

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

^{JULY 16}
Wednesday, ~~June 18th~~, 2025

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village President, Dennis Boyce.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mark Miller
Sara Goergen
Jane Buraglio
John Goergen
Dennis Boyce
Sean Holland
Steve Mahrt – Attorney
Robin Morrow, Clerk

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve minutes from June 18th, 2025, Village Board Meeting. Second made by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Bills:

Jane reviewed the following with the board:

German- Bliss: We had our Kubota Mower in the shop since before the last meeting. The technician worked through trial and error on some of the parts and consulted with Kubota to finally discover the sensor that needed replacement. German- Bliss determined this work was warrantied and they turned in a claim to Kubota.

TKS Concrete: You are going to notice an estimated bill for TKS. Rodger Sprague will explain to the board the need to do this.

Postage: Since the stamp prices were increased this past Sunday, Jane purchased a supply of stamps.

Wapella Service Center: The white truck developed a power steering fluid leak last month. The men were in the middle of reading meters and didn't need the truck. They were using the Gator. We had the local repair shop do the work and meter reading continue. We will use them again when needed. Jane commented on a few of the bills such as German Bliss, the Kabota, and TKS.

The board discussed some of the bills that were presented. Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. The second was made by Dennis Boyce. All voting yet. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: Jane Buraglio

Alley Repairs: Brad Karr sent an email to the village wanting the holes fixed in his alley. We are aware and are not ignoring his email. Alley repairs started in June, and we do have several alleys to address. Jane believes the priority right now for the past two weeks is to change out as many old meters as possible. We will soon turn our attention to preparing the streets for oil and chipping and doing some more alley repairs.

Truck Route: Jane received an email from JJ Keller, a permitting service for oversized and overweight vehicles, hauling loads such as construction equipment. She inquired if the Village issued permits to travel on our roads. Jane explained that the Village relies on IDOT to issue permits and we do get copies of those permits. The Village has an established Truck Route that is recognized and approved by IDOT since 1984. Jane sent her a copy of our Heavy Vehicles Ordinance and a copy of the Truck Route map. Jane does immediately contact IDOT when she sees they are routing trucks carrying heavy loads down the wrong streets, which has happened quite often.

Entrance to Main Street from US 51: We all know the west end of Main Street has been a sore subject for at least two years. We can all see clearly the IDOT portion of the Street. It apparently has become a no-man's land.

Jane has talked to Mark Mathon about getting that area repaired mainly because the DeWitt County Highway Department maintains the Truck Route which runs into the Village on the east from Parnell Road and continues to US 51. At the time Mark told her he would have his crew patch the holes. She thinks they threw some patch in the holes, but that is not a true repair.

Jane talked to Joe Herbert who works for the IDOT facility on US 54 and he led her to believe his crew would take care of the repairs. She has talked to Brian Trigg who worked for IDOT. He helped her navigate the 11 years MFT audit. Brian has retired, but she does have the name of his replacement. She will reach out to her. One thing she does know is that it is not the responsibility of the Village of Wapella to spend money on making repairs on a portion of a Street that is not in our jurisdiction. It is in an IDOT right of way.

Jane met with Dana Smith, who was representing Sally Turner, here at the hall on July 8th for Sally's Traveling Office Hours. Megan Wooters was here as well. Since they were here to listen to questions, she has brought up our problem about getting Main Street repaired. Jane stated she is open to any suggestions they can offer. Megan told me this is not unusual. They have had the same issue in Findley. They will do some research and get back to her.

Ordinance Violations: Jane has been compiling a list of ordinance violations, which includes weeds and refuse. She is most interested in repeat violations. We have discussed the multiple unlicensed vehicles located at 9531 Thorps Road. She took a picture of the vehicles three deep in the driveway. She doesn't know what is inside the fence. Two of the vehicles are displaying the same license plate. She wants to know if we can send a strong letter to the owner and assume all the hidden vehicles are unlicensed. Can we demand the owner of the vehicles provide proof of proper licensing, or to promptly have them removed? Steve stated that the village could issue any kind of letter and an administrative search warrant, but if it went to court we would have to prove they were not licensed. Jane will send Steve the information to send out another letter.

Park Work: The men spent about 24 hours total working in the park the week before last. They did extra spraying for weeds and bugs. They worked around posts, benches, etc. We have two events coming up in August that we want to be ready for.

Meter Replacement: Last week and this week the men have been focused on changing out old meters. So far, they have changed out 410 S Second, 121 S Fourth, 103 Valerie Lane, 506 S Third, 303 Main Street and 110 S Oak. We have reordered more yokes and risers from Water Products. Hopefully they

will be delivered this week since we are out of these parts. Meter reading will be this Friday and Monday, and we are hoping all these new meters will lessen having to go back to these pits.

Dennis mentioned to Jane about going to the IDOT website and marking the location of the holes that need filled and they will come out and fix them. Jane is going to look into that.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Sean was contacted about a possible bid to have the shed at the park sided. He will reach out to get that bid.

He also wanted to know if we could provide a check to Brendon Hoskins for the netting and items purchased out of pocket for the park. Jane stated that we would need an invoice in order to do that.

Steve is in the audience. He brought up a point about almost getting clipped by a kid on a motorized scooter in the park. Jane said that we need to stop them when we see it and that there are signs posted.

WATER: John Goergen

John mentioned a water leak that was repaired. Repaired by GA Rich on Elm Street. There was a boil order for 19 residents and that was lifted.

Jane added that this turned out to be nothing more than a fine spray of water when the leak was uncovered. To clarify, we did not hire additional companies to locate what Clyde Leggett helped locate. We marked some lines from his location. The City of Clinton came and located additional lines. Kelly Kinder came and located other service lines on private property that were connected to the main. This was all volunteer. Also, for the record, a property owner across the street complained that this tiny leak caused his septic system to fail and his septic tank to collapse. The contractor that opened the hole disputed that claim. That same neighbor to the men from GA Rich that this tiny leak caused his garage floor to blow up and he had to jack hammer it out. The GA Rich crew told me there was no way that leaking water made it further than the corner of the alley. We used the same excavated dry dirt to cover the repair.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Mark issued one permit for a fence of rear yard and there was an issue with the property lines but neighbors resolved the issued and came to an agreement.

Mark will be sending letters to two residents that are completing decks without permits.

Mark also mentioned that there was an issue on the 600 block of N. Chestnut. Chicken/Poultry letter have been sent to 2 different residents but no reply. There are two free range chickens in that area and not sure who they belong to.

FINANCE (Jane Buraglio / Pat Good)

Overall Account Balances as of June 30, 2025

General Fund Checking	\$106,645.95
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 59,067.58
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 19,420.78
Water Fund Checking	\$ 22,372.44
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 91,587.22
Water Project Fund	\$ 62,683.42

Restricted Debt Service	\$ 11,540.80
<u>Short Lived Asset Account</u>	<u>\$ 77,850.74</u>

Total: **\$451,168.93**

Jane has heard and read comments made that the Village has over \$400,000 and we can afford to fix the sidewalks and fix Main Street. Jane believes what is not understood is that each one of these accounts is subject to specific uses and under the guidelines of a budget.

Appropriation Ordinance: We are now in a new fiscal year which began on July 1st. We do not have a budget in place. The Appropriation Ordinance is due in the County Clerk's office by September 30th. We will schedule a separate board meeting where we will have a budget workshop. That meeting is usually early September prior to the regular board meeting. We can talk about this more at the next meeting.

Terminex: Jane took a phone call from Nicole Brown an account representative with Terminex. She said the Village had quite a few outstanding invoices. Jane told her the last invoice we received was paid in September 2024. We have not seen a technician since 2024 and have received no invoices. The last time we saw a technician was when he asked Paul for keys to all the buildings. Jane told Paul to tell the technician we do not pass out keys. According to Nicole, the technician says he has been spraying around outside of the buildings. She told Nicole we hired Terminex to treat the inside of the buildings. Jane told Nicole that we did not intend to pay invoices we have not received. She said she would have the manager call me. She has not heard a word.

Owing to a Municipality: Jane passed out the State Statue 65 ILCS 5/3. 1-10-50 as a reminder that any one of us risks our positions on the board if we owe a debt to the Village which remains unpaid after 30 days. This includes water bills and rock bills. Let's all keep that in mind.

Ball Field Lights: Jane is still working with Greg Ward on the Grant from Ameren for the LED Ball Field lights. The next step is to meet with an electrician to help her complete the specs on the application.

USDA Civil Rights Compliance: Jane is securing a quote on the Village Hall bathroom remodel. She still has to complete the reports for Julie.

DRAINAGE: John Goergen

John mentioned that there is some problem that he should have brought up last month between Irish Circle and Frank Karr's property. He is not exactly sure what it is but will get with Paul and try and get it resolved. Jane and Mark mentioned that it may have already been repaired.

Jane also mentioned that there are some suck holes that need to be repaired. She also mentioned 2 proposals out there for drainage work in town. She will fill John in.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Reminded everyone about the trainings/certificates that are still needed or there could be fines.

Robin did receive a message about a permit for solicitation for solar. She made three attempts to reach out and meet the person and he never showed. He has never reached back out to me.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

Supplement 3 to Wapella Code: All the 2024 ordinances have been submitted to American Legal Publishing. Amy Oaks and the staff reviewed the ordinances and are ready to incorporate them into the Code. Jane received their Notes on the Draft. Erin Monforti, from Steve's office, helps her review their questions. One thing in particular, Amy noted was that our general penalty for Chapter 71 dates to the 1975 Code and is significantly lower than the new penalty for Ord. 2024-9-18-A (Parking Violations on Walnut Circle). She suggests that we take the time to review all our penalties and make them more uniform.

ESDA Coordinator: We also need to review the portion of our Code that states the President is also the ESDA Coordinator. These positions must be separated. Mark, Dennis and Jane will all be attending the exercise at the County EOC on Tuesday, the 22nd. Ideally there needs to be someone (the ESDA Coordinator) at the village. We might consider at some time revising this Code to allow the mayor to appoint someone as ESDA Coordinator.

FOIA Compliance Ordinance: The Ordinance most of us approved last month has been posted on the website. Jane wanted to remind the board that according to our Code, the Clerk, the Collector, the Treasurer and the FOIA Officer all fall under the direction of the Finance Officer. There clearly is no such thing as a secret FOIA request. If there are any FOIA requests, they will be shared with all board officials. Our FOIA officer does a very good job reporting FOIAs to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Dale Karr discussed the sidewalk repairs again in the same area for three years. He continues to get no response to any of his previous complaints.

Rex Raycraft mentioned that the Mayor did stop at the shop and greatly appreciated that visit.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 1) Discussion and possible approval to accept the resignation of Dennis Boyce as Trustee.

Dennis decided to resign as Trustee. Motion made by John Goergen to accept the resignation of Dennis Boyce as Trustee. Second made by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved.

2) Oath of Office of Dennis Boyce as Village President.

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk, swore in Dennis Boyce for the office of Village President.

3) Rodger Sprague – Close out 2024 MFT Close Out Resolution and 2025 MFT Program.

Rodger presented the board with close-out paperwork for the 2024 MFT that needs to be signed by Village President. He reviewed the document with the board. They must close out 2024 before they can work on 2025. Rodger stated that the board didn't need to vote on anything and that the document just needed to be signed. The check will need to be issued but will be held until work is completed.

There was additional conversation about the length of time that this work has not been done. Everyone agreed that the time it is taking to get these repairs done is not acceptable and it just needs to be fixed.

4) Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2024 DeWitt County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Resolution for Mitigation Plan: Jane provided a Fact Sheet from Ken Runkle explaining the importance of adopting this Resolution. She has completed all the forms to include the Village of Wapella in the 2024 DeWitt County Multi- Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This is our final step. It makes us eligible to apply for the funding she described in our plan for the stand-alone generators at the community center and the village shed among other projects.

Jane made motion to approve the Resolution Adopting the 2024 DeWitt County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan. Second made by John Goergen. All voting yes.
2025-07-16

John also commented and thanked Jane for all the hard work she had put into getting this done.

5) Discussion and possible approval of GA Rich annual cleaning out of the Backwash and Aeration Tanks.

Bask Wash and Aeration Tanks: GA Rich cleaned out our back wash tank last year (\$4525) and the aeration tank (\$5300). Our Operator told us last year that this needs to be done every year. We discussed this with GA Rich and by scheduling this each year with them, they would keep the costs down by doing this work on a time and material basis. Matt confirmed this, telling me the T&M would be close to last year's cost. GA Rich has

the confined space equipment for entering the aeration tank, and the vac equipment for the backwash tank.

John also commented that he would like to be made aware of things that are going on in his department. He also asked if we can approve this without a bill and Jane explained that we need to approve in order for them to schedule the work. Mark asked if we should put a maximum amount in the approval. Jane explained it is just time and material. John stated that he felt it was fine.

Motion made by John Goergen to approve GA Rich to do the annual cleaning of the Backwash and Aeration Tanks. Second made by Jane. All voting yes. Motion approved.

6) Discussion and possible approval of request to run a water line for a hose bib installation at village shed.

Water Line Installation: Jane is bringing this back to the board because she does not believe she explained the purpose adequately. Dennis asked here about the water line. Yes, she believes our men can do this work. However, purchasing all the supplies takes time. It would mean pulling away from other jobs and dedicating time to installing the water line. She knows our men wear many hats, but there are some jobs that are more economical when you hire professionals. The purpose of this water line and connection is to save time while cleaning the wet debris from main breaks out of the trucks and for cleaning mowing and other equipment. Jane would like the board to reconsider approving this job.

Motion made by Mark Miller to approve the estimate to run a water line for a hose bib installation at village shed by Greg Hale for maximum of \$1200. Second by Jane Buraglio. Mark, Jane, Sara, Sean voting yes. John voting no. Motion approved.

Motion made by John Goergen to move to Closed Session. Second made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Moved to Closed Session at 8:11pm.

RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION: 8:46 PM

Roll Call

Dennis Boyce
Mark Miller
Sara Goergen
Jane Buraglio
John Goergen
Sean Holland
Steve Mahrt – Attorney
Robin Morrow, Clerk

1) Discussion and possible approval of Easement granted to Kris Hedrick.

Jane Buraglio made motion for the board to go ahead and grant that Easement to Kris Hedrick. John Goergen seconded. Mark, Jane, John, Sean voting yes. Sara voting no. Motion approved.

2) Discussion and possible approval to proceed with pending litigation.

Jane asked if there needed to be a motion about the litigation. Steve replied no, it was just informational.

3) Discussion and possible approval of compensation of certain employee(s).

Jane mentioned that Rick Lord has finished his probationary period she would like to see him get paid \$20/hr and make his pay retro to July 5, 2025. Seconded by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Jane then made a motion that Rex Haycraft be paid retro his full-time salary difference back to January 20, 2025, when he was hired as a full-time employee. Seconded by Mark Miller. Mark stated that he just wanted it to be known that if you make a motion or second that motion, it does not necessarily mean you have to approve of it. He felt he was getting some bad looks and just second it to get it on the table. Sara, Jane, Sean, Mark voting yes. John voting no. Motion approved.

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

Meeting adjourned – 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk