

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 16th, 2025

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village Clerk, Robin Morrow.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mark Miller

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Sean Holland

Steve Mahrt – Attorney

Robin Morrow, Clerk

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from March 19th, 2025, Village Board Meeting.
Second made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Bills:

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yet. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: Jane Buraglio

New Employee

We have a new part-time employee to help take up the slack on mowing and other general jobs for the village. Rick (Buck) Lord is a well-known resident of the village and he and his wife have done considerable volunteer work in the park. He is on the standard 90-day probationary period.

No Parking Signs on Elm St

We ordered the Julie for this area and are having to follow up with Ameren about not marking the gas lines. When we find out more, we can move forward and install the No Parking signs. We need to get the last two installed across from the Auction House, which Jane is sure it's going to cause some uproar.

Spraying Classes

Jane is happy to announce that Paul, Rex and Steve passed the General Standards tests at Mug-a-Bug. Steve also passed the mosquito test. We are waiting for all three applications to arrive from the

Department of Agriculture. When we get those, we will get them mailed with the fees and wait for the licenses to be issued.

Illegal Dumping

We are still plagued by illegal dumping. This time someone dumped furniture in the burn pile. We can't burn furniture. Jane shared pictures of the truck that came on Saturday morning, April 5th, at 9:14 am. Hopefully someone will recognize the truck. Speaking of burning furniture, there was quite a large bonfire of dressers and other furniture being burnt by a residence on Division Street. If anyone sees things like this happening, calls to the fire department, the Sheriff or even EPA may discourage these types of fires. Pictures help.

Ameren Tree Trimming

We got notification from Ameren on March 27th that crews working for Ameren will be trimming trees in and around our village. They provided a map and a list of multiple pages of addresses. Ameren also has a Right Tree Right Place grant program. The grant period is open from April to August with grants awarded in November. We can work with the Ameren Illinois Vegetative Management team for more information. This village lost a lot of village trees two years ago. This might be a way of replacing some trees. Jane passed out some fliers they sent and maybe we can talk more about this next month.

Mowing Equipment

All the snow and winter equipment are out of the shop and stored. The mowing equipment was moved into the shop and the annual maintenance on each machine was the focus this past month. There is not one piece of equipment that didn't have issues discovered during routine maintenance and had to be addressed. A spindle bushing and housing for the Kubota was the only thing not done in the shop. That was assembled at German-Bliss, the new Kubota dealer in Bloomington. The backhoe developed a leak in the front bucket hydraulic hose while in use. That was repaired. The Gator suddenly developed a short somewhere and wouldn't start. Replacing fuses finally narrowed it down to the taillights. That project will take some time to locate on a rainy day. The batwing had to have two U-joints and a belt replaced. We are still waiting for the fender replacement for the tractor.

Other Work

The men assembled a new tiller for the garden, read meters, and did quite a few Julies. Quite a few hours were spent clearing trash from the railroad right-of-way and other areas. A good part of one day was spent picking up sticks and trash from the park before it was mowed for the first time. The past two days they have been picking up brush townwide. The pavilion bathrooms will be opened this week. We replaced the totes in the park after the wind ripped the lid off one of them.

We've got some work ahead of us this month while keeping up with the mowing. Installing a secondary meter at 400 S Second. Moving a meter out of the basement at 400 S East. Getting the No Parking signs installed on Elm and Walnut Circle. Tracing a short in the Gator. Addressing some alleys and street potholes. Meeting with Rodger Sprague and making a plan for the 2025 MFT street work.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Steve has been in the park a lot these days. Water turned on at the baseball diamond and the pavilion. Porta Pots are over there. Asked Nate Ellis when he was going to spray and with the wind and rain it has been difficult. Kick-off on May 3rd so hopefully it will be done soon. No issues at the Community Center.

WATER: John Goergen

Jane already hit on the one meter being removed from 400 S Second. This will be on a separate water meter that we have not been reading. So he will now have two meters and two water bills one with no garbage and only water. This is at no cost to the owner. The other subject is with New Business.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Received some information from Ameren about the house at 611 N Chestnut. They are building a garage in the back and it met our set-backs, but there is a utility pole and Ameren wants Mark to issue a stop order on that build of that garage immediately until this could be settled and corrected. All we have been asked to do is issue the stop order. Ameren is dealing directly with the property owners.

FINANCE (Jane Buraglio / Pat Good)

Overall Account Balances as of March 31, 2025

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund Checking | \$112,790.35 |
| Park CD (DeWitt Savings) | \$ 57,333.30 |
| Police CD (DeWitt Savings) | \$ 18,942.61 |
| Water Fund Checking | \$ 24,935.24 |
| Motor Fuel Checking | \$ 86,107.22 |
| Water Project Fund | \$ 73,956.94 |
| Restricted Debt Service | \$ 11,024.52 |
| Short Lived Asset Account | \$ 70,981.89 |
| Total: | \$456,072.07 |

One notable item was received over \$12,000 in sales tax in March – up from \$7800 in February.

Audit

Jane is hoping since the tax season ended yesterday, that she will hear from Bruce Chrstina about scheduling our audit.

Insurance Claims

RMA has had two claims submitted against the Village of Wapella. One was for a workman’s comp claim. RMA paid \$1450.05 for an emergency room visit. The second pending claim is from James Walsh, who is again trying to collect money from the village for damage when a private tree fell on his shed. He had it partially removed by Fryman Tree Service. He complained to the village, and he was mailed a claim form and refused to complete it. He apparently turned a damage claim into his homeowner’s insurance company. Jane does not know the story he told his insurance company. We eventually received

a letter from a company that is trying to recover funds paid by another insurance company. She sent everything to RMA and they are handling the situation. Jane is waiting to hear back.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

DRAINAGE: John Goergen

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

We did have a lien which is on the bills.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Dale Karr – Sidewalks are still not fixed and other places that need to be fixed. As a taxpayer of Wapella he feels he is being ignored. This is a safety hazard. This should not be a big deal. He just wants it to be fixed.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 1) Discussion and possible approval of the MFT 2024 Close Out Resolution and the MFT 2025 as presented by Rodger Sprague.

Motion to Table this agenda item until next month made by John Goergen. Second by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

- 2) Discussion and possible vote on donation to Wapella Says Y.E.S. for Movie in the Park.

John Goergen asked what was donated last year and Mark Miller stated that the village donated \$1000. He also stated that the Township has already donated \$1000 for this year. The movie licensing is \$500 and the additional items needed is about \$1000. In addition, there is popcorn, candy and drinks. Mark also mentioned that they had doubled their attendance last year.

Motion made by John Goergen to donate to the Y.E.S. Movie in the Park in the amount of \$1000. Second made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

- 3) Discussion and possible approval of a quote for replumbing eye-wash station at the shed.
- 4) Discussion and possible approval of a quote for running a water line and inside spigot at the shed.

Motion to Table these agenda items made by Jane Buraglio as she is waiting for Greg Hale to get back to her. Second by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

- 5) Discussion about new water service and recommendation to amend the current water ordinance to specify where meters are installed.

John Goergen explained to the board about the situation with the new water service that has been requested by Roger Massey. We did receive a quote from GA Rich for \$6500. Roger is not wanting to pay that. John presented that to him and gave him a copy of the quote. Roger then called John and stated that he was just going to run water from the existing over. Later he called again and had gotten with Troy Rich with another possible solution but John is not liking it. He wants to tap in to the existing water line for Rich's Plumbing and put in a T and a shut off which is all on private property. John does not agree with this. The other issue is with putting it inside the building. It must be installed with easy access and inside the building is not. Jane asked if that should be updated in the ordinance. Mark agreed that the ordinance should be amended about the new meters. There should be the same language about new meters being put outside and not inside of a structure.

The Board continued to discuss the issues and the concerns in regards to what was being requested and what was in the current ordinance. Jane asked if was feasible to request Troy Rich to provide a quote for the same thing that GA Rich quoted on. It was agreed that that could be done. So John confirmed that he needed to go back to Roger Massey and say that he could get other quotes as long as they are a licensed contractor and would need a permit.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio that Steve Marht bring back amendments of the water code to the next meeting. Second by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn made by John Goergen. Second by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned – 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk