

**Village of Wapella Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 21, 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  
Carl Spath  
Steve Mahrt – Attorney

**Absent:**

Robin Morrow, Clerk  
Jake Simons

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from January 17th meeting. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

**Bills:**

Jane pointed out the following with bills:

- American Legal Publishing – The ordinances online are up to date with Supplement 2
- Getz Fire Equipment – Over all we have 19 fire extinguishers.
- GoDaddy – Our .org domain renewed.
- Hale Mechanical – We had to repair the west furnace in the gym.
- Harbor Freight – This is a much bigger torch to help Steve thaw the discharge line.
- Lazer's Edge – I was told that the printer for water bills will last about another year due to the age of the drum. We need to think about that for the next budget. He advised Brother, not HP.
- My Asset Tag – The fire department uses these to ID their equipment. We have begun an inventory list with these tags. They are durable, numbered and have our name on them.

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: Jane Buraglio**

**CDL License Program:**

For several months we have been researching and trying to navigate the new State rules about CDLs. Gone are the days of general studying, taking a test, going to Rantoul for the driving

test and walking away with a CDL license. The State now requires candidates to attend a school. Colleges set their own class schedules. Candidates can't just show up at a facility anymore. Federal law requires students pass with at least an 80% before they can move on to State testing.

We would require a Class B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement. Class B classes would cost \$2590.00 due at the time of enrollment. The students would meet in person with their required identification papers and pay for the course at that time. We must also consider the payroll cost because we would not send our employees to classes off the clock. There may be a mileage reimbursement if they take their own vehicle. Jane is not sure we can afford to have the white truck gone all day during schooling.

All three employees have expressed interest in the CDL schooling. We can send all or two or one. Jane presented everyone with all the literature. Jane will put this on the agenda for next month. She did not budget for this expense. She would probably split the cost with the Water Department since this truck is used to repair main breaks. Between class fees, wages, and mileage she expects the cost to be between \$9000-\$12,200.

Another option Jane could put on the table is we could buy a new truck, which would be smaller, that does not require a CDL. We are paying for a tractor now and would have to budget and shop for a new truck.

#### AgVantage Seeds Payment:

We were able to sell 9 red dump truck loads of broken concrete from the debris pile at the shed. It was hauled to Richard Greene's lot where a damaged tree was removed. We collected \$300.

#### Rabies Clinic:

As far as Jane knows right now the Rabies Clinic is scheduled to be at the shed on April 13th.

#### Town Clean Up:

Jane would like to set the Town Clean Up for June 15 to June 22. Wapella Says YES could schedule the Community Sales for June 14 & 15. Having Clean Up the following week helps people clean up their properties and clean out their houses.

#### Court Decision:

The Judge fined a resident \$300 and granted the Village the right to enter the property to abate the problem – the overgrown brush, weeds, and grass.

#### Alley Repairs:

Wapella Township had a spreader they were not using. They do not have a truck it would fit, and Paul was asked if we could use it on the village truck. The spreader has a control lever in the back, and it can deposit rock from both sides. The spreader fits our truck. There were a few modifications made and a new hydraulic hose installed. Alley work began about a week ago and they can concentrate on the potholes. Rodger Sprague came up today to check out the

work. He ordered us two loads of CM-11. They will be able to run cold patch along the road edges this spring and summer in preparation for the 2024 MFT program.

#### Community Center Tables:

All the tables in the community center were taken to the shop and repaired. So many were missing screws or braces. Some were totally unusable. The next planned repair when time allows is to install swivel castors on the chair racks. We also hope to acquire a locking cabinet this week for Natalie to store her supplies somewhere instead of the utility sink and closet in the conference room where the water softener will be installed.

#### IRWA (Illinois Rural Water Association)

When the GA Rich rep came to take pictures of the hydrant needing replaced, we talked again about the low hydrant pressure on Division Street. He asked Jane if we were members of IRWA, which we are. He told her to contact one of the Circuit Riders and see if they could bring their correlator and leak detector. IRWA services are free. Addison had just watched one of these demonstrated and said it could find a leak within 10 feet.

Jane sent an email and got a phone call back within an hour from Chuck Woodworth. He told her he could find a leak or determine there was no leak anywhere we asked him to look. She set up a time and he came to the shop on Monday, Feb 12th. She wished everyone could have seen the equipment and how it worked. After placing magnets on certain valves and entering information into the computer, Chuck can see the water in the mains and see if water is escaping anywhere due to a break.

Chuck checked everything from Autumn Road to Clyde Leggett's corner. There are no leaks on Division Street or anywhere in the stretch. After discussing all information, she could give him, he believes there is an obstruction of some kind inside the water main at the corner of N Poplar and N Second there by the community center lot. Steve Westerfield told Jane he has seen boards left inside a water main after construction. It will take some exploring at that corner to get things opened to see what is there. We plan to have that corner Julie'd to see what other services are at that corner.

One service IRWA provides is a free Water Rate Study. We have all the documents they need.

- Financial statements for the most current fiscal year (audit report preferred)
- Amount of water produced and/or purchased during the most current fiscal year.
- Amount of water sold during the most current fiscal year.
- Current rate structure
- Number of customers in each rate class
- Amount of debt (if any)

They will provide:

- Breakdown of expenses
- The cost to produce the water (if applicable)
- Amount of nonrevenue water
- Amount of lost revenue from water loss

- Annual gain or shortfall in revenue
- Different rate scenarios

Jane asked if we would be interested in doing this?

**HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland**

Nothing to report.

**WATER: Carl Spath**

Nothing to report.

**ZONING: Mark Miller**

In the process of issuing 4 permits for portable sheds.

**FINANCE: Jane/Pat**

Overall Account Balances as of January 31, 2024

General Fund Checking	\$104,104.04
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,476.08
Water Fund Checking	\$ 16,291.80
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 81,116.31
Water Project Fund	\$114,867.85
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 8,615.38
Short Lived Asset Account	<u>\$ 38,929.54</u>

**Total: \$438,045.72**

**ARPA Funds:**

When Neal Kuester was here last month, he told us the General Fund owes the Water Fund \$71,036.18 due to the fact the ARPA money was deposited into General Fund and the expenses incurred are paid out of the Water Fund. Jane would like to transfer that ARPA money from the General Fund to the Water Fund. She has been considering how this could be done without depleting the General Fund.

Currently all the money collected from Ameren – Utility Taxes and Franchise Fees – are being deposited into the Water Project Fund. This has been done since 2018 when the Village agreed to a loan from the USDA for the water main on North Locust. We might have to correct Section 34.02 in our Code directing where the Utility Tax is to be deposited. Jane can't find anything in the Code directing the payment of Franchise Fees. She believes Franchise Fees belong in the General Fund and the Utility Taxes belong in the Water Project Fund.

Jane would like us to look at the Franchise Fees collected from Ameren. She remembers when the Electric Franchise Fee Ordinance 2007-3-20 was signed. The Village Board agreed to collect \$6951 each March from Ameren for the next 20 years. The intended use of this Fee as she remembers was to help pay for the Street Lighting. The General Fund has not had that money available for Street Lighting as far as she can tell since 2018. This amounts to \$48,657. We could transfer this amount from the Water Project Fund to the General Fund and then make another transfer from the General Fund to the Water Fund as a beginning of the repayment. The auditor could easily track the ARPA Funds to the Water Fund.

The Village signed a Gas Franchise Fee Ordinance in 2013. The Board then agreed to collect \$1400 each July for 20 years. Jane believes this Franchise Fee was intended for the General Fund. It has also been diverted to the Water Project Fund since 2018. This amounts to \$9800. Jane sees no problem making this transfer in the same manner. She does not think it will interfere with the scheduled loan payments that automatically come out of the Water Project Fund. The Water Project Fund will continue to collect Utility Taxes each month. It also has the Surcharge collected on Water Bills from customers deposited into the account monthly.

If the Board agrees and with the Board's permission, Jane would like to ask Steve to research this proposal before the next meeting and bring any new ordinance or resolution that could help us make these transfers. Jane will provide all information and numbers to Steve.

**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:**

Dale Karr – sidewalk is still not fixed, and it's been five months. Also, commented about the physical for CDL.

Mark Miller – changed two water filters in their house. Brought samples to show board of rust in laundry and filters. Filters are changed every month. He wants the water fixed. Mark finds it hard to believe that there is nothing that can be done. Jane stated that Steve told her that the rust is .17 and steps need to be taken by the residents to eliminate the rust. Filters are one step, and a water softener is another. Mark stated he is not purchasing a water softener and should not have to. He also mentioned how he must flush his own water with a garden hose every time they flush the hydrants. Carl asked if there is something that IRWA can do to help.

## **NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:**

- 1) Discussion and possible approval of proposal from GA Rich & Sons to remove (1) fire hydrant and replace it with a new gate valve and fire hydrant near the corner of S. Fourth and S. Locust Streets.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to accept proposal from GA Rich & Sons for \$6,385 to include the vac truck to remove fire hydrant and replace with a new gate valve and fire hydrant near the corner of S. Fourth and S. Locust. Second made by Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

- 2) Discussion and possible approval of landscaping plans for the spring, not exceeding \$3500, as presented by Steve Evans.

Steve Evans reviewed and explained the proposal for the landscaping plan for the park to the board.

Motion made by John Goergen to approve the landscaping plan for the park for the spring, not to exceed \$3500. Second made by Carl Spath. All voting yes. Motion approved.

- 3) Discussion and possible vote of fees for rental of community center and the baseball diamond. How much? How to assess the fees for the diamond – annual, per game?

Natalie Barr mentioned that she currently has 15 teams wanting to use the ballfield and teams coming from other communities wanting to use our facilities because they know it is free. She feels we need to establish some fees and start charging for services for having to unlock, open, use of electricity and lights, clean-up, etc. In addition, feels that the community center needs some improvements. Currently, the rental of the community center is \$75 per room. She explained that the cheerleaders use the gym from October to February and proposes that we charge a one-time fee for that time frame for that season for the diamond and/or the gym. The board continued to discuss how to charge and if there should be a fee for the season and/or an hourly rate, as well as the scheduling of the use for these teams. All agree that there are so many variables that need to be considered for setting up fees and scheduling. Tabled discussion of the fees and scheduling for the ball diamond.

Motion made by Carl Spath to charge \$20/per hour per sports/athletic team(s) for the use of the gym at the community center. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

4) Discussion and possible vote for easement agreement on Walnut Circle.

Mark Miller passed out site plans and explained the proposal from Duffy Haremaker. Dale Karr expressed concern with noise level at that end of town.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to pursue the easement agreement on Walnut Circle. She then withdrew the motion pending legal description, terms, and conditions, etc. Mark to tell Duffy to prepare something for review. If he does not, then Steve Marht stated that the board could put something together and get to him for review. A legal description is needed. Board members express interest in meeting Duffy and seeing the operation. Mark will set up a time to meet.

5) Discussion and possible vote for private water well on Walnut Circle.

Mark Miller told Duffy Haremaker that there is not any ordinance that allows private wells. Jane mentioned that Steve Westerfield is checking on the issues and concerns with allowing a private well. No motion. No vote.

6) Department Chair assignment.

Dennis Klatt stated that he would like to appoint John Goergen to the Drainage Department and would like John to also start working with Jane Buraglio for the remainder of the term.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk