

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 21st, 2024

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village President, Dennis Klatt.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Dennis Klatt

Mark Miller

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Sean Holland

Steve Mahrt – Attorney

Robin Morrow - Clerk (arrived @ 7:15pm)

Absent:

N/A

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were delivered by Roger Carter as the Clerk, Robin Morrow, was running late.

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from July 31st meeting. The second was made by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Bills:

GA Rich Invoice: The original proposal was for \$7,910. One of the Village responsibilities in the proposal was to have both the aeration tank and backwash pit drained. Jane passed this information on to our operator. He drained the backwash pit. The aeration tank was not drained upon GA Rich arrival and both our operator and Paul got a call before 7:30 am from Nate Joos. The GA Rich crew had to start the draining. This cost the crew an additional hour of unexpected overtime. We are compensating for this cost of \$374. Jane talked to Steve about this, and he assumed that Paul was the one who did the isolation and draining the last time we had this job done and he would do it this time. Paul has never done the isolating, which involves shutting off breakers. We assumed Steve let Clyde know and that he would be doing this part again. We will make sure this will not happen next year.

LEDone: Evan at Titan Lighting and Jane were trying to find out if our park lights were still under warranty. She finally found a person at the company in California that sent her a claim form and instructions on submitting pictures. The 5-year warranty has not expired yet. We ordered a spare light for our stock and got the second light for free. They were delivered on Monday and Kelly Kinder installed the new light yesterday. We got our park lights through a grant with Ameren and each park light cost \$20. \$257.13 is the actual cost for each light.

Uline: A couple of weeks ago Brandon discovered one of our garbage can lids on Main Street had disappeared. It was a few days after that horrible windstorm. Maybe it blew off, but it was

nowhere to be found. We ordered a new one and it has been chained to the concrete garbage container with a new handle.

Hale Mechanical: Please add Hale Mechanical's invoice for \$130 to the Bills List. This was for the plumbing and installation of the new meter at St. Patrick's.

Motion made by John Goergen to approve the bills as presented to the board. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: Jane Buraglio

New Meter & Pit Installations

Update on Water Department work: We automatically do quite a bit of ongoing Water work. Three new meters were installed since the last meeting. That sounds simple, but before those meters could be installed the meter pits had to be constructed, yokes and risers had to be connected in the pits and stabilized. Then came the new hubs and lids. We generally allow a day for each of those complicated installations that involve new pits. The hand reads were done yesterday, and they have a plan for more meters to get installed next month. Jane wanted to let John know we will be ordering more meter lids and hubs to match since she thinks we have just a few left to use.

Backwash Pit

We did not have the horrible cattails growing in the pit this year but did have grass that needed to be cleared out before GA Rich arrived. There is no easy way to do this but pump the water out, get down in the rusty mess, and hand pull the grass. We have pictures of the work being done.

405 S Chestnut (Former Duncan Property)

The neighbors on Thomas Court have complained to Jane about this residence and she thought it was going to be another property we were going to have to clean up. The US Secretary Housing & Urban Development acquired this house in November 2023. Fortunately, another company called 24 Asset Management from Florida has started cleaning out the house, mowing the grass and has posted signs in the windows. Things are improving there for the neighborhood. Jane expects that house will be for sale soon.

Parking Issue

Jane was at the shop this past Saturday and the entire lot behind Crossfit was filled with parked vehicles. No one was parked in front. It is possible to have parking at the rear of the building. She knows both Bartels and H & E Performance have complained about their driveways being blocked. However, Jane would like to post No Parking signs on the west side of Walnut Circle for two main reasons.

- 1) Safety. As it is now with parking on the west side, all of us who travel that street with parking on both sides of the street have seen children run out into the road to get to a car.
- 2) Snowplowing. Parking in front of Crossfit on both sides of the street barely allows 20 feet for our snowplow to get through on our 70-foot-wide road right-of-way. Safety also plays a factor in the winter.

Jane also thinks the posting of No Parking on the West Side would alleviate any potential parking issues that might arise in the future when H & E Performance open for business.

Jane would like board approval for an ordinance to allow posting of No Parking signs on the west side of Walnut Circle.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Steve Evans is back in the park after being out on leave. Sean stated that he wanted to come to next meeting to get a license to spray for weeks in the park. Not sure what it takes or entails but Steve will come to next meeting with information on what he needs to do. Mark asked if he had been released from doctor to come back to work. There are safety concerns. Steve Mahrt did state that if he gets hurt on job then it does become workman's comp that the village would have to pay. Sean is going to see about getting a doctor's release for the file.

Jane mentioned some people that are needing community service hours and reached out to Steve to get extra help.

Sean thanked Jane for taking care of the lights. Sean asked Jane what the status of the repair quote for the basketball area to repair cracks. In addition, there are some other areas around the park that need some repairs also.

Sean and Dennis met with Chris Reddington about the baseball diamond and Chris is on the New Business agenda.

Finally, thanking Mark and Wapella Says Yes for the Movie in the Park night as it seemed like a huge success.

WATER: John Goergen

Jane pretty much covered everything in with her street/alley report.

John did ask Jane about the status of the issue with St. John's church water meter.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Koons has house on Valerie lane framed up. Mark does not have much else for zoning. He was informed by Jane that three residents have moved in sheds without getting the proper permits. There was also someone putting up a fence and already had a Julie ordered. Mark is researching these issues.

FINANCE (Jane Buraglio / Pat Good)

Overall Account Balances as of July 31, 2024

General Fund Checking	\$107,356.53
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 57,335.30
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,746.20
Water Fund Checking	\$ 73,215.21
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 91,938.25
Water Project Fund	\$ 66,856.91
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 9,647.84
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 52,665.79
Total:	\$477,762.03

FEMA Claim Update

The FEMA Grant Portal shows that our claim has moved up into the ready to pay category. August 15th was the 1-year anniversary of the Disaster Declaration.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

We must approve a budget at the regular September 18th meeting. Jane is beginning to put together some general figures for the 2024/2025 Appropriations Ordinance and would like to schedule a Budget Workshop meeting for either September 4th or September 11th. She know's the cost of some upcoming projects and can plug those into line items. We can arrange a short meeting one-on-one prior to the workshop if you want to review line items. Refer to your line items from the Treasurer's report Ending June 30, 2024 and if you have questions, please let me know.

All agreed to have Budget Workshop on 9/11 at 7:00pm.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

DRAINAGE: John Goergen

Nothing to report

DRAINAGE DISTRICT ELECTION

There is a Wapella Union Drainage District election for the purpose of electing a commissioner at the firehouse on Tuesday, September 3rd from 2 to 4 pm. The judges may determine to keep the polls open until 6 pm.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

Nothing to Report

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

All updated. No issues

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Dale Karr – noticed a trailer down at the shed with ac units, water heaters, etc. and is concerned about this junk still there and that is not really from the village. Feels employees should not be picking up and hauling these types of items from a resident to the shed. He was also concerned with someone's personal trailer being stored and used by the village. Just doesn't think it is a good look for the village.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 1) Discussion and possible approval of plans for the Park's Baseball Field. Proposal presented by Chris Reddington.

Chris Reddington was in attendance with a proposal for some upgrades to the softball field. He explained that in the current condition of the field it is a safety hazard due to large chunks of concrete. Chris went through the details of what they proposed and how this would increase the usage of the field by other teams. Chris offered to do this work at their cost and Steve stated that they must have insurance to do the work. Chris mentioned Kyle Koons. It was also mentioned that a standard permit could be issued for them to do the work on the field. This would be all volunteer type work and donations. No cost to the village. Discussion continued between the audience and the board. The Board all agreed that the work can be done as long as they understand that the concession stand could not be used. John asked if there was a possibility that there is any money in the budget to put toward these renovations. Chris suggested that the village could purchase bases and chalk to keep in the storage room for the field. Natalie stated that in the past the ball teams donated that. The portable toilets were discussed and Jane mentioned that the village pays \$200 per month for those to be over there. Jane to get permit to Natalie.

Motion made to approve donation from CGSA and Chris Reddington to refurbish the baseball/softball diamond made by Sean Holland. Seconded by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved.

2) Discussion and possible approval of an Ordinance Annexing Property to the Village of Wapella (Potini Property).

All the certified notifications went out to the Trustees and Road Commissioner and all the receipt cards have been returned. That was our last step in the annexation process and now we are here to finalize that annexation with an ordinance. GA Rich is in the process of scheduling the water service installation. Steve stated there should be an annexation map attached to the ordinance and proof of notices.

Motion made by John Goergen to approve the Ordinance Annexing Property to the Village of Wapella (Potini Property). Seconded by Sean. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2024-8-21

3) Discussion and possible approval of the 2024 MFT Street Program – Rodger Sprague.

Rodger Sprague and Paul have toured the streets, and he is here tonight to present the 2024 MFT Street program.

Dennis asked about the sidewalks from last year that was not completed. Discussion continued between Dennis, Jane and Rodger regarding how things are approved and only partial work was completed. Rodger stated those items would get done this year. Rodger confirmed that the contractor does not get paid until the work is completed. So even with the tear out done last year, contractor was not paid for that work. Payment was only made for concrete that was actually poured.

Rodger presented the map of the plan for the oiling and provided a map/list of the sidewalk repairs to be done for the 2024 MFT. Continued to review and explain the 2024 MFT Street Program.

Jane Buraglio made motion to approve resolution for maintenance for the 2024 MFT Street Program as presented by Rodger Sprague for \$58,000. Seconded by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Copies of the resolution were signed and stamped by Village President and Village Clerk.

4) Discussion and possible approval to continue or change the Simple Plan IRA contribution percent. Notification of any change is sent to participants in October.

Last year the board approved Resolution 2023-11-15 approving a Simple IRA Plan and authorized execution of an adoption agreement and contributions agreement. The Village agreed to match employee contributions up to 3% of the salary for each individual employee. At that time, we had 6 eligible employees. Three signed a waiver declining and three opted to have salary contributions to a Simple Plan IRA. Jane had a

short meeting with Jim Harrold. He will be sending me a letter again this year asking for the names of all eligible employees. All six eligible employees will be asked to either sign a waiver declining or again directing a percentage of their salary into their Simple IRA Plan.

The Board can leave the resolution as it is, or they can opt to change the percentage of contribution to 1% or 2%. If the Board changes the percentage of matching contributions, each eligible employee must be notified next month of that change.

Dennis asked if this needed to be discussed in a closed meeting. Because it was not individual salaries closed session not required. It was agreed by all board members to leave the resolution for the Simple IRA Plan as is with no changes.

5) Discussion and possible approval to authorize the Village attorney to follow up on two Ordinance Violations Notices.

9531 Thorps Road was issued a permit for a garage and fence. The property is at the south entrance to Valerie Lane. This property now has at least 14 cars in the backyard and by all appearances appears to be a car lot and a business. There are also unlicensed cars sitting in the driveway. Jane sent the standard unlicensed vehicle ordinance violation letter on August 7th. She has had no response and by all appearances more vehicles have been brought in. More neighbors are complaining about how this looks in the neighborhood. I did stop two Saturdays ago early in the morning when men were outside. Mr. Bravo was not there. He was coming from Bloomington. I told the man I talked to that the village would pick up brush, but we are unable to pick up logs and brush when trash and lumber is mixed in with it. The trash and lumber would have to be pulled out. The man said he would let Mr. Bravo know. The pile is still sitting there. The only thing our employees did was push it off the road. I would like board approval for Mr. Bravo to receive a letter from our attorney informing him of pending court action.

113 Valerie Lane received an ordinance violation letter dated July 30th about an unlicensed truck and garbage on the property. Jane has received no response from the owner and the truck is still sitting in the driveway. The garbage is still on the ground. She heard from a different neighbor about that garbage being on his property also. He shouldn't have to clean it up so he can mow. Jane would like board approval for Mr. Bateson to receive a letter from our attorney informing him of pending court action.

After much discussion regarding both properties, the Board agreed to authorize the Village Attorney to follow up with both of these properties.

- 6) Discussion and possible approval to proclaim September 23rd to 29th 2024 as National See track? Think Train! Week and to encourage all citizens to recognize the importance of rail safety education.

The Proclamation from CN Railroad explains about their National See Track? Think Train! Week. We did this last year. If Jane gets the signed Proclamation back to CN, we will be recognized in their magazine.

The Board discussed and all agreed to proceed.

- 7) Discussion and possible approval to change the rate of compensation for Village elected officials – Mayor, Clerk, and Trustees. (Must be set at least 180 days prior to beginning of the new terms)

Official's Compensation Review:

This is listed on the IML 2024 Calendar of Statutory Duties for Municipal Officials for the month of September and the salaries must be fixed by ordinance at least 180 days before the beginning of the terms. Salaries shall neither be increased nor diminished during the officer's term. We can discuss any changes tonight and then Steve can prepare the ordinance for approval next month. We can also leave the compensation as it is.

Jane did have a few questions:

- Is there a way to additional compensation for a trustee acting also as the zoning official? It was discussed that this could be done by ordinance.
- Is the Treasurer compensation included in this ordinance? No because this is appointed.
- Are the Zoning Board members included in this ordinance? No because this is appointed.

Mark stated that he didn't see any reason for anyone to get any changes in salaries. Discussion continued and nothing would change at this time.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk