

**Village of Wapella Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 20th, 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  
Robin Morrow, Clerk

**Absent:**

Jake Simons

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from February 21st meeting. The second was made by Mark Miller. 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: Jane Buraglio**

**Tree Issues:**

1. A resident asked Jane if the village would trim or top out two trees that are interfering with his solar panels. She contacted Kevin Mandrell for his opinion and/or a quote. Jane was told the trees were there before the panels went up and it would be a continuous trimming of trees at the village's expense. Topping the trees was a firm no from Kevin. Once a tree is topped it will start to rot.
2. Another resident that we have had dealings in the past with has contacted our attorney to complain that the village should remove a tree from behind his house that was damaged in the tornado. Jane is aware of the tree in question and from our maps the tree is on his property. He should have had it taken care of when he had his contractor there to take care of his other damaged trees. We clearly marked the damaged tree, as well as many others in town at the time, to make residents aware of the damage. As far

as Jane knows all those trees were either cut down or trimmed by the residents except this one tree. Steve did reply to the resident and asked if he had a survey.

#### **CDL License Program:**

Jane doesn't have all the extra costs involved in sending our employees to school, except for the costs she reported at the last meeting. We would be required to pay \$2590.00 for each student due at the time of enrollment. She estimated the cost last month considering class fees, wages and milage to be between \$9000-\$12,200 to send our employees to school for CDL licensing.

That cost is prohibitive at this point in our budget. Jane plans to keep the employees doing what they are doing and using the truck in town when it is needed, which would be mainly for main breaks or hauling materials. This isn't the only session of classes. She expects there will be another session in the fall.

In addition, the spraying classes in Forsyth are at the same time as the CDL classes in Decatur. Jane is going to send our men to the spraying classes. Mowing season is upon us and the weeds are growing.

#### **Annual Equipment Maintenance**

The men have been through most of our equipment doing preventative maintenance getting everything ready for this mowing season. Jane thinks each piece had some issues repaired. The white dump truck was losing power steering fluid and hoses were changed out. The Kubota had to have some parts replaced. The gator had an oil leak around the motor. That was a tough fix. Paul brought in some of his own tools to get the job done in-house. The batwing will be serviced this coming week.

#### **Hydraulic System in Red Dump Truck**

When Jane was first assigned to the Streets by the former mayor, she was told the hydraulic pump had been replaced and under warranty. She was told to tell Paul not to touch it because of that reason. We have had hydraulic issues from day one. Jane showed the board a picture in March 2021 of some hydraulic fittings that were changed out due to damage and one coupling had a piece of rubber protruding from it.

This past month while the men were spreading the alley rock, they noticed the hydraulic reservoir would get hot. Even the cab would heat up. During the routine maintenance, the men decided to drain the reservoir and look at the filter. They found more rubber pieces stuck in the filter. They found the reservoir also has a second unseen non-removable filter deep inside. Paul talked to the out-of-state manufacturing company tech for details. Paul could reach it and started pulling out debris. He found what looked like a shop rag that had molded itself around the stationary filter, pieces of O-rings, other odd rubber pieces and what appeared to be pieces of a computer printed paper packing slip. We have theories about how rags and packing slips

ended up inside the system, but we will never know for sure. All the hydraulic fluid was completely drained and replaced. So far everything is finally operating correctly.

#### **Rabies Clinic:**

Rabies Clinic is scheduled to be at the shed on April 13th.

#### **Town Clean Up:**

Jane has booked 4 roll offs for Town Clean Up for June 15 to June 22. They will be delivered on Friday, June 14th and picked up on Monday June 23rd.

Court Decision: Last month Jane reported 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. She thinks the weather is finally going to let us resolve this abatement. Hopefully by the next meeting you will see an improvement either made by the village or by the homeowner.

#### **IDOT Circular Regarding the Solar Eclipse**

Jane thought everyone might want to see the circular from IDOT about the April 8th solar eclipse. They give us almost a full page of tips on how to prepare for traffic congestion and how to prepare for night-like conditions. It also warns us to use special eye protection for safe viewing. This eclipse will be starkly different from the one in 2017 as this is a total eclipse.

#### **HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland**

Nothing to report.

#### **WATER: Carl Spath**

##### **Hydrant Flushing**

Started March 11 and completed on March 13. Paul got the men trained and turned them loose while he worked on the Gator. Brandon did a Hydrant Flushing report for our records noting a few issues with specific hydrants. PSI was not a problem at all.

##### **EPA Reports**

Steve Westerfield asked Jane to see if she or Robin could get the monthly total gallons sold in 2023 for his EPA report. He told her after he ran the figures, he showed a 74% accountable water for 2023. That means we have a 26% unaccountable water loss. That is not good. This could be from leaks underground that never surface. It could be water use from sources that do not get water bills – the community center, the park, the fire department, the village hall, or the village shed. We will keep an eye on all those places.

Steve asked if Jane could get him the totals each month in 2024. January 2024 came in at 75% accountable water. We had a lot of estimates in January. A lot of auto reads meters would not pick up under water. February came in at 89% accountable water, which is great. If we do this monthly, we might be able to spot issues on a regular basis.

