

Village of Wapella Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village President, Dennis Boyce.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Dennis Boyce
Mark Miller
Sara Goergen
Jane Buraglio
John Goergen
Dalton Spencer
Sean Holland
Steve Mahrt – Attorney
Robin Morrow, Clerk

Approval of Minutes

Robin Morrow pointed out a correction in the minutes that Todd Greenburg was in attendance and not Steve Mahrt. Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve September 17th meeting minutes with the correction. Seconded by Dalton Spencer. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Bills:

Jane pointed out the Birkey's bill for the Kubota and John Goergen explained the situation for additional repairs. John stated that the Kubota started acting up again and he called Birkey's in Urbana. They had said it would be \$100 for pick up and delivery plus another \$120/hour diagnostics unless it was still under warranty. He went ahead and gave the ok to do that and requested that they call first before doing any repairs if it was not covered under warranty. It came back the next day with \$602 in repairs. It apparently needed a park regeneration and they printed off the proper procedure for us to do that.

Jane Buraglio also discussed the RMA bill. She stated that this is our 2026 annual renewal for coverage. She broke down the types of coverage and the individual costs for everyone. The membership dues are based on population. If we pay the premium by November 14th, we can get a 1% discount. Jane assumed that would be okay with everyone. The premium is \$25,904.85.

Jane also pointed out the Williamson Excavating bill. She stated that these invoices came in immediately after the jobs were done. We approved the projects at the last meeting. These invoices have been paid. Dalton can explain how the project went in his report.

Jane also mentioned the GFL bill. We did get charged \$200 for the extra dumpsters' pickup. She stated that John may have more to say about this in his report.

Jane also touched on the GA Rich & Sons Inc bill. There are three GA Rich invoices on the bills list. They came in today. John or Sean (or Rex) can explain the service line and meter repairs in their reports. Jane is going to send these to Julie at USDA and hopefully we can pay this \$14,665.98 out of the Short-Lived Asset Fund. The Water Fund can't take a hit like this. As of September 30th, it only has \$20,505.25 in the

checking account. Since USDA may deny her request, she will continue to stress that we have to boost our water rates or surcharge to keep our Water Department solvent and self-supporting.

Dennis pointed out that there was a page missing in the report. Jane stated it is page 4 and explained what bills were on that page.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. Seconded by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: John Goergen

John asked if anyone had any additional questions in regards to the Birkey bill and the Kubota as he explained earlier in the meeting. Everyone was good.

Rex and Jane went to the Julie class in Champaign on 10/2. He stated he probably should have attended that class as well.

The homeowners on the corner of South Third and Popular were expressing concern of the condition of the tree to the east of their house. Kevin recommended it come down. John discussed it with Jane to make sure he could have that done and she told him it was in his budget. They continued to discuss the process and procedure for making arrangements such as this and when board approval is needed prior to following through. John stated that he just didn't want to be breaking any rules by making the decision to take down the tree. Jane did state that Fryman does try and keep the cost down for the village. Steve also stated that the board could also send out once a year for bids on tree removal.

On Monday at about 6:00 pm, Jane had called John about an emergency Julie on 51 from Ameren to a gas leak. Jane also called Rex and then called him. He and Rex showed up on scene at about 6:15 pm.

Rex is starting to do some clean up around the shop as time permits. Will discuss more about that in new business.

Dumpsters were delivered on Friday for town clean up and so far so good.

John doesn't know the status on Paul's return, but does hope to have Buck back soon.

John also mentioned about the extra charge from GFL for \$200 that was in the bills.

John commended Rex on the work he has done to hold the fort down while being by himself. He has done a great job.

Hydrant flushing will be on October 27th. Dennis also stated that he had talked to Nelson about the metered flushing which is every 5 years and they had done all of them last year so they are good to go.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sara Goergen

Sara started with the concession stand at the park and mentioned that she has not been able to get quotes as she doesn't have access to the building. She can't get an electrician in there for a quote without access. No update at this time.

