

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
May 19, 2025**

Mayor Black 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 Black and Trustees Jones, Wallace, Mikel, Ault and Gammon physically present.

Trustees absent – None (New Trustee Not Appointed Yet).

Guests present were Clerk White, Treasurer Bridget Ault, Justin Richison (Vermilion County Fair President), Larry Moss (Vermilion County 200th Year Celebration), Ken Gammon, Jackie Maden and Gavin Heavner.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held April 21, 2025, Budget Hearing held April 30, 2025 and Special Board meeting held April 30, 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Wallace to dispense with the reading minutes of the regular board meeting held on April 21, 2025, Budget Hearing held on April 30, 2025 and the Special Board meeting held on April 30, 2025 and approve the minutes as presented with an omnibus vote. Vote: Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes.

Larry Moss, representing the Vermilion County Museum Committee regarding the celebration for the 200th year for Vermilion County, explained about the celebration for the 200th year for Vermilion County. Calendar year 2026 is the 200th year for Vermilion County being established. The committee is planning a year long celebration beginning with the Festival of Trees in 2025. Mr. Moss listed some of the events that are already scheduled, banners, exhibits and travel. The committee would like a schedule of events from each community to advertise.

Justin Richison, Vermilion County Fair President, asked the Village Board to consider donating to the Vermilion County Fair. Last year the Village donated \$500. Mr. Richison listed some of the events along with some new events that will be held at the fairgrounds this year. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to donate \$500 to the Vermilion County Fair. Vote: Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for April 2025, was presented. The April 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 April 2025. Vote: Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes.

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – There were no comments on Superintendent Lusk's written report. Motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Gammon to accept Superintendent Lusk's written report. Vote: Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes.

Sewer Operator's report – There was no report presented this evening.

Police report –Chief Greene's report was reviewed. Discussion on the handhelds was tabled to a Police, Health and Safety Committee meeting. Ordinance titles and sections of code in the ordinance book were presented but the report didn't include how many violations were attached to each section of the code. Trustee Gammon stated the Vehicle Maintenance schedule was a report for 2024. All matters will be tabled for discussion at the next Police, Health & Safety Committee meeting.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance as \$28,562.13 for utilities plus \$111,733.66 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$140,295.79. There were no shut offs for the month.

4th of July Parade Resolution – A resolution was presented to authorize the closure of Route 1 (Chicago Street) on July 4, 2025, from 11-11:30 a.m. from Green Street to Stufflebeam Drive for the 4th of July (Independence Day) parade that

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RCO (Rossville Community Organization) is sponsoring. Mayor Black requested notifying everyone, including Superintendent Lusk when the parade resolution is approved by IDOT so everyone is on the same page. Clerk White stated, in the past, when the resolution is approved by IDOT, the office staff gives copies of the approved resolution to the Chief of Police and the person who requested the road closure. A copy is also retained in the "Parades Approved" folder in the filing cabinet in the office. The original resolution is kept in the vault in the Resolution notebook. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to approve the parade resolution to close Route 1, from Green Street to Stuffbeam Drive on July 4, 2025 from 11-11:30 a.m. for the Independence Day parade. Vote: Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes. Resolution 2025-08 passed.

Reappoint Treasurer, Collector, Deputy Clerk/Collector, Superintendent, Chief of Police and ESDA Coordinator – Mayor Black appointed Bridget Ault as Treasurer, Chris White as Collector, Kathy Rife as Deputy Clerk/Collector, Clayton Snyder as Superintendent, Randy Lusk as Director of the Superintendent and Building Inspector and Mike Bray as ESDA Coordinator. Motion was made by Ault, seconded by Jones to concur with Mayor Black's appointments as listed above. Vote: Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes.

Tree Planting Ordinance – Clerk White stated there was no ordinance presented regarding tree planting. Information received from the Director of the Superintendent Randy Lusk regarding a list of trees and where to plant certain trees. Mr. Lusk suggested Board members retain the list for future reference so they know which trees can be planted in which areas so they don't breakup the new sidewalks. Mayor Black plans to plant a tree on Village property if a tree has been removed/taken down.

Façade Improvement Grant Reimbursement Request – Aaron Patten, from Patten Development Group LLC, submitted a reimbursement request for the improvements on the front of the building (material-\$3,800, labor-\$8,000), west side of the building (material-\$1,200, labor-\$2,500) and for windows (\$812.36) on his commercial property located at 110-112 E. Attica Street. Mr. Patten's application for a Façade Improvement Grant was approved at the April board meeting. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Ault to reimburse Aaron Patten, Patten Development Group LLC, \$5,000 for improvements made to his property at 110-112 E. Attica under the façade improvements grant. Vote: Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes; Ault, yes.

Façade Improvement Grant Request – A request was received from Erik Pelikant, 104 N Chicago, for façade improvements to tuck point, paint, fix and replace doors and windows, fix and replace bad wood on exterior. The total estimated cost for Mr. Pelikant's project is \$10,000+. The grant amount requested is \$5,000. If the grant is approved, when the project is completed, Mr. Pelikant will present receipts for the work completed. Motion was made by Mikel, seconded by Ault to approve the façade improvement grant application received from Erik Pelikant for up to \$5,000. Vote: Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes.

Bid from Daniel Ribbe Trucking for Gilbert Street, Attica Street, Sewer Plant and Village Parking Lot - Bids for the projects on Gilbert Street, Attica Street, Sewer Plant and Village parking lot at 122 E. Attica were submitted and opened on May 12, 2025. One bid was received for the entire project from Daniel L. Ribbe Trucking for \$240,263.96. Trustee Gammon had previously asked Superintendent Lusk for his recommendation. Trustee Gammon stated Superintendent Lusk recommended doing the entire project except for the Village parking lot at 122 E. Attica, which estimated cost is \$6,227.13. The remaining project would cost \$234,036.83. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to accept the bid from Daniel L. Ribbe Trucking of \$240,263.96 minus the parking lot cost of \$6,227.13, leaving the remaining cost of \$234,036.83. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes.

Candidate to replace Trustee Charles Cornell after resignation as of April 30, 2025 – Mayor Black recommended replacing Charles Cornell as Trustee with Renae Ward. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Wallace to concur with Mayor Black's appointment of Renae Ward to replace Charles Cornell as Trustee. Vote: Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes.

Cemetery Mowing Complaint – Mayor Black received an email with a complaint on the mowing at the Rossville cemetery. The complaint was redirected to the Ross South Ross Cemetery Board President Rick Farnsworth.

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Home Rule Discussion – Mayor Black presented information regarding becoming a Home Rule community, Home Rule powers, stated a question must be placed on the ballot at the next general election for the public to vote on and presented advantages of becoming a “Home Rule” community. Communities with a population of 5,000 or over are automatically a Home Rule community. Mayor Black wanted to present the idea for board members to consider.

Committee Assignments – Mayor Black has assigned board members to different committees and presented the committees to each board member. Trustee Jones is chairperson of the Finance & Purchasing Committee, Trustee Gammon is chairperson for the Gas, Water & Sewer, Public Improvements and Streets & Alleys Committees. Trustee Wallace is chairperson of the Police, Health & Safety Committee.

LOCiS upgrade to Cloud and Email capabilities – A proposal to upgrade the LOCiS system, which the office staff uses for payroll, utility billing, general ledger, accounts payable, third-party transactions, online bill pay and direct debit programs, was presented. The current system is LOCiS 7 and would possibly upgrade to LOCiS 8, which is a Cloud-based system. Another update presented was to allow office staff to email payroll check stubs and utility bills to customers and employees. The email upgrade would cost \$650 + membership fees. The LOCiS upgrade would cost \$4,014, which increased from \$3,612 for the LOCiS 7 membership fees. Mayor Black approved the upgrade to LOCiS 8 since it is a Cloud based system versus a system that would have to be backed up. No objections to the upgrade were voiced. Mayor Black signed the contract for the LOCiS 8 upgrade.

Mayor Black authorized \$500 to be spent on a set of 4 tires at State bid price for the Durango squad.

306-308 Maple Update – Mayor Black updated board members stating we are beginning the foreclosure process of 306-308 Maple for cleanup and demolition expenses. Board members received a copy of the Notice of Municipal Lien for Remediation and Demolition Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-31-1(e) that was filed by Village attorney Andrew Mudd. The total expenses for 306-308 Maple were \$21,923.60. We will wait to see what the next step in the proceedings is from the Village attorney.

Mayor Black would like to “Tidy Up” the pond area. The weeds need to be sprayed again.

Finance & Purchasing – Clerk White reported the audit for fiscal year 24-25 will begin on June 11th & 12th.

Trustee Gammon had nothing to report at this time for the Water & Sewer, Gas, Public Improvements or Streets & Alleys Committees.

Old Business – There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business – Gavan Heavner is requesting community assistance on cutting down two trees in his back yard before they fall on the garage or a powerline – Resident Gavan Heavner has two trees, on the back of his property, that need cut down before one or both of them fall and land on a powerline or garage. One tree is leaning on the other tree. Mr. Heavner has no monetary means of having the trees cut. Mr. Heavner was asking for resources and/or assistance the Village may help with to cut the trees. Mayor Black stated the Village cannot cut trees on residents’ properties but may be able to see if they can find some resources to help Mr. Heavner. Mr. Heavner was asked to get an estimate for cutting the trees for his information. Jackie Maden gave Mr. Heavner the name of a person who may be able to give him an estimate.

Mayor Black also presented a list of proposed committees and restructuring of committees. The proposed committees were as follows: Finance and Budget Committee, Planning and Public Works Committee, Economic Development and Business Growth Committee, Community Assistance, Functions and Engagement (CAFÉ), Beautification, and Public Spaces Committee, Strategic Planning and Revitalization, Grants and Funding, Police, Health & Safety Committees. If board members approve the restructuring of the committees and their roles, an ordinance would need to be passed and approved to change the committee titles, roles and responsibilities. Board members will review the proposal for amendments to committees. The matter will be discussed at another meeting.

Guests – Rose Kiser was scheduled to address the Board on Ordinance Violations but did not appear this evening.

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Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to adjourn to executive session to discuss employee compensation under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1 regarding Chief's Pay, Employees over 65 Benefits, Clayton Snyder Retro Pay. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:50 p.m.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Mikel to leave executive session and return to regular session. Vote: Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 9:15 p.m.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Mikel to pay Clayton Snyder retro pay, the difference in his current hourly rate of \$23.15 and his new rate of pay \$26.04, for hours from March 3-16th since taking over for Matt Price after his passing. Vote: Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Mikel to increase pay employees over 65, who sign up for Medicare Part B by the amount of the expense for Part B. The employee would then be removed from the Village health insurance program. Vote: Ault, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes.

Chief Greene's salary was reviewed. No action was taken at this time.

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Mikel to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, no; Mikel, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 6/16/2025