. John asked what the next step would be. Attorney Mahrt suggested telling the resident that the Village is willing to extend the water main, but he has to annex and also participate in the cost of the extension. He continued stated that the annexation can go fairly quickly, however the approvals to extend the water main can take a great deal of time. Rusty stated that more research needs to be done to determine the cost. There were further discussions regarding possibilities to assist the resident.

**N. Motion to Adjourn**

Result:	Approved
Moved:	Rusty Karr
Seconded:	Nancy Falk
Ayes:	
Nays:	