Sara mentioned that her daughter and classmate were needing to do some volunteer work for civic duty. She had talked to Natalie about letting them into the Community Center to clean the trophy case. She said that Natalie was going to let them in to do that but then was told that they weren't going to be able to do that, so Sara had the girls do something else. Sara asked for clarification on what she is exactly in charge of. She feels like she is being held back and not able to do anything.

Sara referred to an ordinance that she passed around with pictures of the Community Center and several of the repairs that need to be done and improvements that are necessary.

Sara was contacted by the Scout troop and they have lost their charter. They were asking if they could use the Community Center for their meetings.

Sara also commented about the agenda item about landscaping that she was not aware because she did not put it on the agenda.

Sara again asked again what her role is with Health and Safety. Jane stated that a lot of it is enforcing ordinances, sending out ordinance violations, etc. Jane then referred to Sean to see if he had anything to add. Sean stated that what Sara has brought to the table is fair. He does agree with improving the community center is a good idea. John then stated that he doesn't understand why the department head doesn't even have access to those areas. The board continued to discuss allowing access to certain things and keys to certain areas. Jane stated that the only keys for the trophy cases were given to Natalie to take care of and where the liability falls.

John stated that it is still unclear as to what Sara's position is.

WATER: Sean Holland

Sean had photos of various water repairs that have been made over the last month. He pointed out that Jane was checking with USDA on couple of the bills. There was another repair on N Third. Sean also mentioned a Julie on Walnut.

John explained the situation with the drainage issue at Greg Hale's about it being 14" above grade. He also suggested his recommendations.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Mark had only 1 permit for a storage building that he issued which will be discussed more in new business.

FINANCE: Jane Buraglio

Overall Account Balances as of September 30, 2025

General Fund Checking	\$148,456.36
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 59,067.58
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 19,420.78
Water Fund Checking	\$ 20,505.25
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 58,628.18
Water Project Fund	\$ 66,101.65
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 12,017.66
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 79,913.30
Total:	\$464,110.76

Property Taxes: We have collected our 2nd installment of property taxes - \$25,071.98 – and the 2nd installment of the Road taxes collected by the Township - \$3,251.28. We will collect our final payment after they have the Tax Sale later this month.

Email from Comptroller: Jane sent an email to Neal Kuester inquiring about the status of our 23/24 Audit. It was due December 31, 2024, and is extremely late. We should be beginning our 24/25 audit this month. Jane has not received a reply. We received an email from the Comptroller's Office. It says effective immediately and commencing with fiscal year 2025 reporting, failure to submit a report by its

due date will result in the assessment of the above-mentioned fines and additional administrative fees. The Illinois Comptroller has the discretion to abate the fines for good cause shown. These fees are per day, per non-compliant report.

1-15 days late - \$5; 16-30 days late - \$10; 31-45 days late - \$15; Over 45 days late - \$20

Insurance Coverage: Jane was asked by the board to contact RMA. She explained to Megan Toth, RMA Program Coordinator, that on August 30th an organization in town hosted an event on Main Street. They got the required permits to close the street and provided the village with a certificate of insurance. Jane explained there was a bar on Main Street allowing open alcohol to be carried out of the bar and onto the street. She did speak with the person in charge of the event, and she said she did not think their coverage would cover the bar allowing people to walk out on the street with alcohol. She was also concerned about that situation since it could increase their liability.

Jane asked Megan to tell her what the village should be requiring from the bar at future events, or if there are any additional rules we should create aside from possibly issuing a special one-day liquor license.

She told Jane it was a great question. RMA recommends requiring the bar to provide the same items that we did from the host of the event. They should carry their own insurance, provide a certificate of insurance and name the Village as an additional insured for their use of our property. (This is if their liquor license even allows this activity.)

She said it may also be helpful to check with our village attorney to ensure everything aligns with local ordinances and to determine any additional rules.

Since it is our property, it is ultimately our decision whether to allow it. If we prefer not to, it would be a good idea to work with the attorney on the best approach to prevent it moving forward.

The Board should decide what we want to do going forward and perhaps have our attorney do some research into our ordinances and bring something back to the next meeting for further discussion.

