

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 15th, 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
Robin Morrow, Clerk

Absent:

Jake Simons
Carl Spath

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from April 17th 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 Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS: Jane Buraglio

Grass Clipping in the Streets:

Jane keeps getting complaints about grass clippings being blown and left on village streets. She has seen this in various places in the village. Sometimes she sees it and then when she goes back by, someone has blown it out of the street. Then again, she sees the clippings left to deteriorate on the street. Besides being not good for the street surface, more importantly it is a safety hazard to motorcyclists and bicycle riders.

130.16 states it is unlawful to dump or deposit any grass, leaves, branches or any other things in the roadway or gutters of any public street in the village.

Robin can put a notice about grass clippings on the water bills.

Mosquito Abatement:

In addition, this is the time of year that we need to have residents become proactive in helping deter the spread of mosquitoes. She sees quite a few tires sitting outside.

92.08 under the nuisance ordinance, it states that all items containing stagnant water, which can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, are declared a public nuisance. This includes, but not limited to bottles, cans, buckets, swimming pools, clogged gutters or any other places containing stagnant water.

Jane thinks it is important to get this word out to the residents before both these situations get out of hand. We can send violation notices, but she thinks the better way would be to make a general mailing like the one that was mailed out last year. It included references to both these ordinances as a reminder to residents about what we expect them to do to keep our village safe and looking nice. The CCR notice and the Town Clean Up notice could be included in the same mailing.

John brought up the concern with sump pumps and having so much water and there isn't much he can do right now. Jane mentioned that the ordinance does not mention sump pumps.

If you think this is a good idea, Jane said she can put that mailing together before Town Clean Up.

Mediacom Contract:

We are hooked up with MR Systems at the village shed. We have Internet and Wi-Fi. We can soon disconnect from Mediacom and Frontier. However, Jane discovered we have a dated contract with Mediacom both at the shed and at the Village Hall. She inquired about the shed. The payout in May on the contract is approximately \$2,262.29, decreasing each month until September 2025. We can either pay off the contract and return the equipment now or wait until the new budget year so it can be included in the budget or do nothing at all and continue paying the monthly bill. Jane did not inquire about the Village Hall. MR Systems is providing the village with free service. We are paying double for the Internet.

Marshall's Bait & Tackle Shop:

Jane inquired at the County Zoning office and found that Marshalls were granted a permit to operate the Bait & Tackle Shop. She thinks the one thing most people are concerned about is the parking situation.

Steve investigated to see if the Village might have any jurisdiction regarding the business and we do not since that property is located outside the village. However, the village could regulate the street, such as posting no parking signs, if needed for safe travel. Our Corporate line is the south right-of-way line of Thorps Road all the way east to the Autumn Road intersection. We do have jurisdiction over the road.

We will have to evaluate the parking and make the determination if we should invest in the signs and labor for installation. It would help if the neighbors or anyone having trouble

traveling Thorps Road due to parking related to this business could contact Jane and provide pictures.

Constellation / Siren:

Jane received a letter from Angela Lashbrook, Dewitt County Clinton EMA, explaining that Constellation will start the process of decommissioning the nuclear warning sirens that many municipalities use for Weather warnings. This process may start within the next six months. They are willing to donate these sirens to the municipalities that are interested in keeping them. Constellation gave a rough estimate of a \$500 year maintenance cost depending on the vendor chosen for service. Jane has submitted our name, phone number and email address as an interested party to be contacted.

Tour deWitt Bike Ride Rest Stop:

Mark Hobbie contacted the village asking to utilize the Wapella Park pavilion as a rest stop for the ride taking place on June 1st. They plan to use the pavilion and some tables to provide food and drinks for the riders who will stop there from 6 to 10 am. She let him know we do not reserve the pavilion, but if they get someone there that early in the morning there should be no problem.

Meeting IL-EMA May 14, 2024 & May 22, 2024 – Single Sign Training for EM Grants System

Jane attended the training on Tuesday morning. This is a new portal that is hosting our grant applications and claims, as well as a host of other information. Our page is now set up and active. This page is where we will also submit applications for future Mitigation Projects.

Risk Assessment Meeting – DeWitt County Multi-Jurisdictional – All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee Meeting – June 6, 2024, 1 PM

The importance of this meeting is to start developing Mitigation Project lists. These are projects that will help us function in the wake of a natural disaster like the tornado we had last June, and possible man-made disasters caused by transportation or hazardous materials. Jane knows we need big generators for the community center and the shop. Communication is important. Warming and cooling centers are critical. These mitigation projects stand the possibility of being funded. Requesting funding will be done through the EM Grants System.

Park Work

This month has been busy in the park. Jane will defer to Sean to tell everyone about all the work accomplished in the park this past month. (Flagpole, concession stand, FS spraying, Ball field lights, AC in gym, etc.)

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

As everyone has noticed, Steve has been doing a great job in the park. Flagpole has been replaced and cleaned up and looks nice. FS sprayed outside the field and then same day they drug the field so now there is a concern if the weeds will be an issue or not going forward. It

was mentioned that there would normally be a two-hour dry time and it might be ok. Also, the concession stand is now going to become a storage room for Steve's equipment to maintain the park. There will be a new door and new lock. Some of the ballfield lights were repaired and Nelson Thorp helped with bucket truck. Finally, they are getting ready for the air conditioner in the community center.

WATER: Carl Spath

Jane mentioned the CCR report is posted on the website. Jane asked if anyone has had complaints about chlorine in the water. EPA also told Steve that certain lines needed to be replaced due to complaints from some residents.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Nothing to report.

FINANCE

Overall Account Balances as of April 30, 2024

General Fund Checking	\$ 90,450.55
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,476.08
Water Fund Checking	\$ 63,866.32
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 86,329.30
Water Project Fund	\$ 75,978.21
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 9,131.60
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 45,797.57
Total:	\$445,674.35

Oldcastle Lawn & Garden:

Jane opened an account for the Village at Oldcastle Lawn & Garden located by McLean. This company is located where Bacaland used to operate. We are getting out hardwood mulch for the park there.

Property Tax Levy Rate Extension

We received our notification of Extended Amount and Rate for our Tax Levy from the County Clerk's office. We levied \$60,160. Our Extended Amount is \$60,162.68. The Village of Wapella extended tax 2023 rate is .73551. This reflects a tax rate decrease from .73926 in

2022. We were able to raise our levy amount from \$57,300 and at the same time decrease our tax rate.

DOL Final Overtime Rule 4862-6273-1450

Steve sent an email about this Rule and could explain in more detail what this is.

Jane passed the memo on to our Treasurer. She thought this wouldn't apply to anyone working for the Village. She asked how many hours Steve Westerfield worked. She does not know the hours. He gets paid by the month regardless of the time and she is not sure he would be considered a white-collar worker.

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:

Dale Karr – commented on sidewalks again and that this project needs to be completed and next time we go out to bid we need to be sure that the contract goes all the way to completion. The barricades are still there and he would like to see some way that the contractor gets the job done. And also the road by Mark Miller going out of town is getting bad and needs some repair. John asked what the hold up is on getting these repairs completed. Jane stated that it is in the MTF project and Roger Sprague is working on it.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

- 1) Discussion and possible vote on Zoning Board recommendations on Shed Variance from May 8th meeting.

Mark stated that this variance is for a shed on his property that was put on the side and this was approved and signed by Dennis. This was for a small shed that he put under the trees. According to the ordinance, it states that the ZBA has the authority to approve and/or make a recommendation to the Village Board and in this case the ZBA approved the variance request for this shed.

2) Discussion and possible vote on Zoning Board recommendations on Deck Variance from May 13th meeting.

This was brought up in the last Village Board meeting and Dennis and Mark had talked with the homeowner and there was a verbal agreement that she would complete and submit the paperwork necessary for this variance request. Paperwork and payment was never submitted. The homeowner did not attend the ZBA meeting and members of the board were quite upset. After much discussion the ZBA decided to refer back to the Village Board and the lawyer on how to proceed with a few recommendations. One, would be considering having homeowner pay a fine for directly violating the ordinance and not appearing at the meeting. Second, possibly having the stairs removed. Dennis mentioned that he didn't feel that charging her for the meeting was appropriate due to the series of events. Mark mentioned that there must be a notice placed in the paper about a public hearing and that must be done 15 days prior. Dennis did agree that we start with the legal process again since this was pulled originally. Steve asked if the ZBA approved or denied anything. Mark stated that they did not.

Steve will have a letter drawn up and delivered with two options in regard to the application for variance on this property. Mark requested a copy of the letter to be given to the ZBA when it has gone out.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to enter closed session. Second by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Returned from Closed Session at 8:16 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

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

Absent:

Jake Simons
Carl Spath

3) Discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s).

John Goergen made motion to approve pay raises as follows:

Natalie Barr – \$175/mo for community center rental/ball filed rental, and \$17/hr for community center cleaning.

Steve Evens –\$19/hr

Steve Westerfield – \$1450/mo.

Brandon – \$22/hr.

Paul – \$25.50/hr.

Rex - \$19.50/hr.

Mark Miller second the motion. All voting yes. Motion approved.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:19pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk