

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

BOARD MEETING – MINUTES
 September 15, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

I. ROLL CALL – 7:00 pm

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Village Board – Regular Meeting – August 18, 2015

Result:	Approved
Moved:	Rusty Karr
Seconded:	Rosalie Summers
Ayes:	Rusty Karr, John Goergen, Mandy Huff, Rosalie Summers
Nays:	

III. MOTION TO APPROVE OKAYED BILLS

Result:	Approved
Moved:	Mandy Huff
Seconded:	Rusty Karr
Ayes:	Rusty Karr, John Goergen, Mandy Huff, Rosalie Summers
Nays:	

IV. STREETS

Oiling and chipping of streets began this past Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in front of the elevator. The sides of the roads have been cut. A few more inspection boxes have been installed. District tiles have been checked and are clean.

V. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Suzanna stated that FS is going to come and do an assessment of the trees

VI. WATER

Nancy posted an explanation of water rate notice at the village hall and at the post office. She has taken numerous calls from Wapella citizens inquiring about the new water rates.

VII. ZONING

Willie Strange stated he issue one permit to Rob Wright for a storage shed.

VIII. FINANCE

Rosalie stated that the audit commenced yesterday. She needs to work on the tax levy. The budget is complete, posted and filed. She indicated that the auditor noted the village's sales tax is down \$6,500.00, attorney's fees are down, the General Fund is up \$4,000.00. There are some past due water bills. Overall the village appears to be in good financial condition.

Rosalie noted that at last month's meeting it was voted to make one payment on the truck loan. She continued explaining that when the truck was purchased one payment was made immediately, so there is only one payment of \$8,301.07 left on the truck. Rosalie will write the check to pay off the loan.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherry Mears noted that she is attending this meeting along with Tony representing two of the liquor establishments in the village. They would like to extend the liquor license hours for Sunday. She indicated she had a petition with over 100 signatures from Wapella residents as well as residents from neighboring communities. Research indicates that Heyworth liquor establishments are open on Sundays until 8:00 p.m., in Farmer City until 1:00 a.m., in Atlanta and Clinton until midnight, in Dewitt until 1:00 a.m., in Leroy until 11:00 p.m. and in Bloomington until midnight or later.

Tony stated that he occasionally has events on Sundays and feels he needs to rush his customers out. He doesn't foresee staying open late every Sunday, but would like to have the opportunity if he's hosting an event.

Sherry added that they don't intend to have outdoor music or events on Sunday nights, so as not to disrupt the community. She continued that they would be agreeable to a six month trial basis staying open until 11:00 p.m. That would eliminate some of the TXs.

Dale Karr asked about the status of the trailer on the northwest side of town. He stated that everyone needs to be treated the same, and if others were required to put a \$3,000 - \$4,000 footing under their trailer, the trailer in question should require one as well. The resident hasn't received a fine, he doesn't come to any meetings, and he didn't show up for the hearings. Something needs to be done. Rich noted that the resident agreed to put a foundation under the trailer.

Ed Fleck stated that at the last village board meeting there was never any discussion or mention as to when the new water rates would take effect. The ordinance does not allow for any exemptions, as was voted on at the last village board meeting, so the ordinance is not being followed. Rich asked what exemptions he was referring to. Ed responded the commercial water rates. Rich replied that the issue will be addressed shortly.

Ed also questioned the rezoning of properties, and asked if it needed to go through the zoning board. Rich added that this issue will be covered in this meeting.

Mark Miller stated that when he was on the board and tried to rezone Thomas Court, he was told by the village attorney that it was required by law to have a public hearing and to notify all residents involved. Rich replied that if the board decides to move forward with this project, that this meeting is just the first step in the process.

Sharon Riddle spoke about the Buraglio lawsuit settlement. She believes that the citizens were misled regarding the outcome as it pertains to the dollar amount of the settlement. Rich asked to speak with Sharon after the meeting regarding this issue, and to see the supporting documents she has.

Kim Donovan spoke about the inoperable vehicles hearing as it relates to Richard Greene. She believes there is a personal vendetta against Mr. Greene, as there are other inoperable vehicles located in town, and nothing is being done to address those. Rich answered that there was a survey done around town, and several people received letters regarding their inoperable vehicles. He further explained that the other residents either came in to compliance, contacted the village or attended meetings to ask for additional time or consideration. Mr. Greene has done none of those things. Kim asked if Tom Brahme complied, as he has inoperable vehicles on his property. Rich responded that Tom Brahme was not on the list.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Follow up on Inoperable Vehicles

A hearing on Richard Greene’s inoperable vehicles will be set for the next board meeting, which is October 20. The village attorney will draft a notice to be sent to Mr. Greene.