Steve stated that it could be that the Mayor could grant an extension for situations like this or issue a special liquor license. Steve agreed he would look into it.

Prevailing Wage Rate posted 9/15/2025: Jane received a copy of the current Prevailing Wage for DeWitt County posted on 9/15/2025.

MFT 2025: Our 2025 MFT Program was approved. There is a copy of it on Robin's desk.

JULIE Conference: Rex and Jane attended the JULIE Conference on October 2 in Champaign. The lunch was fantastic. We know that the new law goes into effect January 1, 2026, and requires all locators to respond electronically by logging into the JULIE portal. Gone will be the days of marking on the ground and walking away. Jane has contacted Paula Browning. She told them at the conference that she would come over and get them set up. Not responding electronically could generate a \$250 fine.

JULIE 2026 Assessment Notification: Jane received the 2026 Member Annual Contribution Assessment Notification Report. From July 2024 to June 2025, we had 148 emailed JULIEs @ \$1.25 each (\$185.00) and 3 voice JULIEs \$2.75 each (\$8.25). It looks like our total member bill will be \$193.25 for JULIEs when they send it. Jane was told the approved multipliers for 2026 will increase by \$0.10 for all delivery methods.

County Clerk: Kari Harris contacted Jane to ask if she could set up here in the village hall on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, to help Wapella and DeWitt County residents sign up for the free Fraud Alert Program and to also sign Veterans up for the free Honor's Rewards Program. Jane told her she could let her in and help her get set up. She plans to be available from 9:00 to 11:00 am and from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Jane will post her fliers in the window tomorrow.

OSLAD Grant / Grant Finder / Other Grants

We have been talking about upgrading or replacing the building in the park. Steve is going to talk tonight about his next phase in the garden. There are other projects in the park to consider. The ball field lights need to be upgraded to LED. The tennis /basketball court needs attention. It also needs lights. Trees in other areas of the park should be replaced. The playground equipment needs attention and probably the surface needs to be upgraded. One grill needs to be replaced. There may be other areas in the park that need to be addressed as well.

All these projects could qualify for various grants. In Jane's opinion the OSLAD grant is made for all these upgrades, and all can be submitted under one application. However, there is no way to apply for any grant without specific detailed plans and quotes for each one of these separate projects. One person can't do it all. It is Jane's recommendation that a Park Committee be formed to make the plans and to gather all the required documents. They can bring all their recommendations to the Board for approval. This is not going to happen overnight. It will take several months to make the plans, to gather the materials needed and then to complete the grant application. We must set our sights to the 2026 grant application which will be due in September 2026.

John asked a question about the Julie's and them coming across the computer and when they'd know about any emergency Julies. Jane stated that there would be a phone call since we do not have someone sitting next to a computer all day.

DRAINAGE: Dalton Spencer

Dalton stated that both the drainage projects previously approved were completed. The S Oak job wasn't buried enough. Then on N First he mentioned that Mediacom customers were affected by one of the repairs because one of their lines were damaged since they were not installed properly. They had to leave the hole uncovered for a couple days so Mediacom could repair. Dalton also touched base on the drainage repairs and issues by Jane's house for her culvert. They found an old sump pump line that may become an issue in the future. He is also reaching out to a contractor in Heyworth about jet pumping the lines.

Dalton also mentioned the tile that was damaged by FS and may need to be done to actually repair this.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Jane mentioned that no one turned in the surveys that Steve had requested from the board members. Sean stated that he didn't feel he could answer any of the questions. Robin was able to provide some of the information that was being requested.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

Jane mentioned that Dennis was having difficulty reading some of the things on the website. She went in and re-typed some things which seems to have corrected things. It may be because of doing a copy/paste.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Dale Karr – First, he pointed out the side walk is still not back filled which was supposed to be. Also, he stated that anytime there is an issue with tile work/damage that they should be notified. Dale also stated that the carpet in the community center has stains all over it and should be replaced as it really looks bad. He thought the Township donated money to repair this.

Steve Evans – wanted to request that a portable power washer be purchased by the village. Someone carved pumpkins and left a mess in the pavilion which was difficult to clean up. A power washer would be very helpful with several jobs/projects around the village. Jane and John discussed purchasing a power washer and who should purchase and where to purchase. Sara will work with John and Rex on getting quotes for a portable power washer. We do have an account with Midwest Equipment.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

1) Discussion and possible approval Trick or Treat hours for Halloween.

Jane states that typically we have done 5pm to 8pm and this year it is on a Friday. Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve Trick or Treat hours for Halloween from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Friday 10/31. Second made by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion carried.

2) Steve Evans – address the board about the N. section of garden. Discussion and possible vote to remove bushes to allow for design.

Steve thanked the board for putting this item on the agenda. He handed out some papers that he wanted to walk through with everyone. Steve went through the photos and pointed out several bushes that really need to be removed. The pictures he provided show the changes over the years of how the bushes have grown and changes of the weeds and rock. He also provided a photo of the garden design that he was suggesting. Steve also stated that if the removal of these bushes is approved it should be done right after the Halloween Party in the park on 10/25.

Steve is requesting approval to remove these bushes, fill the holes, and let it settle for at least a year. Jane asked if this was going to all be done “in house” and the answer was yes. Rex also commented on bringing in a chipper when taking these out.

Dennis asked if these can be trimmed back and still survive. Steve mentioned there is no design to it and that they just have not been kept up. Jane stated that if Steve was able to take these out this fall and let it settle, then he could come back next year with quotes and a plan which could be covered by the grant.

Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve the removal of the bushes in the N. section of the garden. Dalton Spencer made a second. Mark abstained, John and Sara voted no,

Jane, Dalton, and Sean voted yes. Steve Mahrt stated that the mayor could also vote if he wanted to but the motion was approved with three in favor. Dennis abstained. Motion approved.

3) Discussion and possible approval of Ordinance declaring personal property surplus and authorizing its disposition.

Steve Marht discussed the ordinance with the board disposing of surplus property. The ordinance presented would allow the mayor and head of the street department to declare junk on hand to be surplus junk and get rid of it by any means appropriate. This would be less that \$500 value and anything more than that would need to be presented to the board for approval. John felt that it should be unlimited due to the amount of scrap that is currently at the shed. Jane pointed out that the ordinance stated any “individual” item and not bulk.

John Goergen made motion to approve the Ordinance declaring personal property surplus and authorizing it disposition. Jane Buraglio made second. All voting yes. Motion carried. 2025-10-15

4) Discussion and possible approval to purchase two rear backhoe tires per quote.

John Goergen provided a quote for two rear backhoe tires to be replaced. He had one from Walker Tire and one from One Stop. John also stated that this would be split between water and streets.

Jane Buraglio made motion to approve the purchase of two rear backhoe tires per quote from One Stop for \$1579. John Goergan seconded the motion. All voting yes. Motion carries.

5) Discussion and possible approval of storage container ordinance.

Mark Miller passed out pictures to the board. He stated that the village has one container, Bill Miller has two, and the other is the one he just issued the permit for. Mark stated that he had a copy of an ordinance from Pana on storage containers. He pointed out some options for putting an ordinance together. One being with the zoning board to come up with an ordinance or to just modify some of the things from the Pana ordinance among the village board. Mark decided to go ahead and table this discussion for now and discuss at next meeting.

MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION:

Motion to enter Closed Session made by John Goergen at 8:40pm.

- 1) 2 C (11) Discussion of Pending Litigation

- 2) Discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s).

Seconded by Dalton Spencer. All voting yes. Moved to Closed Session.

Entering back into Open Session: 9:00 pm

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Dennis Boyce
Mark Miller
Sara Goergen
Jane Buraglio
John Goergen
Dalton Spencer
Sean Holland
Steve Mahrt – Attorney
Robin Morrow, Clerk

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion made by Mark Miller to adjourn. Seconded by Sean Holland. All voting yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk