

Village of Wapella Board Meeting
7:00 PM Wednesday, July 19th, 2023
Village Hall

Meeting called to order by Village President, Dennis Klatt.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the minutes from June 21st meeting with correction of spelling of Jake's last name. Second by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the minutes of the Special meeting on July 10th with correction of Jake's last name. Second by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion Approved.

Bills:

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board except for the Trimble bill that just came in to be added for \$200. Second made by Jake Simons. All voting yes, including Dennis's vote. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS: Jane Buraglio

Storm Damages

Three pieces of our equipment suffered damage. The International Dump Truck had a rear sidewall tire puncture. We had it replaced during the storm clean up and it was back on the road. The John Deere Tractor had a head light punched out and the grill was bent. The Quick Detach Loader frame appears to be sprung or bent. There are also some scars on the front metal framing. The backhoe had a major thumb detachment six hours into the cleanup.

There was a serious bend in the mounting plate to the backhoe and the weld broke.

The flagpole in the park was bent. All our flags blew down and we had some returned. Jane is not sure yet if the pole needs to be replaced. Our flags on Main Street took a beating and we lost a few.

We lost numerous signs and posts. She has been collecting pictures.

When Jane receives the bill for the debris removal from the shop lot, she will go ahead and file claims with CCSMI. She expected the claim would not be covered, but after speaking to CCSMI yesterday, there is a good possibility some of the damage suffered in storm debris and further tree removal may be covered. There is a limit.

Once she gets all the prices for all the repairs and replacements, she can turn in a claim. We have a 60-day window after the storm. She was told by our insurance claims that if any resident believes the village has contributed to any of their damage, we should have the information put on a claim form and submit it to them for determination.

Burning Debris

The Village does have a Burning Ordinance in effect. According to that ordinance, residents are allowed to burn leaves & landscape waste accumulated from their properties on their own property in a receptacle not less than 20 feet from any structure **(94.04)**. Burning directly on Village rights-of-way is prohibited and subject to fines. This includes the street pavement, alleyways and the areas between the street pavement and sidewalks **(94.05)**.

MFT Program

Paul heard from Rodger Sprague today to see if we are ready to start stockpiling materials for the streets.

Structure Damages

Anyone who had structural damage to their houses or buildings should notify the Wapella Township Assessor, Koni Lovett (217-935-4208), and report that damage. She will do an evaluation to see if an assessment adjustment should be made for 2023. Jane knows she will be making a tour of the town, but not all the damage is readily visible, or it may have already been repaired. Even repaired damage should be reported and it would be helpful to have pictures of the damage.

Mark asked a question about a culvert that a permit was issued to a resident a year ago. He was asked by the homeowner when it will get done. Jane responded that it would be Roger Sprague to do that and has communicated that to the Sloan's.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Contract received and approved for playground mulching. August 14th weather pending.

Steve is doing a wonderful job in the park and looks great!

Also wanted to mention the trees in the park which are being addressed and will be getting cleaned up.

Had some issues with the restrooms at the park. Suggest that we may need to consider locking at certain times and not leaving open all the time.

Food Bank/Food Mobile representative contacted Sean to let everyone know they would be in the park the 3rd Saturday of every month for anyone needing assistance. Curious to what the turnout was. Sean to confirm dates and times and will add a note to monthly water bills.

WATER: Carl Spath

Pump House

Jane did a courtesy text to Steve Westerfield on Friday morning after the storm at 7:45 am and asked if the pump house was okay. He replied "Yes. Clyde got the generator to work late last night. Nobody checked it or notified me that the power was out in town." Steve made it a point to go in and check on everything that morning. He said Well No 3 tripped out during the storm and was having some trouble with it. He called Kickapoo Drilling Co for a service call. Our lesson from this disaster is when something major like this happens again, one of the first calls should be to our Water Operator.

Cross Connection and Service Material Surveys

The Cross Connection and Service Material Surveys went in the mail on Monday. Jane encouraged everyone to get the survey completed and returned. Steve is under an EPA required deadline of July 31st. This time he provided pictures, which I found very helpful.

Pump House Generator

It came to Jane's attention last week when she was listing our equipment for the EMA report that our generator and the building it sits in were not listed on our insurance policy. She found the 2011 invoices in the files at the shop and over \$26,000 was spent on the project. She sent in an addition to Risk Management, and they have added \$33,000 to cover the building and all the contents.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Nothing to report.

FINANCE: Jane/Pat

Account Balances as of June 30, 2023

General Fund Checking	\$119,182.81
Park CD (Heartland)	\$ 41,604.64
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,452.87
Water Fund Checking	\$ 46,946.66
Motor Fuel Checking	\$120,492.27
<u>Water Project Fund</u>	<u>\$133,582.06</u>
Total:	\$535,906.03

The Park CD at Heartland Bank was cashed in and deposited into the General Fund in anticipation of the playground work to be done by Bellas Landscaping. The penalty was \$18. Jane also wanted to remind everyone that Wapella Township donated \$3200 toward the park as a Thank You for allowing them to use the Community Center while their new building was being constructed.

We have been accumulating a Surcharge from water customers. We moved \$14,000 from the Water Fund to the Water Project Fund and will continue those transfers monthly.

We are expecting our first distribution of property taxes from the County Collector very soon. They are working on direct deposit this year.

Sometime before the August meeting Jane would like to meet individually with each department head and go over the 2023/2024 Budget for their department. She would like to present a new Budget to the board at the next meeting.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Just wanted to share a note from a resident thanking everyone that comes together to make this town a better place.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to Report

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

The Village Code is up to date with everything passed since April 19, 2023. Check it out. You can search and print individual sections of the Code. It's very useful.

