

Village of Wapella Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 27th, 2023
Village Hall – 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Village Clerk, Robin Morrow.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Mark Miller
Jake Simmons
Jane Buraglio
John Goergen
Carl Spath
Sean Holland
Steve Marht – Attorney
Robin Morrow – Clerk

Excused: Dennis Klatt

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Jake Simons to approve the minutes for August 16th, 2023, meeting. Second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Steve mentioned that the Board can assign an acting Mayor or continue as is with Clerk keeping order of the meeting. All agreed to continue.

Bills:

Motion made by Carl Spath to approve the bills as presented to the board. Second made by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion approved.

Department Reports:

STREETS: Jane Buraglio

Garbage Pick Up Schedule Change: Eric Shangraw has informed Jane that our Garbage Pick Up Day will change in November. She will put this on the website, fliers and will plan to put it on the water bills this month.

Operations are doing some much overdue rerouting with trucks. The plan is to make us more efficient and give us the opportunity to have “swing drivers” whose job it will be to fill in for regular drivers when they are off or on vacation. Right now managers jump on trucks and we shift guys all over to accommodate time off. It causes missed stops and service issues.

Bottom line, Wapella’s service day is switching from Monday to THURSDAYS the week of November 6. Your first THURSDAY service day will be Thursday, November 9.

Please spread the word in Wapella.

October Town Clean Up: We have 4 free rolls offs left for 2023. Eric told Jane to be sure and let him know the dates and he will get them arranged. Looking at the calendar, she would like to have them delivered on a Monday and picked up the following Monday. This way the residents will have plenty of

time to prepare for the weekend. She prefers delivery on Monday, October 16th with pick up on Monday, October 23rd. This allows time for late delivery or late pick-up without affecting the weekend. If we do not fill the last roll off, we will keep it on the lot until it is full. We will announce this on the water bills, fliers and on the website.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sean Holland

Always something exciting with the park. Sean has gotten updates from Steve, and he will be cleaning the restrooms in the park.

WATER: Carl Spath

Nothing to report.

ZONING: Mark Miller

One permit was issued for privacy fence and one for a handicap ramp with chair access. Next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for 10/4 @ 7:00pm with Hearing at 8:00pm to discuss the Proposed Poultry Ordinance. Will have final review to present to the Village Board at last meeting in October. Current Poultry Ordinance is on our website for anyone to read.

FINANCE: Jane/Pat

Account Balances as of August 31, 2023

General Fund Checking	\$126,897.40
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 55,644.72
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 18,452.87
Water Fund Checking	\$ 37,339.22
Motor Fuel Checking	\$121,031.79
Water Project Fund	\$108,138.48
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 7,755.04
<u>Short Lived Asset Account</u>	<u>\$ 27,483.17</u>
Total:	\$502,742.69

2nd Distribution from Collector: \$26,300.39 has been deposited into our account. There will be a final distribution in October sometime after the tax sale.

Insurance Checks: Jane is happy to report that we received three insurance claims checks from the Storm Damage. We had coverage for tree removal and replacement for \$25,000. The check was for \$24,500 (less a \$500 deductible). This has covered the \$17,600 for R & R Services for tree debris removal and \$6900 for the damaged tree removals from Fryman Tree Service. The second check was for the Emergency Call Tire Repair from Walker Tire for the flat tire on the red dump truck. The check covered the entire cost of \$685.00. The third check was for the backhoe repair and the pickup of the John Deere Tractor. The check covered the entire cost of \$691.59.

There are still pending claims on the repair of the John Deere Tractor grill and headlight. She believes the parts have arrived. There are still signs, flags and poles that need replaced. The flagpole in the park needs to be replaced or repaired. There is some minor damage to the pavilion roof.

The insurance company also returned our deductible of \$500 from the fence damage at the community center. Jane was told that our insurance is still subrogating the claim with Bristol West and if any more money is recovered it will be sent to us.

FEMA Jane received a news release announcing that on September 15th FEMA approved Illinois' request for 19 counties to receive Public Assistance following the severe storms and flooding event on June 29,

2023 – July 2, 2023. DeWitt County is on that list! She will be completing more forms and attending a briefing.

Storm Damages / EAV The Wapella Assessor has been working in our area. Storm damages affect assessments and the EAV is a component in our Tax Levy equation. One of the major damages is the grain bin on North Chestnut. That property is our second highest valuation in our district – Casey’s being number one. The bin is unusable for corn this year and probably won’t be repaired until later this year or possibly early next year. We could see a reduction in EAV of nearly \$139,000. Districts will be notified. If not repaired until after January 1, 2024, we could see a reduction of the entire bin assessment for 2024.

