

**Village of Wapella Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 25th, 2023**

**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 Marht – Attorney

Robin Morrow – Clerk

**Absent:**

Jake Simmons

Carl Spath

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve minutes from September 13th meeting. The second was made by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Motion made by John Goergen to approve minutes from September 27th meeting. Second made by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

**Bills:**

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

**Department Reports:**

**STREETS: Jane Buraglio**

Garbage Pick Up Day: When the GFL calendar came out, Eric realized the day had been changed to Fridays. Our mailing had already gone out. Jane did a correction mailing. GFL reimbursed us for the postage, the envelopes, and the paper with credit on this month's bill.

The Garbage Receptacle was ordered and has arrived. We will be reimbursed.

Lights on the Shop Lot all quit working at the same time shortly after the tornado. We assume this was probably due to the storm and the loss of power at that time. We picked up three new LED lights after Kinder Company determined the old ones were shot. The new ones are installed.

**TOWN CLEAN UP:** We were able to hold on to the dumpsters for a few extra days. GFL will be picking them up tomorrow. Paul ordered a recycling roll off from Behr at no cost to us to collect metal. They will pick it up next week and the village will receive the proceeds. We are emptying our metal bunker into this roll off and it saves us loading and hauling it to Bloomington.

## POLICE REPORTS

**Williams Corner Accident:** On October 2nd Dick Williams called the shop about an accident in his yard. It was discovered that someone missed the corner at S Poplar & S Fourth and drove clear up into Dick William's yard on Friday (Sept 30) sometime after midnight. The vehicle missed the house and made a turn onto William's driveway and got back out on S Fourth and fled the scene. In the process, this vehicle hit our shut off valve and bent it so much that it had to be repaired. That vehicle would have sustained damage underneath. It hit so hard they lost a headlight cover.

### Thorps Road:

Illiana completed sealing Thorps Road from US 51 to Chestnut on September 29th. A little over a week later, Marshalls Asphaltting decided to sweep off all the slag that was deposited by Illiana from the entire section of Thorps Road in front of their property. Two witnesses reported seeing this being done. That stretch of road gets heavy traffic from grain trucks going to Ten Mile Elevator. It was planned that the traffic would press the slag in and further seal the road.

Jane called Rodger Sprague when she was told about the sweeping, and he called the Sheriff. The deputy interviewed a resident (Michael Coy?) and Shari Marshall, the owner of the property. The officer was told they didn't like the excess rock getting onto their asphalt driveway. That asphalt driveway has been installed clear to the Thorps Road hard surface. Technically that portion of the driveway area, which spans the entire length of their lot (206.65 feet) and 25 feet from the south right-of-way line to the hard surface is on Village property.

Rodger came to the scene, took pictures, and measured the area to determine how much of our slag had been removed. The cost of the material is slightly less than the hourly rate for our attorney. Pressing charges to recoup the material cost is not financially responsible, but Rodger and Jane do believe Marshall's Asphaltting should receive a stern letter advising not to disturb Village funded road work done on Thorps Road and further advising that their asphalt driveway has encroached 25 feet onto our right-of-way. We are in the planning stages of cooperatively upgrading the stretch of Thorps Road from US 51 to S East Street because it is not a properly weighted road for all the traffic going to the elevator. Jane would like to take the initiative to avoid problems in the future and request, with board approval, that our attorney send a letter on our behalf to this property owner. She can provide the report and pictures to Steve.

**ACCIDENT AT S SECOND:** On October 14th, Paul was working in the backhoe around Main Street and S Fourth. He found the wire was down at the pole with the transformer on the south side of S Second. The wire had been pulled off the roadway by someone. He believed it was a live wire. It appeared a machine or vehicle either entered S Second from US 51 or exited S

Second onto US 51 and managed to pull down the power line connecting the pole with the transformer to the Street light located on S Second behind Caseys. Jane called Ameren for emergency repair, and they showed up right away and confirmed the wire was still hot. They didn't have enough wire to reconnect to the light pole and came back the next day to finish the job. Dennis Boyce from the Fire Department stated that they do have equipment available if an issue like this arises again.

MFT 2023 / SIDEWALK PROJECT: Rodger Sprague is still working on this and has added more sidewalk areas to be replaced. Paul has removed sidewalk sections in areas where Fryman Tree Service had to grind out stumps. The contractor Rodger is working with will remove and dispose of the other broken sidewalk sections as part of the job.

BACKHOE REPAIR: Our backhoe has been leaking hydraulic fluid. Our men spent part of a day and a half last week trying to find the cause narrowing it down to a small aluminum hydraulic block with two electronic solenoids attached to it for hydraulic controls. Getting to the tight area for inspection, they removed the DEF tank and the fuel tank to discover so much rock and debris was crammed between the tanks and the framework that holds them that the tanks were beginning to have worn spots on them that could lead to rupturing holes. The debris was cleaned out and the tanks replaced. The backhoe would work, but the more they used it while moving Town Clean Up debris and assisting Kevin Mandrell where needed, the more it leaked. Paul called Birkey's to identify the part. They had the part on the shelf and the needed wiring. A technician was available and came on Monday and did the repair. I do not have a bill yet. This was not an easy fix and sometimes we did have to call for help.

#### FEMA UPDATE:

We have submitted our one-page PA (Public Assistance) Infrastructure Grant application. Jane had help from Micha Gillardo in setting up our account where we can begin submitting our expense forms. This is going to be another learning curve, but she can tell you it will be easier than the ARPA filing with the US Treasury. Jamie still has had no luck navigating the Village of Wapella into their system.

Jane has accumulated all the payroll costs; debris removal costs and equipment use hours. The next hurdle is to assign GPS coordinates to all the trees we have had removed or worked on. She must back up each tree with pictures. She has all that information and putting that together into a submittable format. Jane stated that the equipment costs using the FEMA cost charts were substantial, figuring out well over \$33,000 for equipment alone.

Submitting all these cost forms is the next step. Once FEMA does all their evaluations, we hope to be reimbursed. Nothing is definite at this point. We just must follow the process and wait.

**HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland**

Sean has a meeting to meet with Department of Health and Wapella Says Yes to discuss getting the concessions stand up to code. He is also going to follow up on Steve's equipment request.

**WATER: Carl Spath**

Jane Buraglio stated Meters were read and 2 leaks detected.

**ZONING: Mark Miller**

Issued 1 permit for a Shed Building and received 26 pages of material from a Solar Contractor requesting a permit.

**FINANCE: Jane/Pat**

Account Balances as of September 30, 2023

General Fund Checking	\$160,675.98
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,452.87
Water Fund Checking	\$ 29,537.35
Motor Fuel Checking	\$115,344.95
Water Project Fund	\$110,921.38
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 7,927.11
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 29,772.40
Total:	\$528,276.76

**WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield**

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 asked why the cable company was using the village equipment without our employees being around. Jane mentioned that they are swapping work with us. Voiced concerns about contracting out when village work still isn't getting done. He also voiced concerns about brush not getting picked up and the overtime being paid to the employees.

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

- 1) Discussion and possible approval of New Poultry Ordinance

Poultry Ordinance: Limit the number of all types of poultry. Not 12 of each kind. Board reviewed and discussed updates to the Poultry Ordinance. Marked pointed out the recommended changes from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve the ordinance with the changes presented. The second was made by John Goergen. All voting yes. 2023-10-25A

- 2) Discussion and possible approval of Ordinance Amending Section: 92:08 of the Village Code of Ordinances- Nuisances

Mark Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance Amending Section: 92:08 of the Village Code of Ordinances. The second was made by John Goergen. All voting yes.

- 3) Discussion and possible approval of a request from Jessica Ward, Frontier Engineer, for possibly issuing a permit to allow Frontier Communication to run fiber optics from Thorps Road to the Grain Elevator

Jessica Ward, Frontier Communication was present and provided more detailed information regarding her request for a permit to run fiber optics and answered questions from the board. She explained that she is from the business side not the residential side of the fiber optic plan for Wapella. Steve requested Jessica to resend the plans. Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve issuing the permit for Frontier to run fiber options from Thorps Road to the Grain Elevator. Second by Mark Miller. All voting yes.

- 4) Ordinance Violation Update. Discussion and possible approval for additional violation letters.

Jane Buraglio stated that there are two residents that have still not complied from the last list and will go forward with filing with the court. Steve stated that he had just filed them today. Jane has compiled a new list, and seven new letters will be going out with pictures.

- 5) Discussion and possible approval of quote from Williamson Excavating for culvert installation.

Williamson Excavating: Culvert at 310 S Fourth. We do not have the experience for both the backhoe operator and the ground man to be able to install this culvert. Paul can do both, but not at the same time. The grades have been shot and Rodger Sprague will be onsite when this project is done. The operator we had planned to use is not able to help at this time. We have the

material. Jane would like to see this job completed as the owners have been very patient. The Village provides one culvert to all new construction. This property has never had a culvert and they built a garage. She is not clear as to the cost we must absorb or if the property owners should help with this cost.

John Goergen made a motion to approve the quote for \$3400 from Williamson Excavating for culvert installation. Second made by Mark Miller. All voting yes.

6) Discussion and possible approval of a completion date extension on the permit for MR Systems.

Jane Buraglio recommended that the board approve extending the completion date to MR Systems. Original completion was 10/31/23, however, due to delays they need more time. John Goergen made motions to approve the completion date extension to the permit for MR Systems. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes.

7) Discussion and possible approval of quote for shed roof painting.

Shop Roof needs repair. Unfortunately, Jane did not have a quote to present. Paul reached out to one company, and they do intend to come give a quote, but it won't be in time for this meeting. Jane did get a quote last year that came to \$6850, which included washing, patching, and painting our metal roof. That contractor had other issues and did not do our job. She is most interested in getting the roof sealed this year due to several leaking spots. If we don't do something soon, the insulation and our ceilings are at risk. Spots are getting wet now. Jane is hoping that the board will approve up to \$9000 for the same work as quoted last year. This is so we can proceed with the work and not risk losing our window this fall to get the roof sealed. She knows Jake would like a new metal roof, but that is not in the budget for this year. Maybe we can plan for that to happen in the next budget year. Mark requested to see a firm quote. All agreed to table for now.

8) Discussion and possible approval of a retirement plan option for employees.

Jane wanted to bring up a possible Saving/Retirement Plan – Simple Plan IRA again. A Simple Plan IRA is the way to go. It can be managed by us through our payroll. Pat Good sent her the IRS links for Simple Plan IRAs and the requirements. We do qualify to be able to offer this to our employees. The effective date must be January 1, 2024. Pat can put together the required paperwork. She will have much more information at our next meeting so we can make some decisions before January.

9) Discussion and approval of Trick or Treat hours for Halloween 2023.

Trick or Treat Hours have been set for 5:00pm to 8:00pm on October 31, 2023. Proclaimed by Village President, Dennis Klatt.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to enter Closed Session. Second by John Goergen. All voting yes. Entered into Closed Session at 8:15pm.

Return from Closed Session at 8:26pm

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

Dennis Klatt

Mark Miller

Jane Buraglio

John Goergen

Sean Holland

Steve Marht – Attorney

Robin Morrow – Clerk

**Absent:**

Jake Simmons

Carl Spath

Motion made by Jane Burglio to make Brandon Karr a full-time employee at an hourly rate of \$21/hour. Second my John Goergen. All voting yes.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Miller. Second by Jake Simons. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk