

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 19th, 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
Steve Mahrt – Attorney

Absent:

Robin Morrow, Clerk
Jake Simons (Attorney to send letter)
Carl Spath (Officially Resigned)

Absent:

Robin Morrow, Clerk

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from May 15th meeting. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Bills:

Motion made by John Goergen to approve the bills as presented to the board. The second was made by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: Jane Buraglio

Town Clean Up:

Jane is pleased to say a lot of our residents are taking advantage of the roll offs. Two arrived one day early. There are four roll offs on the site and all of them are getting filled. Paul ordered a metal dumpster from Alter in Bloomington, and it arrived on Monday. The men haven't found too much contraband in the roll offs. She told them it was okay to help the elderly and others with no way of transporting their waste to the roll offs. It benefits the village by helping clean up items sitting outside.

John asked why they were working on a Sunday and inquired whether it was overtime or not. Jane explained that with the town cleanup sometimes gets out of control and there could be some overtime. Rex explained that if the roll offs are not monitored there will be a huge mess.

Ordinance Violations:

With all the work being done in the alleys and streets this month, the men see and report to her various violations that need to be addressed. We have tires, excessive weeds, unmown lawns, abandoned vehicles and junk sitting in yards. Jane is compiling a list and will send out the general notices next week. She sat in a ZBA hearing last week and was reminded by Vicki Holland about the many classes we used to attend learning about village government. We learned if we do not have strong ordinances and do not convince the residents to abide by them, our village appearance would suffer. Jane believes we do have strong ordinances and sending notices to help abate the violations will only benefit our village.

Risk Assessment Meeting – DeWitt County Multi-Jurisdictional – All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee Meeting.

The next meeting is August 31, 1 PM. This is the meeting where we will be submitting the costs of our projects. Jane's goal is to get quotes on the stand-alone backup generators we are hoping to service the village shed and the community center. There is a possibility of "hardening" our community center into a shelter. Jane wants to see what that involves, and the costs related to that type of work. We could be on our way to securing grants for these projects from the EM Grants System when we find out that funds are available.

To accent the need for these generators, we had two extended power outages in Wapella in the month of May that involved hooking up the generator at the shed. Both were accidental. A major power pole was knocked down on the north side of town and the other involved torn down power lines on the south side of town. We also had a nighttime power outage last week that was weather related.

Hydrant Replacement:

We had a request from Steve Evans to repair the water hydrant that sits behind the flagpole. When the hydrant was in use water would bubble up at the base of the hydrant. Steve Schaefer came and hydrovac'd a large enough hole around the pipe that allowed our men discover a rather large hole in the underground hydrant pipe and a bent supply line restricting the flow of water. The hydrant needed to be replaced. We found two cheap hydrants in our supplies at the shop. Paul used the new hydrant pipe and attached the older more durable hydrant handle. Everything was reinstalled and the hydrant works better than it did before. Jane's description of this job makes it sound so easy to do, but you can ask the men how hard this job was. Ask Paul how hard it was working inside that hole.

Completed Drainage Projects:

Williamson Excavating was able to complete two approved projects. The first job completed was approved in October 2023 to install the culvert at 310 S Fourth. The second job was approved in September 2023 to correct the drainage at the Christian Church corner of Main & Poplar. This involved quite a bit of dirt work and installing a new culvert. Once this was

covered up and the correct grading was accomplished, cold patch was rolled into place allowing surface water to drain to the north.

There are two more projects that were approved in 2023. The North First Street project and the S Oak Street project. Jane has not heard when those will be scheduled.

Drainage District Repairs:

Jane received a complaint from a resident about various Wapella Drainage District areas in the village that need some repairs. She will give this information to John after the meeting, and he can get together with Dale or someone from the Drainage District to see if the repairs can be accomplished this year.

Dennis did comment the guys about seeing a big notice in regular brush pick up and thanked them.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

FS were back at park doing some spraying and also the spraying of the parking lot. He is hoping that eventually we need to do something with the volley ball court. There are quite a bit of weeds. He mentioned it would also be nice to eventually paint the shed. Jane stated that they are in the process of repairing the door.

John asked about the lights in the park that are not working. Both Jane and Sean were not aware of them. Jane mentioned she would let Kelly know and see if they could come back and check things out.

Dennis brought up the community center and the parking situation. People are parking along the grass section and on the asphalt as well. There was some discussion about possible striping but there was also the issue with the playground. All agreed to think about and review with next year's budget.

WATER: Open

Jane didn't have anything and will bring up in new business.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Zoning board met and approved the request for variance for the porch at Trisha Isaac's.

A permit was issued to Keith Koons who owns 8 lots over on Valerie lane. They are looking to start building single family homes on those lots. One permit issued for lot # 4. They will then move to lot #7 and another on route 51. Mark stated that according to the ordinance there is no variance concern. Mark stated that the home will range from 8000 sq ft and up. These will be single family ranch style homes. They will contact Mark when they need water hooked up and additional permits.

Jane asked the question about who's responsibility it would be to run water to a property if nothing is already there. Steve stated that it would be up to the property owner to run service to the home. Jane stated that the village would need to order new meters.

FINANCE

Overall Account Balances as of May 31, 2024

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Checking | \$ 99,236.86 |
| Park CD (DeWitt Savings) | \$ 55,644.72 |
| Police CD (DeWitt Savings) | \$ 18,476.08 |
| Water Fund Checking | \$ 66,151.41 |
| Motor Fuel Checking | \$ 88,175.13 |
| Water Project Fund | \$ 62,250.99 |
| Restricted Debt Service | \$ 9,303.69 |
| Short Lived Asset Account | \$ 48,086.99 |
| Total: | \$447,325.87 |

Railroad Mowing:

We collected \$9,979.78 from the CN Railroad for mowing and maintaining the railroad right-of-way in 2023. Jane had to send a second request and was planning to place a phone call. She did get a phone call from the man who took Victor's place, and he was in the process of cleaning up Victor's desk and found our bill. He told me he would take care of it right away and he did.

Dennis asked who takes care of the railroad crossings. Jane will ask Roger and report back.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

DRAINAGE: John Goergen

Nothing to report except what Jane had already reported on.

Dennis asked about sidewalks. Jane stated that they are waiting on IDOT. She stated they will get done this year. Just waiting on approval.

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 – brought up the sidewalk concern and that waiting 8-9 months to get repaired is ridiculous. The town fixed everything for the cable guys and doesn't understand why this takes so long to fix. There is no barricade there currently. It was borrowed. Jane will look into putting rock in there. He did state that they guys are doing a good job with the brush pick-up and thanked them. Lastly, he is still waiting for Roger to get back to him about the drainage project.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 1) Discussion and possible vote regarding a request from HNC Products Inc to have village water service connected to their property.

Jane introduced Dan Toohill with HNC products and they had a well go bad. Instead of spending money on putting a new well in since it is so costly, he is asking what it would take to run city water to that property. Jane provided a picture of the property. She asked about bringing the water main across from Valerie Lane to the HNC property which would be \$10,000. This would be HNC's cost. Jane explained to the board everything that would be included with this project. Jane brought up about whether they would be required to annex into the community. Steve explained more about the annex. Jane asked what the timeframe would be for all of this. He explained that it could be done at the next meeting or a special meeting. Dan will take this information back and discuss with HNC. He will get back to the board when he has more information. If HNC agrees Jane will get with Steve to start the paperwork process.

John asked about if they expand at all will this project support that and the other 8 houses going in on Valerie Lane. That was his only concern that he wanted everyone to at least think about. Jane will look into this and ask the questions and report back.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 7:42pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk