

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
March 17, 2025**

Mayor Queen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Rossville Municipal Building located at 120 East Attica Street in Rossville, Illinois.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Queen and Trustees Jones, Wallace, and Black physically present.

Trustees absent – Trustees Cornell and Daniel

Trustee attending electronically-Trustee Gammon

Guests present were Clerk White, Treasurer Ault, Superintendent Lusk, Mike Marron (Vermilion Advantage) and Jim Crose (Crose Insurance).

Minutes of the regular board meeting held February 17, 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated February 17, 2025 and approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Queen, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for February 2025, was presented. The February Treasurer's report was reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting held earlier. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Wallace to accept the Treasurer's report for February 2025. Vote: Jones, yes; Black, yes; Wallace, yes; Queen, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting earlier. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Wallace to approve the bills as presented. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Queen, yes.

Superintendent Lusk's report – Mayor Queen asked if Gilbert Street will have anything done to it this year.

Superintendent Lusk stated Gilbert Street will have 2 coats of tar and chip on it.

Superintendent Lusk hopes to start the sidewalk program in April.

Superintendent Lusk presented board members with an estimate to "mill" Attica Street (East Village limits to West Village limits-grade school driveway) and resurface it. Trustee Jones asked if the estimate included striping.

Superintendent Lusk stated striping is not included in the estimate. Striping of Attica Street will be another project.

Superintendent Lusk explained the project will be in 4 stages:

- 1) Village will hand patch Attica Street
- 2) A company will mill a shallow layer to remove imperfections
- 3) Attica Street will have tar and chip applied
- 4) A black layer of microseal will be applied to Attica Street so it can be striped

Sewer Operator's report – There was no report presented this evening due to the passing of Operator Price.

Police report – Trustee Black read Chief Greene's police report.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance as \$80,225.14 for utilities plus \$1,615.03 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$81,840.17. Mayor Queen asked if we were are going to collect on the dumpster fees for the water tower painting project. Clerk White will reach out to the company again. There were no shut offs for the month.

Clerk White reminded board members if they have not completed the Economic Statements (yellow sheets that are received annually from the County Clerk's Office), please do so prior to May 1st. If you have a completed economic statement, you may bring the form into the village office to be mailed.

Mike Marron, from Vermilion Advantage, addressed the meeting. Mr. Marron reported that the Vermilion County Board appointed Vermilion Advantage as the Vermilion County Trustee to handle properties that the taxes are delinquent. If the Village is interested in a property, contact Vermilion Advantage instead of the Edwardsville office that handled properties in prior years. The "County" intends to use a more economical rate to administer this project.

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The proceeds could be given back to the communities or used to get rid of blighted areas. Vermilion Advantage will apply for some State grant funds. A resolution is prepared to request \$400,000 from the Vermilion County Board for funds to use for Matching Grants. Communities outside of Danville can apply for a matching grant to get rid of blight. Monetary awards would be given on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Vermilion Advantage is working with a law firm familiar with State Laws on this type of program to help lessen the amount of properties that get recycled through the “Tax Sale” of delinquent properties.

Superintendent Lusk explained the issue the Village of Rossville has seen is that we watch perfectly good properties get destroyed by people who don’t keep up with their property maintenance and there is nothing we can do for 2-3 years or longer to potentially purchase the property on a tax sale or use the Dangerous Building Procedures and demolish the buildings.

Jim Crose, from Crose Insurance – Jim Crose reviewed health insurance premiums for the upcoming fiscal year. Health Alliance is not offering “Non-Advantage” programs which is what the Village of Rossville provides. The figures presented will be changed due to the passing of Village employee Matt Price. If a replacement is hired, the cost may be the same. Also, if employees who continue working past age 65 elect to enroll in Medicare Part B or an Advantage plan, the employees could be removed from the Village plan which would save approximately \$1800 each in Village expense. Other possible options were discussed.

Mr. Crose reported the life insurance premiums for Principal Life Insurance did not increase this year. Mayor Queen asked if employees could be offered a larger amount of life insurance at no significant expense. Mr. Crose will have to review those figures and report back to the Board.

Engineer Advertise for Bids for 2025 MFT Tar/Chip Program – A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Wallace to authorize the engineer to prepare and advertise for bids for the 2025 MFT tar/chip program. Vote: Black, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes.

Discuss advertising for a maintenance employee – Superintendent Lusk suggested advertising for a maintenance employee to replace Matt Price, who passed away earlier this month. Matt Price was licensed to do the water and operate the sewer. Employee Clayton Snyder is licensed to do the water only. Superintendent Lusk suggested advertising for applications and review the applications but take some time to hire a replacement. Superintendent Lusk will remain with the Village as an employee for a while to help train the new employee. Superintendent Lusk has found someone who has a wastewater license, who has volunteered to sign off on the Village reports until a replacement is found. Superintendent Lusk suggested increasing Clayton Snyder’s rate of pay to what Matt Price’s rate of pay is because Mr. Snyder will be taking over the gas reports, be the sole water operator and do sewer, if he chooses. The new maintenance employee will be required to do a lot of classroom work learning to qualify for the gas system and other aspects of the maintenance position. Trustee Black and Superintendent Lusk will prepare an ad for the maintenance position to be placed on the Village website and Just the Facts.

Update on 217 Perry – Mayor Queen reported the sale of the Village-owned property located at 217 Perry is complete. The funds have been received from the sale of the property. An itemized list of expenses has been prepared for the board to review.

Update on 106 E. Attica – Clerk White reported that a closing date, for the sale of 106 E. Attica, has been scheduled for March 25th.

Discuss Proposed Wind Farm Ordinance – Trustee Black reported the proposed wind farm ordinance does not allow for commercial wind farms within 3 miles of the Village zoning district. The proposed ordinance allows for personal wind energy systems that are small. Fines for violation of the ordinance regarding commercial wind farms are \$1,000 per day. A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Wallace to accept and approve the wind farm ordinance. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Queen, yes. Ordinance 2025-04 passed.

BHRA Request for Post Prom Donation – A request for a donation to the BHRA Post Prom was received. Motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Black to donate \$250 to the BHRA Post Prom. Vote: Jones, yes; Black, yes; Wallace, yes; Queen, yes.

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Finance & Purchasing – Three CDs mature in this month: 1) General Fund CD, balance of approximately \$204,000 matures on March 24th; 2) Gas CD, balance of approximately \$278,000 and gas CD, balance of approximately \$363,000 mature on March 20th.

CD rates from Iroquois Federal are as follows:

30 days	4.30% APY
182 days	4.25% APY
1 year	4.10% APY

CD rates from Longview Bank are as follows:

3 month	4.5% APY
6 month	4.25% APY
1 year	4.00% APY

It was suggested to move the approximately \$363,000 Gas Fund CD to Longview for 3 months at 4.5% and renew the other 2 CDs (approximately \$204,000 General Fund CD, Gas Fund CD approximately \$278,000) at Iroquois Federal for 182 days at 4.25% APY. A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Black to purchase a CD at Longview Bank for the Gas Fund for approximately \$363,000 plus the interest at maturity for 3 months at 4.5% APY and renew 2 CDs (approximately \$278,000 Gas Fund and \$204,000 General Fund plus interest at maturity) at Iroquois Federal for 182 days at 4.25% APY each. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Queen, yes.

Streets & Alleys – Trustee Cornell was absent. Trustee Gammon spoke to Greg Robinson regarding making the crosswalk on Route 1. Mr. Robinson stated specs to paint the crosswalks across Route 1 were omitted during the refinishing of Route 1 last year. Trustee Gammon stated that Mr. Robinson will ask the contractor, who did the Route 1 project, to apply the crosswalks on Route 1 after they finish road work at the bridge north of Rossville this year.

Police, Health & Safety – Trustee Black had nothing further to report at this time.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Jones had nothing to report at this time.

Gas Committee – Trustee Wallace had nothing to report at this time.

Public Improvement – Trustee Daniel was absent.

Old Business – There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business – There was no New Business to address.

Guests to Address the Board: The guest present had no matters to present to the Board at this time.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Queen, yes; Black, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 4-21-25