B. Codification of Village Ordinances

Rich Karr indicated that the codification will cost approximately \$6400. Rusty asked how many ordinances the village has. Rich explained the cost is based on 330 pages, and if there are not 330 pages, the price will be reduced \$18.00 per page. Rosalie stated that there are extra costs. To put the ordinances on line is \$450.00, if you add ordinances it’s \$19.00 per page. Suzanna stated it’s not a requirement to keep them on line. Rich added that the ordinances have not been updated since 1975, and many are no longer legal. Rich asked for the attorney’s opinion. The attorney stated he believes it is a good idea, and asked if other quotes were obtained. Rich answered affirmatively and stated the other quote was for approximately \$10,000. Rich asked if the board would like to move ahead with this project. Payments options are 50/50 over two fiscal years, or 40/40/20 over three fiscal years.

Rusty Karr made a motion that we move forward with the codification of ordinances with the 40/40/20 payment plan.

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

C. Repair of Gazebo in Park

Suzanna stated that the roof of the gazebo in the park needs repair. She would also like to add chicken wire in some areas to keep pigeons from roosting in it. She stated she currently only has one bid. She’d like to spend about \$1500. This matter is tabled until another bid is obtained.

D. Rezoning of Residential Properties

Willie Strange stated there are some residential properties in the village that are zoned commercial. They include Cale Price, 601 Chestnut, Vernon Meadows' property is zoned business, and the Abraham Howard Trust trailer park is industrial and should be R4. The same applies for the trailer park on Lingle Lane. All Thomas Court is industrial and should be moved into R1. Wapella Automotive is residential and should be industrial. The previous township office is in business and should be moved to residential, as it is a home now. Willie also provided a map showing the zonings of the areas in the village.

Attorney Steve Mahrt referred to Mark Miller's statement in public comments. If there is a proposed map amendment, it will need to go before the zoning board/planning commission for public hearing. They would receive citizen input and then make a recommendation back to the board, who could then decide if they would like to pass an ordinance enacting the zoning changes. Notice needs to be published in the newspaper or posted around town. Individual notice also needs to go to the property owners where the zoning change is proposed.

Rich spoke to Willie Strange, and stated that Willie said we did not need to go to a zoning board. Rich asked what that was based on. Willie responded that the ordinance states the zoning officer has the power to rezone the properties. It says the zoning officer needs to bring it to the board, and it is the board's decision. Steve stated there still needs to be a public hearing to amend the map, a recommendation comes back to the board, and then the board can decide whether to enact an ordinance changing the zoning of the parcels in question.

John Goergen made a motion to move forward with the remapping.

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

E. Change of Liquor License Hours

Rich asked if there is any discussion on this issue. Rusty asked how much revenue does the village make on Sundays for liquor sales. Rich noted that it also includes gaming. Mandy asked if this would also include Casey's. Rich responded affirmatively. Mandy Huff made a motion to change the liquor license hours to 10:00 p.m. Suzanna mentioned that many of the citizens were not in favor, so that should be kept in mind when setting hours. Rosalie stated 2 or 3 more hours on Sunday is not going to make a difference. Steve asked if there should be an ordinance on this. There was discussions whether this would affect the TXs. Rich indicated they would still cut off at midnight. Sherry asked if they could still get a TX from 10:00 p.m. until midnight. Rich replied yes, with the board's approval. The TX license is a 4 hour extension or until 2:00 a.m. during the week. Rusty stated that the town is not going to benefit enough from the extended hours. Rich stated it is not damaging the community, and all other communities in the area have later hours. He explained that TX licenses need to be posted in plain view inside the bar. Each establishment gets 6 TXs per year.

John asked for clarification of the TX hours. Rich stated it was 4 hours on Sunday, until midnight. John asked if the Sunday hours would be until midnight with a TX. Rich stated that would need to be included in the ordinance.

Steve asked if this should be brought back with a written ordinance, since the board is changing the liquor code.

Rich indicated yes, since there was a motion and a second. He continued that the board will direct the attorney to take the current liquor license ordinance and make changes to it to allow hours until 10:00 p.m. on Sundays, and clarify the TX hours. Rusty stated he thought the motion was for temporary hours. Rusty asked if he would need a few hundred signatures to get the ordinance changed again. Rich responded that it needs the majority approval of the board to pass.

Rich asked if we should vote. Steve stated it was not necessary, that he would prepare the ordinance and bring it to the next meeting, and then the vote can take place.

Rich asked if we should clean up the ordinance stating they are open on Super Bowl Sunday and New Year's Eve without requiring an additional TX. It should read for New Year's Eve the bars can stay open until 2:00 a.m., and Super Bowl Sunday until 1 ½ hours after the completion of the Super Bowl.

XI. ADJOURN

Rich asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mandy Huff made a motion to adjourn. Nancy Falk seconded.