IMRF or Another Type of Retirement Benefit for Employees. Jane is still interested in providing some kind of retirement or savings benefit for the employees. She provided information on IMRF so that you can judge for yourselves what would be involved. In the past she was part of setting up a Simple Plan IRA for the full-time village employees. The employee contributed to it out of their paycheck, and it was a pre-tax option. Some of those employees still own that plan. She is willing to research either or both options and bring information back to the board next month.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Nothing to report.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

Reminder a couple of members need to turn in Certificates for Sexual Harassment, Open Meetings, etc.

Also, need to request to change the next meeting date due to travel schedule. Suggested to move meeting to 10/25. Jane agreed. Carl agreed. John Goergen made a motion to move the next board meeting to 10/25. The second was made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to Report

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

All updated. No issues

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Bill and Kayla Short had some major concerns with the removal of existing playground equipment and the proposed upgrades to the park. They wanted to make sure the Board was aware of how important the park is to the residents. They are not against adding to what is already there, but they just can’t see removing equipment that is still usable. A lot of work went into the existing playground and there is plenty of space to add without removing.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

1. Update on MFT 2023 Program from Rodger Sprague.

Jane explained that Rodger won’t be here tonight. Illiana is supposed to start Thursday. Their machines are at the shop. Road patching has been going on for a couple of weeks now according to the map. More areas are being added to the sidewalk plan. Paul met with Roger today at 1 to go over some additional street

areas that can be worked into this MFT program. Autumn Road will get an additional covering. There is also a strip between the highway and Casey's entrance that no one is addressing – not the County or IDOT. I'm told they have a new spreader.

2. Presentation by the Wapella Fire Department (Shawn Horve) for proposed playground.

Shawn presented the Board with a proposal of removing/updating/changing the playground and being able to accommodate handicapped children. He feels that the playground needs to be ADA compliant. Michael with New Toys Licensing Products was present. Mark asked about the proposal and looked like it was for a totally new park. Mark wanted to know if he had researched other options to make upgrades without complete removal. Sean wanted to see more of a compromise to blend old with the new. Mark also did not want to see any of the trees compromised. There are well-developed trees that were put in by donated money. Jane suggested they come back with a blended project for review.

3. Discussion and possible approval of Signatures on the Feller & Kuester CLP LLP Audit Scope & Objectives Agreement for 2023/2024 Audit.

Jane asked everyone to please take the time tonight to complete the questionnaire from Feller & Kuester. Also, there are documents for the president and clerk to sign, and one for the president and treasurer to sign. She would like to gather those tonight so she can scan them and get them back to the auditor tomorrow. We are planning on meeting the first week in October to get the audit started.

4. Discussion and possible approval of the Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

We had our workshop and Jane hoped everyone has reviewed the numbers. She did make changes to two line items in the Street budget. She moved \$16,000 from the Landscaping line and put it in the Drainage Repair and Improvement line in hopes of being able to accomplish drainage projects this year. Our treasurer told her if insurance checks reimburse for expenses we have paid in this fiscal year, they can be put against the expense account. It frees up some of the budgeted vs. spent line items without going over the budget.

Jane Buraglio made motion to approve the Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Seconded by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2023-09-27A

5. Discussion and possible approval to sign the permit for Campus Communications Group. (Concerns)

Jane has not signed the permit and is holding the \$50 fee. After looking at the proposed project, she wanted to talk to the board first and ask questions. What kind of control does the board have over proposed project? Can we insist that they make alterations to the plan? If you look closely at the map, you will notice that there is no plan to use the alleys. It looks like they will be in the front yards and go across every water connection. Jane doesn't know if they plan to bore under the roads or cut them. She is also concerned that this company refuses to enter into a Franchise agreement. Both internet companies in the village are part of a Franchise agreement. Why not Campus?

Steve suggested to update to limit to Highway 51 only. Steve will fix, sign, and send back. Should state "approved as to Highway 51". Jane will sign, scan, and send back.

6. Discussion and possible approval of the quotes from Williamson Drainage for three drainage projects.

The object of these three drainage projects is to move as much water as quickly as possible to a catch basin. All three areas are affected by the water flowing from Main Street, which is the highest elevated street in Wapella. The Church corner project involves all the residential properties along that section of N Poplar, as well as the flooded corner affecting church parking. The N First project affects the residents

along N Locust and N First. All the water coming from Main Street turns the corner and floods the yards and street, pooling up in a dam caused by no outlet at the alley to carry the water on to the N Oak catch basin. The S Oak project will repair a sink hole caused by broken tile and carry the water on to a Drainage District tile. The sink hole is causing dirt and debris to block any open tile along that route. We have to start somewhere and hopefully next year we will move on further north and further south of Main Street, working our way to both ends of the village.

Jane explained the reasons for these three projects mentioned in the proposal. Jake also added his explanation of these projects and went through each of the photos presented. Motion made by Carl Spath to approve the quotes from Williamson Drainage for these three drainage projects. Second made by Sean Holland. All voting yes. Motion approved.

7. Discussion and possible approval of the Ordinance Amending Section 92.08 - Nuisances.

We have several areas in our village where the owners are allowing junk to accumulate. Jane asked Steve if there was anything in the Code that could be referenced in an ordinance violation letter. There is not. She hoped this ordinance would help clean up these areas.

Mark Miller made a motion to approve wording on Ordinance Amending Section 92.08 – Nuisances. Seconded by Jane Buraglio. All voting yes. Motion approved. 2023-09-27B. Cover sheet to be updated.

8. Discussion and possible approval on the enforcement of Section 70.67 Operation of Certain Unlicensed, Motorized Vehicles on Public Streets, Sidewalks and Right-of-Ways.

We had a complaint recently from the audience about underage residents operating motorized vehicles on the streets. Since then Jane has noticed this happening quite a bit. She has stopped a few children (and adults) from riding little motorcycles and golf carts on the walking trail in the park. She was at the park one morning when two adults rode their motorcycles across the trail and right up under the pavilion and parked next to the tables. They claimed they didn't see the signs at the entrance and kindly parked their motorcycles in the parking lot. Jane wanted to bring this ordinance to your attention. There are very specific rules set out in the Code. She believes we need to address the problem before things really get out of hand. She is concerned about seeing children joy riding these toys and vehicles on the streets.

She suggested that if we see it we should stop it. There was a recent fire call of a minor wrecking a 4-wheeler. Mark Miller suggested that a General Public mailing be sent out referencing the ordinances and providing copies to make residents aware. Jane agreed and will get labels generated and send out mailing.

9. Discussion about the application for the 2024 CN Rail Lines America in Bloom Landscape Grant.

CN Rail Lines offers a grant every year called America in Bloom. The deadline is Nov 1st. Jane wants to apply for the 2024 Grant.

Jane explained that Jake will be replacing several trees and they would like to work on and apply for a grant in 2024 going forward. She just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention.

10. Discussion on the enforcement of Section 130.23 Animal Noises.

Jane had someone call about the neighbor's dogs that are outside all the time and constantly bark. His son works a third shift and was finding sleeping extremely difficult because of the constant barking. He asked what we could do. She told him about this ordinance.

There is a \$100 fine for each offense. Jane to include copy of this ordinance with mailing. The court is the one to levy the fine. Steve mentioned that some villages put it on their water bill but it has not been approved by the court. All agreed to include in letter for now.

11. Discussion on unresolved Ordinance Violation Notices and possible approval to have the Attorney send Final Notices.

There were about a dozen ordinance violation letters sent out for grass and weeds, abandoned and unlicensed vehicles and for refuse, garbage, and debris. About half have abated the problems. There are six places that have made no attempt. Jane would like to send the pictures and the original letters to the attorney and have him follow up with legal alternatives with a limited number of days to resolve the issues. N Chestnut, N Oak, Main Street, S Third and two on S Locust have not complied.

Steve agreed to send letters.

12. Discussion and possible approval of Midwest Equipment Quote for Park Landscaping tools.

Jane was able to look up pictures of the tools being requested by Steve Evans.

Sean and Jane presented a copy of a quote of equipment being requested by Steve (seasonal employee). There is a storage area that is being cleaned out to store this equipment and it is agreed that this must stay on property. Jake suggested getting additional quotes on this equipment before purchasing. Jake agreed to work on pricing with other suppliers for different brands. Tabled for now.

13. Discussion and possible approval of Hale Mechanical quote for AC replacement at the Community Center.

Greg told Jane that when he works on this AC unit, he would also like to look at the drainage issue on the roof. Everyone should recall the huge avalanches of ice that would flow off the roof and down the outside walls.

Motion made by Sean Holland to approve the Hale Mechanical quote for the AC replacement at the Community Center with Drainage to be a separate quote. Second made by Jake Simons. All voting yes. Motion approved.

14. Discussion and possible approval of quote from Jeff Anderson for infield dirt at the ball diamond.

This is a phased in project. Quote presented to the board for infield dirt from Jeff Anderson. Jane mentioned that the traveling team has been renovating the field for us. Clinton has used same company. To keep within our budget, it was suggested to do 5 loads this fall and the rest in the spring. Sean stated that he was not expecting a \$13,000 price tag on this and questioned how much more they would be playing on the field at this point. No decision was made. Tabled.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:34pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk