

Village of Wapella Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 17th, 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

CORRECTION
TODD GREENBURG

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve 8/20/25 and 9/10/25 meeting minutes. Seconded by John Goergen. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Bills:

Jane left a space holder for Ameren. We have not yet received the bill.

Birkey's: Jane pointed out the bill from Birkey's for two tires for the backhoe. John will explain what happened in his report. Jane split the cost between the Streets and Water budget.

Evergreen FS: We had a diesel delivery. Jane split the cost for the diesel between the Streets and Water budgets.

Hale Mechanical: Greg was called to make a repair to one of the women's toilets at the community center.

Quality Concrete: A check has been issued for the sidewalk work done by Quality Concrete according to the Engineer's Payment Estimate prepared by Rodger Sprague. Rodger will explain this during his report.

Motion made by Jane Buraglio to approve the bills as presented to the board. Seconded by Mark Miller. All voting yest. Motion carried.

Department Reports:

STREETS & ALLEYS: John Goergen

There was a main break and Paul was the only one available. Sean will cover this more in his report. Rex and Buck were out of town. He was there to help as best he could and left at 2:00pm. Dennis also showed up and they all did a good job.

Had the guys try to sweep and clean up Main Street for the car show. They also sprayed weeds . Car show was a success and the guys did a good job of taking care of the trash throughout the day.

Finally got the Kubota done. He went and picked it up himself.

Lost a tire on the zero-turn which needed to be replaced.

The backhoe tire had been cut by a hunk of metal. Two tires had to be replaced.

Concerns about people and construction companies dumping materials at the shed. They have not been able to determine if it is in-town or out of town people doing the dumping.

Day after labor day weekend, someone was doing some major cleaning and the dumpsters were way over filled. GFL did come in and do an extra pick up for us.

Town Clean-up is scheduled for Oct 10 through Oct 20 and there will be a metal dumpster for scrap metal.

The backhoe has some lines that are leaking by the cab on the right side. John provided pictures and stated that he will more than likely repair himself.

Mowing is caught up.

Paul will be out on Medical and will be without Buck due to farming. Will only have Rex available for a few weeks. Dennis told Rex to call him if he needed anything.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Sara Goergen

The Becky Quaid memorial is in bad shape. It has spider cracks and the bricks are crumbling. She had someone look at it and stated that it was not fixable. She notified the family. This memorial has been there about 45 years.

Would like to also discuss updates to the Community Center, but will save that for a later time.

WATER: Sean Holland

Thanked John for the overview of the main break. Also thanked John, Dennis, and Jane for the assistance with the main break on Main Street on Saturday, 8/23/2025. Paul and Rex did a great job especially on a Saturday.

GA Rich came in to clean the aeration tank and backwash pit on Wednesday, 9/17/25. He received a message from Steve Westerfield at 3:45pm stating that everything was completed and the plant was back online. Steve went back out to check the high service pump to be sure it kicked on. GA Rich checked the aerator motor that was making noise and found nothing wrong with it. They did take down the motor information in case it goes out in the future.

GA and Rex also review the meter leak at Rhodes to assess for future fix. Rex explained more about the issue and stated that it does need to be fixed. An adjustment to the bill will need to be made when leak is fixed.

John asked if they do have to shut things down that there would need to be notices sent out about a boil order.

ZONING: Mark Miller

Kris Hedrick contacted him about getting a shed brought in to have for storage of his tools for the work he is doing inside the building on Main Street. The ordinance does allow for a construction shed for up to 12 months without a permit. Kris stated it would only be about 6 months so no permit was issued.

Last month it was brought up about containers and solar farms. Steve has sent him the ordinances for review from Pana. He thinks the Board needs to look into the container ordinance as there should be no containers allowed on residential property. Solar, on the other hand, is pretty lengthy and does not actually apply to our village. He will have copies for everyone at next meeting. This will require the Zoning Board and hearing. He does not have a quorum for the Zoning Board at this time.

FINANCE: Jane Buraglio

Overall Account Balances as of August 31, 2025

General Fund Checking	\$151,145.65
Park CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 59,067.58
Police CD (DeWitt Savings)	\$ 19,420.78
Water Fund Checking	\$ 22,198.63
Motor Fuel Checking	\$ 83,223.16
Water Project Fund	\$ 64,651.40
Restricted Debt Service	\$ 11,845.57
Short Lived Asset Account	\$ 77,623.67
Total:	\$489,178.44

Donation: We have had a very generous \$500 donation from Jim Hull. Jim came over to the park and met me and Steve telling us he would like to pay for a bench to be installed in the park. He told us that he would enjoy sitting on his own bench to rest during his many walks in the park. He would be honored to have a plaque with his name on the bench. Steve is working with Jim to select a specific bench and design a spot for it to be installed.

DeWitt County 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan: Jane was very happy to announce that all of us who participated in the Mitigation Plan process received a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Zachary Krug, the IEMA Hazard Mitigation Section Manager from John Wethington, Chief of the Risk Analysis Branch. The letter says the Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved with an expiration date of August 26, 2030.

This approval now means that the 14 approved participating jurisdictions, of which the Village of Wapella is one of the 14, are now eligible to apply for grants from various entities including FEMA and USDA. Including in the projects I submitted for the Village are stand alone generators for the maintenance shed, the community center and the village hall.

The work of contacting contractors to gather the quotes and plans to be submitted on grant applications. Some of the quotes we initially got are over a year old. Jane can move forward on this with the board's permission.

USDA Civil Rights Compliance Review & Assessment: We received a letter from Julie Beer, our Area Specialist. She states our project identified for this review was a loan closed on June 17, 2018 for Water

System Improvements. Our review and assessment was completed and submitted on August 27, 2025. Our next regularly scheduled project-level civil rights compliance assessment is estimated to be in May 2028.

CAR SHOW: Jane thanked all the people and organizations that participated in the 2nd Annual Hog City Car Show. Billy Miller, Steve and Denice Thomas and Meghan Reeder made this Car Show even bigger and better than the last one.

That said, something we need to discuss as a board before the next Car Show is all the alcohol that walked out of Breakers. We will have to find out who is responsible for alcohol on the street, which has not been allowed in the past without some kind of insurance. Jane knows Breaker's liquor license doesn't allow open cups and containers walking out of the bar. She will check with RMA to see what they recommend. They further discussed possible license and/or insurance coverage and who would be the responsible party for future events on liquor in the streets. Special coverage would be necessary.

ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT: For the record, Jane attended the County Board meeting last month to hear about the cancellation of the Intergovernmental Agreements with the County for Animal Control. The Board ended up voting to cancel the agreements and renegotiate with the municipalities.

Jane met the States Attorney, Dan Markwell, after he said he wanted to review what happened at the meeting. According to the terms of our agreement, either party can withdraw from the agreement with 30-day notice prior to the renewal date. Apparently, the board member presenting this action did not review the terms.

Our Agreement initialed on July 18, 2019. Our Agreement renews every three years, and it renewed on July 18, 2025. We received the cancellation notice in a letter from the State's Attorney telling the village the board voted on August 21, 2025 not to renew it. Since our Agreement had already been renewed without the 30-day prior notice, our Agreement will not expire until July 18, 2028.

These agreements were designed to include a \$100 fine for each complaint to generate income for the Animal Control department. However, Jane was told they have not collected any fine money for years.

Jane asked about the curly slide and if anyone had looked at it to determine if vandalism or just wear and tear. Sara and John agreed that it did not look like vandalism.

DRAINAGE: Dalton Spencer

Nothing really to report. He does have some drainage projects that will be discussed later in the meeting.

WATER OPERATOR: Steve Westerfield

Steve gave Jane copies of a water test survey to pass out to everyone. He is asking that each person complete and get back to him. Jane pointed out that there were certain questions that were specifically directed to Robin about water usage/history.

CLERK: Robin Morrow

There are still some outstanding certifications that need to be turned in and some of these can be fined if not completed and someone checks at the courthouse. Asking that these please get completed and turned in as soon as possible. Those that are not sure what they still need to turn in please ask.

Also, wanted to remind everyone that these meetings are recorded. It is sometimes difficult to transcribe the minutes when there are so many side bar conversations taking place.

Requesting that providing copies of department reports will also help in transcribing the minutes each month. Written, typed, or even emailed versions would be very helpful.

FOIA OFFICER: Robin Morrow

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Jane Buraglio

Jane stated that the website is good and the updated ordinance are on there.

She also asked Todd if the Appropriation Ordinance that they will be discussing tonight could be put on the website. Todd said yes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/Village Organizations:

Steve wanted to update everyone where things are going to be with the park. In 2026 he will finish the areas that were proposed last year. He ran out of time this year to get everything he wanted to get done. In 2027, the last phase to trim overgrown bushes and mow the weeds, edging, etc. He provided pictures to the board for review. He would like to come up with a design and a plan and it to be different from the rest of the park. He envisions something a bit more formal. He wanted to make sure everyone understood that he is not proposing anything but wanted to go through some of the pictures he has. Just wanted to give everyone an idea. He requested that it be put on the agenda for next month to get permission to clean this area up.

Rex Haycraft wanted to thank the Mayor for coming down and bringing coffee and donuts. His visits are greatly appreciated.

Dale Karr was very glad to see the sidewalk repairs being completed but there is one that seems to be missing dirt. Also, over in front of FS there is a tile/drain hole that has fiber optic running through it that needs to be addressed. Jane did state that the fiber company is looking into that.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION, APPROVAL, AND POSSIBLE VOTE:

1) Discussion and possible approval of 2025 MFT Program – Rodger Sprague

Rodger Sprague address the Board about the MFT program. He had the resolution for 2025. Jane stated that it did match the MFT and budget and that Rodger did a good job. He then reviewed the details and handed copies of what needed to be voted on. He then read the script of the resolution to everyone. Once completed, turned it over to Robin, Village Clerk, to certify the resolution.

Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve the MFT Resolution as presented to the Board by Rodger Sprague and Robin Morrow. Seconded by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve the estimated cost of \$36,050. Seconded by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion carried.

Jane will give Rodger Sprague the check to disburse appropriately.

Documents were signed by President and signed and sealed by Village Clerk.

2) Discussion and possible approval of the Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

Jane Buraglio provided a copy of the Appropriation Ordinance for FY ending June 30, 2026 to everyone. It contains the same numbers that we discussed at the Budget Workshop we had last Wednesday. Jane Buraglio made a motion to approve the Appropriation Ordinance. Seconded by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion carried.
2025-09-17

3) Discussion and possible approval of the replacement or repair of concession stand at the ball field.

Sara turned the floor over to John to explain the situation with the replacement and/or repair of the concession stand at the ballfield. John asked the board if it was a plan to repair or to completely replace the current concession stand at the park. He and Sara did get a quote for replacement for a 14 X 24 would be about \$9,800 delivered. He stated that there are other structural issues if it is decided to repair and could be much more expensive than just replacing. He did show pictures of what the replacement would look like and stated that additional windows could be added. John also added that there would be demolition, disposal, and electrical that would also be necessary. He just wanted to get everyone's thoughts of whether to replace or repair. Jane then added that there are possible grants that could help pay for this. She also stated that she was more for total replacement. Mark agreed. John stated that this would be a 6-8 month timeline for getting the grants and that additional estimates are needed and a plan. It appeared that most everyone was in agreement for the replacement over the cost of repairs. There are steps that need to be taken and outside organizations will need to be notified when work will begin. Jane will reach out about the grants that are available. Nothing to vote on at this time.

4) Discussion and possible re-approval of the quotes from Williamson Drainage for two drainage projects.

Dalton Spencer addressed the drainage project quotes from 2023 from Williamson Drainage for the two drainage projects needing to be completed that were already approved, therefore, this is a re-approval. There is one on S. Oak and another on N. First. The water comes off of Main Street.

Jane asked if she could add something. All agreed. Like Dalton explained, Jane stated all the water that runs down Locust Street from Main Street is supposed to turn the corner on North First and travel on west to a catch basin. One of the reasons that most of the water can't make it to the corner is because of her culvert and the fact that it is now mostly plugged from everything that washes into the culvert during heavy rains. She spoke to Rob Williamson and has agreed to pay the cost to have her culvert replaced to help with the drainage.

Dalton stated that this was a re-approval since the quotes are more than two years old. Since the man-power and material costs have increased since then, he was told to add an additional 1% to the previous quote which would be \$600. This would make the new quote \$26,935.85. John asked if this was already approved why the work didn't get

done. Dalton and Jane believe that it just slipped through the cracks and the village just did not pursue it.

Jane Buraglio made motion to re-approve the quote for the drainage projects from Williamson for the 1% increase. Seconded by Mark Miller. All voting yes. Motion carried.

MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION:

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

Motion to enter Closed Session made by Jane Buraglio at 8:29pm. Seconded by John Goergen. All voting yes. Moved to Closed Session.

Entering back into Open Session: 8:40pm

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 8:41pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Robin Morrow, Village Clerk