**IRWA (Illinois Rural Water Association)**

Jane is still gathering documents and ordinances for the Water Rate Study. She should be able to get it all sent over in the next week or two.

**ZONING: Mark Miller**

One permit for room addition and attached garage.

**FINANCE: Jane/Pat**

Overall Account Balances as of February 29, 2024

General Fund Checking	\$ 98,888.25
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,476.08
Water Fund Checking	\$ 16,092.34
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 82,827.10
Water Project Fund	\$118,608.25
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 8,787.45
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ <u>41,218.84</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$440,543.03</b>

**Point of Interest:**

There is a Bill (SB 2875) that would give relief from costly annual audits to municipalities with a population of 1000 or less. It would allow us to file an annual report in place of an annual audit. Jane is not sure what the difference would be or how that would affect our costs with Feller and Kuester.

**IEMA Reimbursement**

John Martin, IEMA-OHS in Springfield, contacted Jane with one more form called Single Audit Certification Form that had to be signed. She had to check a box that said we are not subject to the audit requirements because our federal awards expended from all funding sources are less than the federal threshold of \$750,000. John told her they had just been

advised about this form and would help them in getting the reimbursement process and payment done.

**New Office Equipment**

As you may know, the Clinton Journal office closed in Clinton. All the employees are working from home. They liquidated their furniture. Jane called Katy and planned to pick up a few things for the shop. We got a five-drawer filing cabinet, a couple of two drawer filing cabinets, a chair for Brandon, staplers, filing trays, scissors, and various other office supplies at no cost to the village. We also got a surplus desk for Rex from the County at no cost.

**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**

All updated. No issues

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:**

**Ashton Merida** – He coaches softball and is concerned about the ballfield situation and wanted to discuss the use of the Wapella field as their home base for their teams. Natalie stated that the T-ball teams will be her top priority for scheduling. Ashton stated that they would like to rent the field, however, also requested that they be allowed to remove the pitching mound. He commented that the field is currently set up for boys and girls cannot pitch from a mound. Ashton stated that most teams provide their own portable mounds if needed. He also requested access to the shed so that they could store equipment and be able to work the field before the games, etc. He also mentioned concessions and that they would bring all their own. Jane mentioned that it has to be sold from a tent and the concession building cannot be used. Steve suggested having them sign an insurance agreement and Ashton stated that they are fully insured. Carl commented that there is no problem with removing the mound, however, would suggest that Natalie contact any other teams to make them aware. Dennis stated that everyone is good with what Ashton has proposed. Since not on agenda there is no formal motion to be made, but Mark mentioned it would just be a “gentleman’s agreement”.

**Dale Karr** – He is still concerned with the sidewalk repairs not being completed and areas not being back-filled. He also requested something in writing about the easement for Haremaker if the village agrees to give him that easement. He also commented on the village employees should get a physical before going to the classes that Jane has mentioned.

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

- 1) Rodger Sprague – Discussion and possible approval of the Sidewalk Project portion of the 2024 MFT Program.

Roger presented the board with information about the MFT program and the sidewalk project for 2024. Dennis brought up the concerns with the streets being a mess from two years ago and hoping that there is something that can be done to clean up the loose gravel. Presented the expenditure statement for 2023 MFT. Presented the estimate for the 2024 Sidewalk project. All signed and stamped by Dennis and Robin

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the Resolution of the 2024 Sidewalk Maintenance Project for \$24,750 with a 10% over cost for a total of \$27,000. The second was made by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved.

- 2) Discussion and possible approval of the Engine Braking Noise Ordinance.

A resident has complained to Jane several times about the loud engine braking noise several truck drivers make when they are entering our village on US 51. Other towns post signs prohibiting this action. She inquired and heard back from Gary M Sims, the District 5 Operations Engineer at IDOT in Paris.

He told her “The Department does not install signs to prohibit engine braking but will offer a permit to municipalities to install and maintain those signs. For that to happen, the Village must adopt an ordinance that prohibits excessive engine braking. Then, you would need to forward a copy of the ordinance along with a Special Sign Permit application for each sign location. For your use and reference, I have attached the Department’s policy on the subject, the Special Sign Permit application, and an example of the completed packet from a nearby community that has already been through the process.”

This ordinance is step one to begin the application for a permit.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the Engine Braking Noise Ordinance. The second was made by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2024-03-20A.

- 3) Discussion and possible approval of the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Water Project Fund to the General Fund.
- 4) Discussion and possible approval of the Resolution Transferring Funds from the General Fund to the Water Fund.

These two resolutions will allow the transferring of the funds Jane spoke to everyone about at the last meeting.

Steve did an excellent job drafting the resolutions and they are pretty much self-explanatory. We can review them now to see if there are any questions. Jane stated that she believed the Water Project Fund could continue to make the loan payments with no problem. She has a schedule of loan payments for your records.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve #3 (Resolution Transferring Funds from the Water Project Fund to the General Fund). The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2024-03-20B.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve #4 (Resolution Transferring Funds from the General Fund to the Water Fund). Second made by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2024-03-20B.

- 5) Discussion and possible approval of Rental Fees for Baseball Diamond and CC Gym.  
The board discussed and determined that due to timing this would be tabled and revisited in the Fall before the next season. It was decided that things would continue as is for now.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk