

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
April 24, 2023

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.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Queen and Trustees Gammon, Black, Daniel, Sturm, Cornell and Hackett physically present.

Absent – None

Guests present were Clerk White, Superintendent Lusk, Jackie Maden, Eric Thomas, Leo Rodgers III, Eva Rodgers, Kenneth Gammon, Mary Merritt, Tina Linder and Mariah Harrison.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held March 20, 2023, special board meetings held April 6, 2023 and April 10, 2023 were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Hackett to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the special board meetings dated April 6, 2023 and April 10, 2023 and approve them as presented. Vote: Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Daniel to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated March 20, 2023 and approve them as presented. Vote: Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for March 2023 was presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Sturm to accept the Treasurer's report for March 2023. Vote: Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Daniel to approve and pay the bills as presented. Vote: Hackett, yes; Cornell, yes; Sturm, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Gammon, yes.

Resident Eric Thomas read a statement regarding his views of the mayor and trustees, the lack of fulfillment of resolution to and completion of problems or complaints, some of the situations around the Village that need attention and action and asked if the mayor and trustees are aware of the State grants available for improvements including infrastructure, economic development, beautification and events to attract tourists then gave each Board member and Mayor Queen a copy of his statement, of which Mr. Thomas required no response. Mr. Thomas then left the meeting.

New Resident Eva Rodgers inquired about Memorial Day events. Mrs. Rodgers would like to get involved with the community. Mayor Queen reported the RCO (Rossville Community Organization) places flags along both sides of Chicago Street from the north end to the south end. The Village places big flags on the antique street light poles. There are no other events scheduled for Memorial Day. Several events are planned annually for the 4th of July, of which the RCO sponsors a parade. There will be other events such as a water slide, fish fry and fireworks at the park on the 4th of July.

Mr. Rodgers inquired about who to contact to discuss membership in the RCO. Mayor Queen will contact Mr. & Mrs. Rodgers regarding joining the RCO.

Resident Mary Merritt asked when the alley beside her property will be fixed. Mayor Queen stated the alley will be done this summer. Tina Linder also heard the alley would be widened 3 feet. Superintendent Lusk stated the alleys in the Village are 16.5' wide. This particular alley is only approximately 12' wide in certain areas and not straight. Therefore, the alley would be widened in the areas that are not 16.5' and straightened. Trustee Black and Trustee Gammon stated in the agreement with Premier Cooperative to close the end of Maple Street toward Gilbert, the alley, in the 300 block between Maple and Gilbert Streets, will be resurfaced with tar and chips as a street so vehicles, not to include semis, can drive on the road.

Mariah Harrison complained about the many potholes in the alley beside 307 Gilbert Street. Superintendent Lusk stated the alley can be grated up to the garage. Trustee Black informed Superintendent Lusk the Board approved and

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voted for the alley to be grated and road pack to be installed up to the garage. Superintendent Lusk was not aware of the decision made by the Board.

Mary Merritt asked if the Village is going to prepare the alley between Maple and Gilbert in the 300 block for traffic with tar and chip, will the Village maintain the alley? Board members said yes. Further discussion will be held under New Business later in the meeting.

Jackie Maden complained about the chickens running loose around 108 N. Chicago. Village ordinance allows residents to have chickens but they must be contained in a coop. The matter will be discussed at the next Police, Health and Safety Committee meeting.

Mrs. Maden also reported the building across from the village office has a window broken on the third floor. Mrs. Maden is afraid the glass will fall out and hurt someone passing by. Trustee Gammon will instruct Chief Greene to write an ordinance violation letter.

Mr. Rodgers requested a copy of a street map of the Village. Clerk White will mail a map to him.

Superintendent Lusk's report – Superintendent Lusk gave Board members a copy of the proposed streets to be tarred and chipped this year under the seal coat program. There are 19 items on the engineer's estimate of \$102,078.46, which includes some private funded portions that will be reimbursed to the Village. If the private areas are decided against by the owners, the portion will be removed from the project. Included in the proposed project is the portion of N. Summit from Henderson Street to York. The program needs put out for bid. Superintendent Lusk will ask Ribbe for a separate bid for the parking lot at 122 E. Attica and the alley between Maple and Gilbert Streets in the 300 block. Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Gammon to approve the MFT seal coat project to be advertised for bids. Vote: Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes.

Mr. Rodgers asked if the Village doesn't have money to maintain the alleys, how did the Board just approve funds to resurface the streets. Trustee Sturm stated the Village does not have an alley repair program. Trustee Black stated the Village resurfaces the streets but only a few at a time due to the cost of the projects.

Sewer Operator Price's report – Trustee Gammon reported we are waiting on better weather to repair the brickwork at the sewer plant.

Mayor Queen reported Matt Price has his water operator's license so as of next Monday, Matt Price will be the official water operator.

Trustee Gammon gave Board members a copy of the current schedule for the lift station. The punch lift will be delivered on May 29th, weather permitting. A crane was brought in to set the manhole.

Police report – Newly hired Ryan Soderstrom begins PTI (Police Training Institute) May 1st. Mr. Soderstrom will be on the payroll as of May 1st. Mr. Soderstrom will be using a police vehicle to travel to PTI. Trustee Gammon reported the police department currently consists of the Police Chief and an SRO at the grade school and one at PTI. The Village is trying to hire more officers and a SRO for BHRA High School but it is a struggle.

Accounts Receivable - Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$30,885.00. There were miscellaneous invoices totaling \$2,400.00, making the total accounts receivable as \$33,285.00. There were no shutoffs this month.

Reappoint Treasurer, Collector, Deputy Collector, Superintendent, Chief of Police, ESDA Coordinator – Mayor Queen reappointed Bridget Ault as Treasurer, Chris White as Collector, Kathy Rife as Deputy Collector, Randy Lusk as Superintendent, Lacy Greene as Chief of Police and Mike Bray as ESDA Coordinator. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Daniel to concur with Mayor Queen's appointments. Vote: Black, yes; Gammon, yes; Hackett, yes; Cornell, yes; Sturm, yes. Daniel, yes.

Utility Write-Offs – Collector White presented a spreadsheet of 4 accounts totaling \$1,227.60 to write-off as uncollectible. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to approve the write-off of 4 accounts totaling \$1,227.60. Vote: Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes.

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Collector White asked, on behalf of the owner of 308 Dale, to remove the minimum fees on the account. The owner has not resided in the house for several years but has paid the minimum bills. The owner had a water leak years ago and the services were shut off at that time. The owner has requested the services to remain off and forgiveness of the minimum fees on his account. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to adjust the minimum fees off the account and make the account inactive. Vote: Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes.

Ordinance to Increase Minimum Rates in Gas and Sewer Funds – An ordinance was presented to increase the customer charge for residential accounts \$2 from \$8 to \$10, industrial accounts from \$40 to \$42 and sewer minimum for 0-2,000 gallons from \$18.60 to \$20.60. An ordinance was previously adopted to increase the sewer minimum rate by \$1 beginning in May each year. The additional increase of \$1, will be earmarked to establish sinking funds for meter replacement. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to approve/adopt the ordinance to increase minimum rates in gas and sewer funds effective May 1, 2023. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes. Ordinance 2023-01 passed.

Superintendent Lusk suggested reviewing annual increases like the water fund minimum rates increase annually. The matter will be revisited next year.

Ordinance establishing Sinking funds in the gas fund for the purpose of replacing gas meters and radio reading equipment – An ordinance was presented to establish sinking funds in the gas fund for the purpose of replacing gas meters and radio reading equipment. The \$2 increase per customer per month, effective May 1, 2023, would be deposited into a sinking funds established for the purpose of purchasing gas meters and radio reading equipment. Motion was made by Hackett, seconded by Daniel to approve/adopt the ordinance to establish sinking funds in the gas fund for the replacement of gas meters and purchasing radio reading equipment. Vote: Sturm, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Gammon, yes; Hackett, yes; Cornell, yes. Ordinance 2023-02 passed.

Ordinance establishing Sinking funds in the sewer fund for the purpose of replacing meters and radio reading equipment – An ordinance was presented to establish sinking funds in the sewer fund for the purpose of replacing meters and radio reading equipment. Sewer billing is based on water readings therefore, the sewer fund should pay a portion of the cost to replace meters and meter reading equipment. The additional \$1 increase per customer per month, effective May 1, 2023, would be deposited into a sinking funds established for the purpose of purchasing meters and radio reading equipment. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Daniel to approve/adopt the ordinance to establish sinking funds in the sewer fund for the replacement of meters and purchasing radio reading equipment. Vote: Daniel, Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes. Ordinance 2023-03 passed.

Ordinance establishing sinking funds in the General, Storm Water, Gas, Water and Sewer Funds for the purpose of purchasing maintenance equipment and other options – An ordinance was previously prepared that after the annual audit, take the gains from each fund and establish a sinking fund for purchasing maintenance equipment. An alternate solution to establish sinking funds in each fund was to follow the guidelines for the police car sinking funds and deposit a specified amount in each fund annually. Upon consensus of the Board, an ordinance can be prepared for presentation at next month's meeting with the specified dollar amounts. Trustee Black suggested preparing such an ordinance for presentation at next month's meeting.

Purchase/Lease of New Backhoe – Superintendent Lusk presented information on leasing a backhoe compared to purchasing a backhoe. Superintendent Lusk reviewed both John Deere and CAT backhoes. Superintendent Lusk spoke to Iroquois Federal regarding financing the backhoe at 5.5% with first payment due May 2024 then payments in May for 4 additional years. The current backhoe will get new tires and fix a cable that broke then take to Mowry's to sell. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Daniel to purchase the CAT backhoe for \$152,786.00 with a loan from Iroquois Federal at a rate of 5.5% interest for 5 years with the first payment due May, 2024, and sell the old backhoe prior to May, 2024. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes.

SRO Agreement with BHRA – Mayor Queen reported the Board has a potential candidate for the SRO position at BHRA. The candidate has military police service of 5 years but the State awarded service credit of 2.5 years as SRO. If the candidate is hired, they will have to go to PTI and when completed, work for the Village for 6 months prior to being qualified for consideration for SRO. Trustee Gammon suggested removing “2022-2023” school year on page 9,

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since the school year is almost over, from the contract and return the contract to BHRA. Trustee Black suggested amending the contract to read, "Once the qualified candidate is approved by both parties, that would be when the contract begins. Trustee Black suggested BHRA sign the amended contract then the Village would sign the official agreement. Trustee Black will amend the contract then the contract be returned to BHRA.

Radio Read System – Superintendent Lusk proposed purchasing a new radio reading system by SENSUS from Core & Main out of Peoria. Superintendent Lusk reported approximately 150 water meters have failed, read monthly by hand and need replaced. The water meter sinking fund has approximately \$120,000 to apply to this project. The SENSUS system would work for gas and water meters. The new system would operate through an app on a smartphone instead of the laptop that the current system uses. If the Board decides to purchase the new system, both the current system and new system would be used until all meters have been replaced. The smartphone, command link that receives the transmissions, training and software would cost \$4,800. The meters are an additional cost of \$300 each plus the radio reads. The meters would have a 10-year warranty. The annual fee for the software is \$2,450. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Gammon to purchase water meters, radio reads and software by SENSUS from Core & Main of Peoria, along with authorizing the training. Vote: Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes.

Stop Light Solicitation Request – The Stateline Pride Volleyball Club requested permission to have a stop light solicitation for donations on Saturday, April 30th from 9:45 – 11:45 a.m. The donations would offset expenses for 2 teams from the volleyball club on their trip to Nationals in Orlando, Florida. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Daniel to allow the stop light solicitation for donations on Sunday, April 30th from 9:45-11:45a.m. provided there are 3 adults to supervise, wear high visibility clothing and a police officer is present. Vote: Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Sturm, yes; Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes. Mayor Queen will contact the person in charge to make sure the event is handled safely.

Finance & Purchasing Committee – Trustee Hackett presented the budget amendment ordinance for fiscal year; 2023. After no further questions, a motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Hackett to adopt the fiscal year 2023 budget amendment ordinance. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes. Ordinance 2023-04 passed.

The salary ordinance for fiscal year 2024 was presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Hackett to adopt the fiscal year 2024 salary ordinance. Vote: Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes. Ordinance 2023-05 passed.

The budget ordinance for fiscal year 2024 and estimated revenues were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Sturm to adopt the fiscal year 2024 budget ordinance. Vote: Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes. Ordinance 2023-06 passed.

Streets & Alleys Committee- Trustee Cornell reported that he picked up the fish order from Danville and the fish were brought back and placed in the pond.

Police, Health & Safety Committee-

- 1) Trustee Gammon explained what FLOCK cameras could do for the Rossville Police Department and the Village of Rossville. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Sturm to proceed with the purchase of 2 FLOCK cameras to be placed at the north and south end of Route 1. Vote: Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes.
- 2) Health concerns of 105 N. Chicago Employee Health Concerns-Trustee Black recommended the topic deferred to the Police Committee. The concerns were regarding the deteriorating buildings at 102-106 N. Chicago, birds, zoning violations regarding no living on first floor in a B-1 zoned district and needed repair to the building located at 108 N. Chicago. TIF funds may be available to assist with expenses for the building repairs.
- 3) Purchase Handheld Radios- The matter will be tabled to the Police Committee.
- 4) Purchase a VISA card for PTI training travel-New hire Ryan Soderstrom will be traveling to PTI with the Ford Explorer. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Daniel to purchase a VISA card in the amount of \$250, for fuel while Mr. Soderstrom is traveling to PTI. Vote: Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes. Receipts for the expenses are to be returned to the village office.

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Water & Sewer Committee Report – Trustee Gammon had nothing further to report.

Gas Committee- Clerk White explained IMGA's fee will increase from 4 cents per dekatherm to 6 cents per dekatherm effective May 1, 2023. Enclosed in the Board packets is an amendment to the natural gas all requirements sales agreement stating the increase. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Hackett to approve the amendment to the natural gas all requirements sales agreement with an increase in IMGA's fee from 4 cents per dekatherm to 6 cents per dekatherm. Vote: Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes.

Public Improvements Committee – Trustee Daniel had nothing to report at this time.

New Business – Motion was made by Black, seconded by Cornell to grade the alley beside 307 Gilbert Street, put new sub straight (rock) down in the alley from Gilbert Street to even with the entrance of 307 Gilbert's garage. Vote: Sturm, no; Cornell, yes; Hackett, abstain; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes.

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Sturm to adjourn to executive session to review executive session minutes under 5 ILCS 120/2 C21 and discuss hiring a police officer under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1. Vote: Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to return to regular session. Vote: Cornell, yes; Sturm, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Gammon, yes; Hackett, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 9:45 p.m.

Motion was made by Hackett, seconded by Sturm to release executive session minutes dated 9/16/19, 10/19/20, 4/19/21, 10/19/22, 11/2/22, 10/17/22, 11/10/22, 12/14/22 and 2/8/23. Vote: Daniel, yes; Black, no; Gammon, yes; Hackett, yes; Cornell, yes; Sturm, yes.

Motion was made by Hackett, seconded by Black to approve the resolution to destroy executive session tapes that have been retained at least 18 months after minutes were released dated 4/20/20, 5/18/20, 6/15/20, 10/19/20, 11/16/20 and 2/18/21. Vote: Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Sturm, yes. Resolution 2023-04 passed.

Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Black to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Black, yes; Gammon, yes; Hackett, yes; Cornell, yes; Sturm, yes; Daniel, yes. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk

Board approved 5/15/2023