

**Village of Wapella Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 20th, 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

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Sean Holland

Carl Spath

Steve Marht – Attorney

Robin Morrow – Clerk

**Absent:**

Jake Simons

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from November 15th meeting. The second was made by Mark Miller. 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 Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

**Department Reports:**

**STREETS: Jane Buraglio**

Since the last meeting, the men have had to jump from one project to another. The Christmas decorations were put up on Main Street. Thank you to Nelson Thorp for helping with his bucket truck. Julies were still a priority, but they have slowed down tremendously. Replacement street signs are being installed. New gate posts were installed after they were damaged during the storm clean up. The Welcome to Wapella sign was reinstalled on the CC fence. There were several days of brush and leaf pick up.

The men have been able to turn attention to shop work and equipment work during inclement weather. They are working on the red truck lights that haven't worked since Jane hired employees. We acquired a new desk. The new cabinets have been installed and are being used.

The east garage door opener has failed. We had it looked at several weeks ago. Screaming Eagle let us know they tried but can't get the parts needed for a repair. We must get a new opener and remote. It has been ordered from Screaming Eagle and is about three weeks out.

Motive Rail installed a new railroad crossing sign on the south side of S Fourth. Paul got a call from Jerry Respondek asking if we knew what happened to the sign. The pole was sheared off and the sign was missing. It appears someone probably hit it and took the evidence with them.

MR Systems has completed the fiber optic installation. It should not be too long before they can start hooking customers on. Jane believes residents can contact them to be on the list.

There was an accident on the corner of N Third and US 51. A semi-truck traveling southbound crossed the median ending up in the northbound lane. It continued off the road, took out our street sign and ran into the north wall of the large shed belonging to Evergreen FS. Jane will be ordering another street sign.

### FEMA Report

Jane had her last in-person meeting on December 5th. Mike Weaver came, and they accessed the FEMA portal and signed off on all the reports Mike helped her enter. Here are the tentative final totals:

Force Account Regular time:	\$ 9,682.56
Force Account Overtime:	\$ 2,358.27
Force Account Equipment:	\$35,712.96
Contracts:	\$57,000.00
Total claimed	\$104,753.79
Insurance:	- \$25,000.00
	\$79,753.79
Plus 5% Administrative (my work)	\$ 5,237.69
Total expected reimbursement:	\$84,991.48

Now we wait to see if the CRC resource center will be asking Jane any questions. Then we wait for reimbursement. FEMA sends 75% to the State of Illinois. The State adds 25% and the State will send the reimbursement. Mike says it could take a year.

### HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Steve Hedrick continues to make progress at the Park. It was also suggested that Wapella Says Yes or the Village purchase a food truck to do concessions at the park due to the excessive upgraded that need to be done to the current concession stand.

WATER: Carl Spath (with Jane Buraglio)

Meter work that started in June stopped after the tornado. We had six holes open and ready to go. We have not been able to get back to them until this month. Steve Schaefer came back and cleaned out the holes he had made for us back in June. Three new meters have been installed. We were left with all the difficult installations. Most services that need a new meter do not have a meter pit, or a curb stop available to shut off the water for non-payment, or emergencies. The men found buried and broken curb stops. One had been hit by a snowplow, bent, and buried. The curb stops in Valerie Lane were found by Steve Schaefer in the front yards while hydro-vacing. They appear to have been buried by the homeowners over the years. Jane provided some pictures so everyone could get an idea of what the men are doing. Everything you see in the hole, including the pit itself had to be assembled and installed in the sloppy mess you see. Valerie Lane seems to have been built on a swamp! Water just kept seeping in. Each new pit, meter installation and curb stop repair takes about a day.

Brandon called Jane on Dec. 10th, Sunday morning about 6:40 am to tell her there was a main break on Ron Mill's corner. All three men came in that morning. Jane was at the shop with Brandon when he contacted Julie for an emergency locate. While waiting on Julie, the men set barricades and tried to isolate the water. That turned out to be a tough all-day job. Clyde came with his witching wires and so did Steve Westerfield with a metal detector to try to find the isolation valves. They found two buried under two inches of pavement that had to be cut out – one was on the corner by Rick Holland's old building. They worked until dark trying to find all the isolation valves that controlled the main break water flow. Our operator agreed it was too late to start excavating at the site. The water continued to run all night.

Monday morning after the water was shut off to the area, the dig began. The actual problem was located that afternoon. It was in an area where several pipes came together. A prior repair had been done in the same area possibly in the early 90s. The band clamp was not installed correctly and there was a crack in one of the pipes. The best they could do at the end of the day was install another band clamp and shove it next to the other clamp after trimming exposed rubber to slow the water flow. Customers had their water restored. Carl and Jane passed out Boil Order notices to the 36 customers affected. Steve wanted them personally notified.

We needed to have more experience for the repair, so Jane told Paul to call Nate Joss of GA Rich. They were willing to come that night, but our men had already put in a long day doing the preliminary work of finding the actual break and opening three holes. Jane had given everyone pictures to see what the main break area looked like. She couldn't thank MR Systems, Steve Schaefer and Ron Fugate enough for being at the site with GA Rich and our men. Steve opened more of the area to make the work area accessible. It was a team effort. The Village had most of the parts in-house that could be used. The only material we bought was some fitting from Water Products, concrete blocks from RP Lumber and tons of sand from Carri Scharf.

The boil order was lifted on Friday afternoon, Dec 15th and those notices were distributed to the affected households that afternoon.

The meters have been read for December.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Issued one permit to the Fire Department for a sign.

FINANCE: Jane/Pat

Account Balances as of November 30, 2023

General Fund Checking	\$108,276.66
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,452.87
Water Fund Checking	\$ 27,453.22
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 98,299.86
Water Project Fund	\$109,101.15
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 8,271.24
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 34,350.93
Total:	\$459,850.65

Insurance Reimbursed \$916.74 for the Street Sign Replacements.

Metal Roll Off from Town Clean Up - \$656.80

ARPA Funds: Jamie Wilkey finally had a breakthrough with the US Treasury portal. Liz works for Crowe, a very large public accounting firm. The IL Department of Commerce contracted with Crowe to monitor all the US Treasury's filings. Liz said she was trying to get copies of our filings from the US Treasury site. Jane explained we could not submit reports because we couldn't access the portal reports area. She put Jamie in touch with Liz and they were finally able to figure out that access had to do with which email address was used to set up a password. Dennis held that key information all this time.

### **TAX LEVY FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

Everyone was given a copy of reports from 2022 and 2023 showing the proposed Tax Levy compared to what we levied last year. A 5% increase would be \$60,165. This levy request is just under 5%. Given the increase in our EAV, our village tax rate should stay level. Each line item is

higher than last year except for the Street Lighting. Jane plans to talk to the board next month about the annual Franchise Fee of \$6951 that we get from Ameren specifically to help pay for Street Lighting. Right now, it is going into the Water Project Fund, and she would like to see it directed to the General Fund for the purpose it was intended to be used.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to Report

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

All updated. No issues

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Dan Taylor – There was a portable shed moved onto his property and he wants the shed moved. He brought a copy of Plat to show property lines. He has already spent lots of his own money to get this far. Shed has been there for two years now and is not a permitted shed. This is a private land dispute between property owners. Jane commented that there was a permit issued for the shed and it was paid for. Dennis stated that the village would send a letter to see what can be done.

Dale Karr – Commented about the loose gravel from the blacktop and asked permission to clean it up himself and where to put it. Also mentioned the sidewalk that has been pulled up and not fixed yet. Jane stated she will talk to Roger Sprague.

Brandon Karr – Mentioned that sign at the park is starting to fall apart. Sean stated he is aware of it. Jane to look in to getting repaired.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 1) Discussion and possible approval of an Ordinance Levying a Tax on the Property Subject to Taxation within the Village of Wapella, DeWitt County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the Ordinance Levying a Tax on the Property Subject to Taxation within the Village of Wapella, DeWitt County, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year Ending

June 30, 2024. Second by John Goergen. 4 vote yes, 1 vote no. Majority vote approved. Motion approved. 2023-12-20

Motion to Enter Closed Session

Motion made by Carl Spath @7:47pm. Seconded by Sean Holland. All voting yes.

Entered back into Open Session @ 8:00pm

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Dennis Klatt

Mark Miller

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Sean Holland

Carl Spath

Steve Marht – Attorney

Robin Morrow – Clerk

**Absent:**

Jake Simmons

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to give Rex Haycraft a raise to \$18.50/hour with a review and possible increase again in May 2024. Seconded by John Goergen. All voting yes.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Miller. Second by Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk