

**Village of Rossville**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 20, 2024**

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 Black, Jones, Richison, Daniel, Cornell and Gammon physically present.  
Trustees absent – None

Guests present were Clerk White, Bridget Ault, Will Gray, engineer, Kenneth Gammon and Leo Rodger.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held April 15, 2024, Budget Hearing held April 30, 2024 and special board meeting held April 30, 2024 were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Cornell to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as presented with an omnibus vote. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for April 2024, was presented. The treasurer's report was reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting held earlier. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to accept the Treasurer's report for April 2024, as presented. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting earlier. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to approve the bills for payment as presented. Vote: Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes.

Superintendent Lusk's report – Trustee Richison asked why we can't get oil yet. Will Gray, engineer, stated the oil is temperature based so it probably wasn't being made yet and the oil is usually purchased from the asphalt companies. Trustee Black asked if the Village is only doing Maple Street sidewalks this time. Trustee Gammon stated Maple Street and Church are included in the spring sidewalk project. Mayor Queen noticed some of the trees have uprooted some sidewalks. Mayor Queen asked Superintendent Lusk if the trees will need to be cut down. Superintendent Lusk explained to Mayor Queen the portion of the sidewalk that was uprooted will be lifted, the part of the root that uprooted the sidewalk will be cut and removed then the sidewalk will be placed back into position. Trustee Black asked if the sidewalk will be repaired in front of 210 Gilbert. Mayor Queen reported 210 Gilbert is on the list to repair. Mayor Queen stated the tree on his corner, Summit and Gilbert Streets, does not have to be removed. The sidewalk ramps are on the list and will be made ADA compliant. Trustee Black asked if the bushes by the sidewalk, on the property directly south of Mayor Queen's house, can be trimmed. Mayor Queen reported that Chief Greene can send the owner(s) of the property a notice to have the bushes trimmed so walkers may use them easier.

Sewer Operator Price's report – There were no comments on Sewer Operator Matt Price's written report.

Police report – Trustee Black commented that he could not support the promotion of Officer McMilleon based on the performance review that was submitted. Trustee Gammon agreed and more time needs to be served prior to recommending a promotion. Trustee Black stated Officer McMilleon is a great officer but more time of service as a police officer would be expected. Mayor Queen suggested postponing discussion on the Parental Responsibility Ordinance that Chief Greene submitted to the Police, Health & Safety Committee. Trustee Black agreed.

Water & Sewer Committee – Will Gray, engineer with Donohue & Associates, presented and explained the 2 options for exterior work on the water tower. Both options contain the same work for the inside of the tower. Bids were received and then opened on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Two pictures were passed around to show the options for painting the water tower: 1) blue with black lettering like is on water tower currently and 2) bottom ½ painted black, top ½ painted red, band of white paint with black lettering spelling ROSSVILLE and 2 paw prints offset on the left of ROSSVILLE. The tower has a coating of paint that is at the end of its life since it has been on the tower for over 10 years. You cannot

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overcoat the current paint and expect it to last long term. In order to apply a paint that would last a long time, you would have to remove the current paint and the lead-based primer then paint with a new system. Option #1-overcoat the existing paint of the tower with paint compatible with the Alkyd Aluminum paint with blue paint and clean the tower had the low bid of \$192,500 from LC United Painting. Option #2-The lead-containing primer will be removed and properly disposed of according to Illinois Law. Remove existing paint under a drape from the tower and prepare the metal surface for a complete new coating system. The tower would then be painted with a multi color red, black and white theme design with the Rossville paw prints logo and lettering-low bid was \$293,000. Mr. Gray performed reference checks on the low bidder. Mr. Gray works with Dixon Engineering, who rates companies. Dixon Engineering found no issues with LC United Painting. Mr. Gray explained LC United Painting is not a union company but the remaining 4 companies who bid on the project are union companies, which may explain the vast difference in bid amounts. Once the Notice to Proceed is completed, the contractor will have 90 days to complete the project. Mr. Gray explained the process and timeline of 45 calendar days after the tower is offline to complete the project. The red color will fade a little but red is the only color that is not guaranteed for 15 years for fading. Once the contractor is on board, the contractor will send the color samples so the colors for the tower can be chosen. A motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to accept the bid from LC United Painting for \$293,000 for option #2 to clean, scrape, repair and paint the tower with the multicolor red, black and white theme with the Rossville paw print logo and lettering. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Mr. Gray presented the engineering contract to inspect the tower during construction between the Village of Rossville and Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services not to exceed \$24,800. Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services will climb the tower, do a thickness test on the coating, and make sure the surface prep is the right amount. Mr. Gray will handle the pre-construction meeting then turn the project over to Todd Shaffer from Dixon Engineering. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to accept the contract between the Village of Rossville and Dixon Engineering and Inspection Services to inspect the water tower project for an amount not to exceed \$24,800. Vote: Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes.

Accounts Receivable - Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$21,996.50. There were miscellaneous invoices totaling \$1,000.00, making the total accounts receivable \$22,996.50. There were 4 accounts disconnected this month. Two accounts were paid in full and reconnected. The other 2 accounts remain disconnected.

4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Resolution – A resolution was presented for the closure of Route 1, from Green Street to Stufflebeam Drive, on July 4, 2024 from 11:00 -11:30 a.m. for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Richison to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Resolution to close Route 1 from Green Street to Stufflebeam Drive from 11-11:30 a.m. Vote: Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. Resolution 2024-05 passed.

Donation to Vermilion County Fair – Trustee Richison stated the Vermilion County Fair Board is requesting organizations, municipalities, groups, etc. to sponsor the Fair. There are different levels of sponsorship. A donation to the Fair was added to the fiscal year 2025 budget. A motion was made by Jones, seconded by Daniel to donate \$500 to the Vermilion County Fair. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, abstain; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

217 Perry and 307 Benton – Mayor Queen has contacted the owner of 217 Perry, which has been condemned. Mayor Queen has offered the owner chances to sign a quitclaim deed to the Village of Rossville. The owner sold the contents to someone who is removing the contents. One 30-yard dumpster of items has been removed from the property. Superintendent Lusk has been in the house and believes the house is savable. If the owner signs the quitclaim deed to the Village, the Village would put the property out for bid, hopefully, to someone who will flip it, the Village would deduct the expenses toward the house and the profit would be returned to the current owner of the property.

307 Benton – Mayor Queen and Superintendent Lusk have been in the property at 307 Benton and believe the building can be saved. The registered owner is deceased and the Village is attempting to find an heir to the property. Two years of back taxes have been sold. The Village would like to purchase the 3<sup>rd</sup> year then foreclose on the utility liens on the property.

Heating and A/C Maintenance – The Village office received membership information from Edelman, who bought Cade's Heating and Air that installed the office furnace and air conditioning unit. Monthly payments can be made for

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the membership fees or the Village can pay the call-out fees for each semi-annual inspection and maintenance. Board members discussed other local options and agreed to use other sources for heating and cooling needs.

Officer Ryan Soderstrom submitted his resignation effective May 15, 2024.

Ordinance regarding Parental Responsibility – Mayor Queen stated the ordinance will be tabled to the Police, Health & Safety Committee meeting.

Trustee Gammon reported the grant for the pond for \$50,000 was denied. Over 500 applications were turned in but only 25 grants are approved per quarter. Trustee Gammon will continue to apply for the grant. Trustee Gammon reported a lot of the pond has been cleared. There is more work to be done.

A copy of Resolution 2008-06 establishing sinking funds in the general fund for a police car and sinking funds for water tower painting and maintenance, well maintenance and repairs and water distribution improvements, that have maximum accumulation limits established, was presented for discussion. Board members discussed removing the limit of accumulation in both sinking funds due to rising costs for these purchases or projects. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to amend the resolution to remove the cap of \$30,000 in the police car sinking fund and the \$120,000 in the water sinking fund for the water tower painting maintenance, well maintenance and repairs and water distribution improvements. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes. Resolution 2024-06 passed.

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Cornell reported the fish order was picked up and the fish were placed in the pond.

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

Gas Committee- Trustee Richison had nothing to report on gas. Trustee Richison updated board members on the crosswalks. The State oversees the crosswalks crossing Route 1 (Chicago Street). The State will not work on permanent markings for the crosswalks for Route 1 until after the bridge work is completed north of town, maybe the middle of June. Then a company will come from Chicago to stripe the crosswalks plus Route 1 at the bridge site. Trustee Richison is waiting for a return call from the County Engineer. Trustee Richison is hoping the Engineer will come and tell the Village what needs to be done for East/West Attica Streets and any suggestions how to do it so it will last a while. Paint will not last long on concrete. The Village needs to decide if they want signs on the post over the street to show lanes for each direction to drive-left turn, straight, or right turn or to paint directional signs on the street. Trustee Richison has not discussed the delayed walk button on the traffic posts. Trustee Black asked Superintendent Lusk regarding changing the timing of the buttons so pedestrians can cross the street. Superintendent Lusk informed Trustee Black the posts, in each corner of the intersection, contain a module that is programmable to time the crossing of pedestrians. The original module is being repaired so a temporary module was installed. The temporary module was not adapted to the correct timing. Once the original module is placed back into the posts, the timing will be adjusted.

Resident Leo Rodger asked when the streetlights in front of his property will be repaired. Mayor Queen reported parts are ordered but have not arrived yet. Mayor Queen will ask Superintendent Lusk for an update.

Mr. Rodger also asked if the property behind his house is an alley or if it is private property. Different opinions were voiced. Mayor Queen stated the matter will be investigated and will let Mr. Rodger know if the property is privately owned or an alley.

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White  
Village Clerk  
Board approved 6/17/2024