3-minute recess

Public Comments (Village Organizations)

Ed Fleck wanted to bring to the board's attention golf carts after dark and no lights. And questions that the drivers of these golf carts are of legal driving age. Robin also added that she has witnessed under aged drivers in town with golf carts.

Robin was approached by a neighbor about signs on the street about Children at play and if a sign could be moved closer to the entrance of the street and an additional sign for a deaf child can be added on Thomas court. Jane will check about a sign.

Dale wanted to thank the guys that came in to help clean up all the brush after the storm. Great job!

New Business for discussion, approval, and possible vote

1. Wapella Fireman to address Village Board

Nelson Thorp appreciates the cooperation between the Village and Fire Dept. Wanted to thank the Village for allowing use of water for the camp even though the storm came in. He was concerned with the social media comments about the Village and/or Fire Dept didn't do enough when the storm happened but felt everything was done by the book. He was very appreciative of all the people who stepped up and helped. Issue with generators needs to be checked regularly. Community Center is the best place for people in situations like this. Should consider a generator at the community center. Jane asked what one might cost, and Nelson stated it would take approximately 10 months to get one.

Also stated that need to watch debris pile creating a fire hazard at shed. Jane stated it was getting cleared out that week.

He also mentioned a grant to get a sign. He recommended an LED sign for future situations to assist in communicating with residents when disasters like this happen. They would then be notified of where to go for help and shelter when needed.

Conversation continued regarding the sirens and that Constellation was no longer going to maintain them after 2024 and may need to consider what needs to be done for Wapella to keep theirs.

Constellation Sirens

As we all know, the siren on June 29th alerted most of our residents to take cover. There have been discussions on the County Board level to discontinue maintaining the sirens and go to an automated phone or media type alert. That's not going to happen for quite a while, but in preparation Jane asked Micah in EMA if it were possible for Wapella to keep the siren. He said yes. Constellation is going to contact her so we can get the process started. Several places in DeWitt County currently have their own sirens and I believe Wapella should have one also.

2. Appointment and Swearing In of 3 new Village Zoning Board Members
 - a. Sara Goergen
 - b. Vicki Holland
 - c. Lisa Merida

Dennis introduced the three new Zoning Board Members. Jake Simons made a motion to appoint the three new members. Joh Goergen second. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Dennis swore each of the new members in. Ed Fleck and Andrew Johnson did not have to be sworn in.

Jane asked if they needed to do the economic interest. Steve will check but doesn't think it is necessary as they will not be spending money.

Mark moved to take a 10-minute recess to allow time for them to sign their oath and set a date for a Zoning Board meeting. Second by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved. Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Aug 9th at 7pm. Members were reminded they would have to complete the Open Meeting class and turn in their certificate.

3. Discussion and possible approval of Andy Murphy missing firewood reimbursement

Ian Murphy was present to explain about firewood that was in their yard that was mistakenly picked up by the village during all of the clean up after the storm. Stated that it was on their property and there were scratches and other damage to the sidewalk and walkway to the house. He showed some pictures from his phone to Dennis Klatt. Steve stated that normally when a claim against the village a claim has to be filed and submitted to see if covered. Jane gave Ian a claim form to complete. Decided we would go the insurance route first and then go from there.

4. Discussion and possible approval of GA Rich to clean Aeration Detention Tank at Pump House

Motion made by Jane Buraglio accept proposal of \$5300 to clean Aeration Detention tank at pump house. Wapella has to have drained first and a dump sight. Sean Holland second. All voting yes. Motion approved.

5. Discussion and possible approval of GA Rich to clean out Backwash Pit

John asked if this is to be done yearly. Jane responded yes. Suggested to be put in budget for next year. Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve proposal to clean out Backwash pit for \$4,525.00. Carl Spath second. All voting yes. Motion approved.

6. Discussion and possible approval for Ordinance Amending Chapter 150 of the Village of Wapella Code of Ordinances – Manufactured Home Communities.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio. John Goergen second. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2023-07-19A

7. Discussion and possible approval of Ordinance Amending Sections 33.07 and 33.08 of the Village of Wapella Code of Ordinances - Ethics Officer/State Legislative Ethics Commission; Complaints.

Motion made by Carl Spath. Jane Buraglio second. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2023-07-19B

8. Discussion and possible approval of Ordinance Amending Section 31.002 Hourly Employees; Pay.

Tabled. After much discussion determined needed further review.

9. Discussion and possible approval for the removal and disposal of certain Village Trees

Jane and Jake want to address several trees that need to be taken care of and cleaned up. They met with Kevin Mandrell and toured the town. Five trees in the park and two by the post office plus trees with serious hangers. All to be turned in to insurance. Only 60 days from date of storm. No estimate at this time. Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve removal and clean up of these trees by Fryman Tree Service. Second by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

10. Discussion of Parking Lot Striping at Community Center

Tabled. After much discussion regarding parking at the community parking lot and safety regarding play area, fencing, etc., the decision needed further investigation.

11. Discussion of Emergency Planning for Village of Wapella

Dennis stated this storm/tornado caught us a little off guard. He asked the board to put some notes together of things we experienced, things we can do better next time, lessons learned, etc. Obviously, a generator at the community center is one thing. Concern about negative comments on social media. Basically, he would like to have some kind of written plan. Just looking for everyone's personal opinions of what we can do next time.

Motion made by John Goergen. Carl Spath second. All voting yes.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Robin Morrow, Village Clerk