

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 16th, 2023

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village President, Dennis Klatt.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Dennis Klatt
Mark Miller
Jake Simmons
Jane Buraglio
John Goergen
Carl Spath
Sean Holland
Steve Marht – Attorney
Robin Morrow – Clerk

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by John Goergen to approve the minutes for July 19th, 2023, meeting. Second made by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Bills:

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. Second made by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS: Jane Buraglio

Storm Clean Up: The shed lot has greatly improved. Jane is impressed with R & R Services. Blake Rose loaded and ground all the debris in 2 ½ days. Jeff Rose loaded all the ground chips into 16 semis, and everything was hauled offsite. There is a \$200 difference between Jeff's estimate and the final bill. He told Jane there was an equivalent of 563 of our red dump truck loads of debris on our lot.

Paul borrowed a rock rake and a disc to help restore the scar left from the debris. Most of that work was on Monday. The rock rake dug up huge pieces of limbs, logs and rock packed into the dirt. All that was cleared away. Paul used a drag and his roller to level the area. It has been reseeded with grass. Now we need rain.

The men have continued to pick up tree debris, but it has drastically slowed down. Waste pickup may go back to once a month. It has been a challenge to keep up with the mowing and other pressing jobs that need to be done.

Phone: Had to have a service call for the shop phone. The tech discovered that the USIC locaters are not closing the boxes after hooking on to the phone wires for Julies. Open boxes let the rain get in, compromising the phone service. He traced the open box affecting our phone to Main Street behind Casey's. Just letting everyone know in case anyone else is having trouble with their phones.

Campus Fiber Optics: There is another company coming through Wapella to install fiber optics. Jane talked to the boring foreman when he was at Casey's corner. Both sides of the highway are within village limits. They only had IDOT permits. She let Steve know and gave him the contact for Campus. Steve sent the

franchise agreement and the right of way agreement. They returned the right of way agreement. They did not want to do the franchise agreement. Steve did say right now they are going down 51 but do plan to eventually come into town.

FEMA/Tornado Clean Up/Insurance: Jane attended a meeting with FEMA & IEMA on July 26, 2023, and submitted several reports, which included hours worked and salary rates (straight and overtime), equipment descriptions and hours used, debris reports estimating quantity on site and quantity removal costs, and reports on damaged trees still standing. So far, we have 35 trees that need attention. Fryman Tree Service has started working on the worst ones. Jane had to take pictures and find the GPS coordinates for each tree for FEMA. FEMA is not promising any money right now. We were told they are gathering credits and those credits hopefully will lead to a proclamation. Only two entities reported damage to FEMA – Wapella and Farmer City. Jane was told there was no one from the other cities willing to complete the paperwork.

Insurance Claims: Jane is completing claim forms for our insurance. She should have everything done next week.

Ordinance Violations: 216 N Oak is getting in horrible shape again. Jane had complaints about 200 S Locust. There is a list of other places that need addressed about junk, tires, weeds, and abandoned vehicles. We need to get aggressive again about sending complaints. Jake & Jane have talked about door hangers, but we need the correct code references. She would like Steve to review the wording and hopefully she can at least get letter forms out in the mail next week and order the door hangers.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Fence repair at Community Center started Tuesday and should be completed Friday.

Fireman called Sean about donations for playground equipment. He told them there is quite a bit going on right now. Sean will put them on the agenda for next month to present ideas for new equipment.

Also, received estimate from Greg Hale about replacing air conditioning at the Community Center. Came in late and unable to get on agenda for this month. It is not going to be cheap. He will put on next month's agenda. A water softener is also needed at the Community Center.

WATER: Carl Spath

Report given by Jane. **Water Tower Cleaning:** The tower was pressure washed on August 3rd. Adam and his crew arrived the evening before around 5 pm. Paul and Jane met with him to make sure he had a way into the tower and to determine a water source. They were onsite about 7 am the next morning. Their scope of work was to pressure wash from the equator down and Adam said he also cleaned the inside of the tower door. They were able to do the job in one long day rather than the expected two days. Paul got a call around 5:30 pm for someone to come and look over the tower for a final look. Jane went over with him. Paul saw some areas that looked like they were missed or were shadows. Adam had no problem going back up and he cleaned those spots. He also hand-painted a couple small areas where the primer was showing through just so it would look nice. If you look above the W on the north side, you can see some primer. Overall, the paint job is still in very good condition. No rust is showing. Everything was done about 8:30 pm.

Backwash Pit and Aeration Tank: Both jobs were started and completed last Thursday, August 10th. They got some good pictures. Jane watched some of the work. Steve was very impressed, and everything is back online. Once we get a few projects done, hydrant flushing can be scheduled. We will announce it before that begins.

Antenna: We had to order another antenna from Water Products for auto meter reading. It broke on a tree limb.

Carl got Steve Westerfield's number from Jane and contacted him to introduce himself. Main concern is getting all the surveys back. Jane mentioned we had a good portion turned in. Carl stated that at certain point may need to go door to door for the remainder.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Zoning Board of Appeals met last week. A lot of good discussion about the Ordinance for allowing Chickens. The Board will meet again next week to further discuss as they are doing additional research. Mark does not expect this to get wrapped up soon. Lots of questions have come up and still working through details.

FINANCE: Jane/Pat

Account Balances as of July 31, 2023

General Fund Checking	\$158,596.30
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,452.87
Water Fund Checking	\$ 50,443.65
Motor Fuel Checking	\$119,199.98
Water Project Fund	\$136,675.32
Total:	\$539,012.84

INCOME: We have received the annual Ameren Gas Franchise Fee of \$1400. We have received the 1st Distribution of Property Taxes - \$35,557.97. The County Treasurer is using direct deposit this year for the first time.

USDA Compliance: Jane has explained previously that according to the 2018 USDA loan resolution, the Village was to open two separate checking accounts that were to be included in the annual audits. The USDA dictated how much to deposit into each account monthly and what the accounts were to be named. The former boards failed to do this. Our auditor has brought this to the board's attention each year since 2019.

Shari Lannon was the USDA Area Specialist Jane worked with. She explained the Ameren Utility tax deposited into the Water Project Fund covered these payments and if we could track them, she and Jane thought the two accounts would not be necessary. Jane provided a spread sheet to our auditor. She has retired and now Jane is working with Julie Beer. She doesn't agree and after they completed the Village's audit ending 6/30/2022, she sent an ultimatum that we needed to open these two accounts, or we were technically in violation of the Loan Resolution and Bond Ordinance with the Federal Government.

"It is the expectation of Rural Development that the Village of Wapella will comply with the agreed upon Letter of Conditions, of which a copy is included for your reference. Please provide documentation that these accounts have been established and deposit tickets showing the initial deposit of \$7,740 in Restricted Debt Service Account, and \$27,468, (one year's worth) in Short Lived Asset Account within thirty (30) days of this letter. Additionally, Rural Development expects that the Village will continue to make the required deposits into these accounts as

agreed. These accounts should be shown in the Village's annual audits and activity tracked in the Notes section."

We now have two new checking accounts.

Restricted Debt Service Reserve Account – "a rainy-day" fund so if the Village is unable to make the RD payment, then we must make a request to use these funds for the shortfall and then repay the account to make it up. Beginning in 2018, the Village Treasurer was to deposit \$172 monthly into this account for a maximum of \$20,640. As of 6/30/2022 fiscal year there should have been \$7,740 in this account.

Last week the account was opened with the requested deposit of \$7,740 taken from the Water Project Fund.

Short-Lived Asset Account – "for future repairs and/or replacement of equipment on the water system." Beginning in 2018, the Village Treasurer was to deposit \$2,289 monthly into this account. As of 6/30/2022 there should have been \$103,005 in this account.

Last week the account was opened with the requested \$27,468 (one year's worth) taken from the Water Project Fund.

Jane has asked our Treasurer to continue making the required monthly deposits into each of these accounts using accumulated funds from the Water Project Fund. These funds may not be included in our new audit ending June 30, 2023, but she can ask Neal to include knowledge of them in his audit letters.

Annual Appropriation Ordinance: Jane said last month that she would like to have the budget for this meeting. She is working with Pat to add new line items for the two new checking accounts. We must provide a budget for those and new line items in the Water Project Fund. Also, Jane expects the big item spending will slow down this month and she can see where we are at the end of August. The Ordinance is due September 30th. Last year we held a special meeting to have a budget workshop. Jane thought it was a good idea. Our next meeting is September 20th; however, Robin will not be able to attend. If having a budget workshop is agreeable with everyone, we could schedule a special meeting on Wednesday, September 6th or September 13th. This will allow her to have realistic budget numbers for you and all the line items needed. Jane would like to set that meeting date tonight if possible. Jane recommended that a Special Budget workshop meeting be held on September 13th and next Board meeting be moved from September 20th to September 27th due to the Village Clerk's absence. All agreed on those dates.

Budget Meeting – Wednesday, September 13th @ 7:00pm

Village Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 27th @ 7:00pm

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Reminded everyone about their Open Meetings, Sexual Harassment, etc. Asked everyone to check in with her at the end of the meeting to see what was missing.

Also, wanted to let everyone know that the couple Walking America were extremely thankful for the village allowing them to set-up camp for the night and stated we had a very nice park.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to Report

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

All updated. No issues

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

None

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

1. Discussion and possible vote to approve Ordinance Amending Section 31.002. Hourly Employees: Pay (tabled from July meeting)

The board discussed and reviewed changes to the Ordinance. Steve explained the new statute is effective January 1st. He also stated it would pertain to new employees. Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve Ordinance Amending Section 31.002. Hourly Employees: Pay. Second by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

2. Discussion and possible vote to approve Proclamation for National Rail Safety Week September 18 to 24, 2023.

Jane explained to the board that this is to promote rail safety and it is done every year. Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the proclamation. Second by Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

3. Discussion and possible vote to approve the repair of the John Deere tractor.

John Deere Tractor Repair: Jane reports that the Tractor took quite a beating during the tornado clean up. We need to fix the headlights and replace the grill. The loader arms were bent and could possibly be straightened, but they will never be right. The bucket can still be attached and detached. There is a crack in the fender that appeared during clean up, but they do not believe it is clean up related. They are checking on the warranty. The estimate to repair is \$800-\$1000 Parts & Labor. Jane needed this quote for insurance purposes, but in the meantime, we do need to make repairs. When it is convenient, Jane would like to get the tractor back to AHW, get the repairs done and the fender replaced under warranty.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve getting repairs done on the John Deere tractor for \$1000. Second by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Motion made by Carl Spath to enter Closed Session for the Discussion of the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s). Second by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Entered back into Open Session at 8:01pm

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Dennis Klatt

Mark Miller

Jake Simmons

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Carl Spath

Sean Holland

Steve Marht – Attorney

Robin Morrow – Clerk

Motion to adjourn made by Carl Spath. Second by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk