

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village Clerk, Robin Morrow.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mark Miller to approve minutes from February 19th, 2025, Village Board Meeting.
Second made by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Bills:

Jane Buraglio mentioned that she and Sean had both talked to Greg regarding the Hale Mechanical invoice. Sean Holland explained the situation.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yet. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: Jane Buraglio

Emergency Julie

On February 26th at 8:30 pm I got a call for an emergency Julie at 405 S Fifth. That house had no power. Ameren was on scene and waiting for another crew. The power on that street is buried. I called the men in and met them at the shop. I also parked at the location to provide some lighting. It took some extra time to locate the main, valves and service lines in the dark. The second Ameren crew arrived with their locators that can detect broken unground power lines. I did not hear the outcome but assume the residents had restored power later that night or early the next morning.

Rabies Clinic

The Rabies Clinic was this past Saturday. We had everyone enter and exit through the east cold storage doors. Cold Storage is large enough to accommodate quite a few people and their pets. Worktables were set up in cold storage and the shop. The clinic started at 9 am and people started lining up at 7:30 am. I think this was a record number of pets at the Wapella clinic. Heather will let me know the numbers as soon as she knows. They were supposed to be done by 11, but they kept working until close to 1:00. They had to push the Waynesville clinic an hour later. Thankfully our men were there to direct traffic through our lot. We had to find owners and have them move their vehicles out of Haremaker's driveways and off his private property. People were parking as far away as the Township Shed. One dog bit the vet and one dog broke out of their vehicle and ran down the highway. Other than that, most of the pets (and people) were well behaved.

Town Clean Up

Wapella Says YES has set their Town Wide Sales for Friday and Saturday, June 7 & 8. We always try to set our Town Clean Up to begin that weekend and end the following weekend. I have ordered the roll offs, and we will be notifying the residents so they can begin making plans for sales and cleaning up their properties.

No Parking Signs on Elm St

I am sure you have seen the complaints on Facebook about the parking situation around the Irish Circle during occasional events. I talked to the person who posted pictures. I have been through the area, and it is rather hazardous especially when one is turning off 51 only to encounter space wide enough for one vehicle to pass through the parked vehicles.

I am going to try to help with the situation by posting two NO Parking Signs on the north side of Elm Street between US 51 and N Chestnut Street. There is already one NO Parking Sign in the middle of the block in front of 118 Elm, and someone has put large rocks on either side of this sign, which do help deter parking. I am going to put a sign in front of 102 Elm and one on the east of the driveway at 118 Elm.

Spraying Classes

Three employees are registered for the Spraying Classes in Forsyth on April 3 & 4. Mug-a-Bug sent extra study materials. They are notes of what to expect on the tests.

Illegal Dumping at Shed

Word must be spreading about our open dumpsters at the shop. We saw on the cameras someone check out the dumpsters and come back two hours later to unload 16 huge bags. It amazes me that people include personal identifying materials in their garbage. Names are on boxes, letters and packages. I have sent out two letters this month notifying the illegal dumpers that the dumpsters are clearly marked "For Village Residents Only". I tell them that this is a warning and the next time they will be sent a bill for garbage disposal and possibly fined.

I might need help with one illegal dumping. We can't identify the vehicle or the individuals. Maybe someone here will recognize the vehicle. We now have a TV to get rid of. I do know Clinton is having an electronic collection in June. We may have to pay \$20.

Census BAS Map

I completed the Boundary and Annexation Survey map and sent the latest annexation ordinance to the Census showing our new corporate boundary. They sent the colored pencils, a huge map and a huge envelope. I'm not sure how long it will take to show up on various maps.

Village Maintenance Email & Computer

I have been complaining about our village shed email being entangled with our former employee's personal email address. Access Codes were being sent to that former employee's personal email address, which essentially denied access. That personal address was clearly seen in the Microsoft account. I want to thank Robin for her assistance in freeing our email. Also, all the former employee's personal documents on the village computer were copied for the record and removed.

Meter Reading

Last month when the meters were read, the handheld readers would not hold a charge. We have a source for replacements if needed. It is not a matter of just changing batteries. We are hoping it was mostly due to the extremely cold weather. We will find out tomorrow when the auto reads are collected this month.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Natalie had contacted Sean about having food trucks at the kickoff in the park scheduled for May. Sean thought it was May 3rd but will confirm. A question was asked if the food truck would need a permit. It was discussed that as long as the food trucks have their certificate from the Board of Health and are insured, that would be sufficient.

Sean also informed The Board that Steve was back working in the park and that there was going to be people working with him for community service.

WATER: John Goergen

John stated that he had a conversation with Roger Massey in regard to installing a new meter and supplying water to the new building at the Auction House. Jane will work on getting a quote to have that done.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Mark didn't have anything to report, however, he mentioned that there was a concern with the setbacks for the new building at the Auction House. Mark asked Dennis Boyce from the Fire Department if he could see any issues and it was decided that they would just leave this alone for now.

FINANCE (Jane Buraglio / Pat Good)

Overall Account Balances as of February 28, 2025

General Fund Checking	\$110,896.36
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 57,333.30
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,942.61
Water Fund Checking	\$ 22,462.77
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 84,158.87
Water Project Fund	\$ 70,944.11
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 10,852.44
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 68,692.34
Total:	\$433,430.36

Audit

I finally got a response from Feller & Kuester for our audit. Pat & I have been providing preliminary documents to begin the audit. Bruce Cristina will be our auditor this year. He said once the tax season slows down, we will be setting a date to meet at the hall. Hopefully that will be in April. We have never been this late on an audit that I know about. Once we meet and they gather more documents, it may take a month to complete the audit.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

DRAINAGE: John Goergen

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

Nothing to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Dale Karr mentioned the sidewalks again and the fact that they are not done yet and there are two more spots that have been painted on that also need fixed. He also brought up the loose gravel at the intersections which are a safety hazard.

Dennis Boyce asked a question about agenda item #3 and why we would be contracting out the work being done with the parking lot at the park. Jane explained that it is because the village does not have the proper equipment to do that kind of work.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

1) Discussion and possible approval of appointing a trustee as Mayor Pro-term.

Jane asked The Board members what they wanted to do about appointing an acting Mayor. No one wanted to volunteer. Steve stated that a trustee could be appointed by The Board, or The Board could appoint someone from the public, or just continue running as is without a mayor and determine what to do after the election and the new Board is in office.

John Georgen made a motion to table this discussion and continue running as is without a Mayor. Jane Buraglio second. All voting yes. Motion approved.

2) Discussion and possible approval of the MFT 2024 Close Out Resolution and MFT 2025 as presented by Rodger Sprague.

Jane informed The Board prior to the start of the meeting that Rodger Sprague was unable to attend, therefore, this agenda items will be tabled for now.

3) Discussion and possible approval for Furman Excavating to do parking lot work in the park – reclaim rock, square corners, level out for \$1200.

Sean presented a quote from Furman Excavating for the parking lot at the park. John Goergen made a motion to approve the parking lot repairs at the park for \$1200. Second made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

4) Discussion and possible approval for an inquiry about the possible sale of Village property.

Kris Hedrick addressed The Board asking permission to install a septic for the place on Main Street he is looking to purchase. The only place that he would be able to install a septic for that property would be on Village Property. He doesn't want to purchase the land in order to do that and was hoping the Village would be able to work something out. He was hoping to get some agreement without having to purchase it. Jane asked Steve about the process as if Kris wanted to sell it. Steve stated it would need to be advertised and set terms and conditions. Then accept proposals. He also stated that it would take $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to be able to sell the property.

Kris also explained what his plan to do with the property and would like to work with the Village. He was asking for suggestions and other options. Steve stated that they could also do it on a Grant or license allowing him to use it for a period of time. They continued to discuss other options. Steve also suggested maybe an easement. There are several variables. Mark asked what he was planning on doing with the building. Kris explained he is going to fix it up and that his wife wants to open up her own salon. Mark also mentioned that as far as zoning the property was zoned business and should be no issues there. Kris also pointed out the area on the map he presented that does not belong to Wapella.

After much discussion, it was agreed that this would not get resolved tonight but there were several options. Kris was going to do a little more research and get quotes for installation of a septic and report back to The Board next month.

5) Discussion and possible approval of a quote for replumbing eye was station at the shed.

Jane had informed The Board prior to start of meeting that this agenda item is tabled for now.

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

Meeting adjourned – 7:44pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk