

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
June 17, 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, Scott Sprague, Susan Siddens, Nadia Skinner, Louise Walter and Dean Walter.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held May 20, 2024 and special board meeting held May 28, 2024 were presented. Trustee Black stated the minutes of the meeting that police salaries were discussed, do not reflect discussion regarding giving employees an additional week of PTO (personal time off/vacation days). Discussion on police salaries was on the Special Board Meeting held May 28, 2024. Therefore, a motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated May 20, 2024 and approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes.

The special board meeting minutes dated May 28, 2024 were discussed. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as amended to insert, “discussion was held on giving employees an additional week of PTO (personal time off/vacation time)” and to add on the next regular board meeting to discuss the additional week of PTO. Vote: Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes.

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

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting earlier. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to approve the bills dated June 14, 2024 and June 17, 2024 for payment as presented. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes.

Superintendent Lusk’s report – Trustee Gammon had previously asked Superintendent Lusk if the antique streetlights had been repaired on North Chicago. Superintendent Lusk told Trustee Gammon the repairs had been made then found a bulb went out. The bulb will be checked tomorrow.

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

Police report – Mayor Queen commented that the police department was busy this month. There were no further comments on Chief Greene’s report.

Accounts Receivable - Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$34,963.03. There were miscellaneous invoices totaling \$1,000.00, making the total accounts receivable \$35,963.03. There was 1 account that was reconnected this month after being disconnected for quite a while.

A donation of \$5,000 for fireworks was budgeted for in the current fiscal year and a check was issued to the Sons of American Legion. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to donate \$5,000 to the Sons of American Legion for the Independence Day fireworks. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes.

A donation request was received from Morningstar Church for their annual “Back to School Bash”. The “Back to School Bash” will be held on August 17, 2024 from 4-7 p.m. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to donate \$100 to the “Back to School Bash” at Morningstar Church. Vote: Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes.

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
June 17, 2024

EMT's are needed for the Rossville Community Ambulance Service(RCAS) – Lousie Walter presented Community Awareness on the need for more volunteer EMT's. RCAS has 4 EMTs and 3 of them are in their 60s. Mrs. Walter expressed the need for volunteers so the Ambulance Service can be staffed with alternate volunteers and to help relieve some of the volunteers, who have volunteered for so long, so they can spend time with family and friends, since the volunteers cannot leave town while “On-call”. Mrs. Walter asked if the “need for more volunteers” information could remain on the Village utility bills and website. Mayor Queen said the information will remain on the bills and website. Online classes are offered for EMTs. RCAS may pay a portion of the training. While being on-site at the Water Slide on the 4th of July and at the Street Dance in August, a banner will be displayed stating the need for more EMTs. Someone suggested asking if the school would allow an announcement on the school marquis. Mrs. Walter will ask the school. Trustee Daniel suggested passing out flyers during the 4th of July parade along with the ambulance being in the parade. Mrs. Walter will check on making some flyers for the parade.

Susan Siddens received information regarding the \$1 lots. Superintendent Lusk told Ms. Siddens that the Village owns some vacant lots that may be for sale for \$1 also. Ms. Siddens asked if she bought a \$1 lot, could she build a garage first so she could eliminate her storage unit. Mayor Queen stated the Board would discuss that later in the meeting. Ms. Siddens asked if the other Village-owned lots, if considered to be a \$1 lot, would have the same building restrictions as a \$1 lot in the subdivisions. Mayor Queen stated the building restrictions would be the same as the \$1 lots. As of now, the other vacant Village-owned lots would have to be advertised for sale and interested parties would have to bid on the properties. Mayor Queen invited Ms. Siddens to return to next month's meeting and hopefully more answers will be provided.

Scott Sprague owns the property at 110 N. Chicago, next door and just north of the Opera House. Mr. Sprague expressed concern over the chimney missing bricks and is going and is concerned the chimney will fall toward N. Chicago and may hit kids walking to school, the back stairs and deck have holes in them. Mr. Sprague suggested condemning the back stairs tomorrow since they are dangerous. Mr. Sprague stated they place a 2x12 over the deck to walk across it. Mr. Sprague stated 4' of the top in the front façade of the building is going also. Mayor Queen will discuss the property with Superintendent Lusk since he is the Building Inspector.

Salary Ordinance Amendment for FY2025 – A salary ordinance amendment was presented for discussion regarding increasing Officers Finley and McMilleon's hourly wage to \$26 per hour retroactive to June 1, 2024. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to approve the hourly wage increase of Officers Finley and McMilleon to \$26 per hour retroactive to June 1, 2024. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes. Ordinance 2024-05A passed. Mayor Queen announced some departments have attempted to poach Officers Finley and McMilleon by offering more money per hour, that is why the Board acted so quickly to increase the hourly pay rate plus offer an additional week of vacation to the officers.

217 Perry – Erik Pelikant is cleaning out the house at 217 Perry and is on the 3rd dumpster. Mayor Queen has offered the owner a chance to sign a quitclaim deed, which will deed the property to the Village. If this is accomplished and the house is empty, the Village will try to sell the property to someone who can flip the house and give the current owner the proceeds after Village expenses are deducted. The property would be advertised for bids and the new owner would sign a redevelopment agreement with the Village. If the current owner waits too long to sign the deed, the property will be demolished due to diminished condition of the property. If the Village gets the quitclaim deed, Trustee Gammon wants to go in and see the house when it is empty and thinks the Board should do a walk-through of the house.

113 W. Attica – Mayor Queen stated the property, located at 113 W. Attica, is on the tax sale for the Vermilion County Tax Agent. The Village has requested the property from the Tax Agent since we have a demolition lien on the property. The Board of Trustees have discussed obtaining the property and possibly building a house on the lot. However, the property cannot become Village property until July after the tax sale date. Then the Village will pay \$750, own the property, then proceed with the discussion of house plans.

Declare Village-owned Vacant Lots as Surplus and Discuss Selling Village-Owned Vacant Lots for \$1 – Mayor Queen asked board members their thoughts regarding selling Village-owned vacant lots that are not in the \$1 lot subdivisions for \$1. Mayor Queen said the \$1 lot program has been established for the Masengale, Thomas and Ridl subdivisions

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
June 17, 2024

and cannot be changed. Mayor Queen spoke with the TIF attorney, Mrs. Orr, who stated TIF funds can be used for an architect and for the foundation of a new house but not anything else. Mayor Queen thought about borrowing from other funds to build the rest of the house. Trustee Black suggested preparing a separate redevelopment agreement, different from the \$1 lot agreements for the Masengale, Thomas and Ridl subdivisions. Mayor Queen was unsure if the Village could sell other vacant lots for \$1 without putting them out for bid. Trustees Gammon and Jones said we couldn't do that for the lot across the way or sell a vehicle without putting it out for bid. Trustee Black suggested asking the Village attorney if the Village is required to place the vacant lots out for bid, can we sell the lots for \$1 also, if so, can we enforce covenants and restrictions on those lots as well. Trustee Richison stated the properties would need to be declared as surplus properties first.

Trustee Gammon stated she doesn't think we should allow anyone to build a garage first before building the house so they don't just live in the garage instead of building a house.

Trustee Gammon would like to see people build new homes but if tiny homes meet the minimum square footage for a house, restrictions, such as color, etc. should be developed and enforced. Trustee Gammon suggested the Zoning Board meet to discuss some of these topics such as tiny homes, rummage sales being held in a B-1 zoning district. A list needs to be composed for the Zoning Board to discuss. The minimum square footage to build a house should be established before setting restrictions for tiny homes.

Finance & Purchasing – Trustee Gammon reported a General Fund CD for approximately \$197,000 is maturing on June 23rd. Clerk White gave options for a new CD: Iroquois Federal has a 4-month CD with an APY of 4.50% and a 91-day CD with an APY of 4.54%. If the Village does nothing and allows the CD to rollover, the CD becomes a 91-day CD at 4.54% APY. A motion was made by Richison, seconded by Jones to purchase a new General Fund CD for 4-months at 4.50% APY. Vote: Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes.

Trustee resubmitted another letter for the grant for the pond. Trustee Gammon and Trustee Black have a meeting scheduled to discuss other grants that may help with the water tower, streets and sewer. Trustee Black reported some of the grants are not available until 2025. Trustee Gammon is working on a grant for a "Safe Route to School" which may help with the cost of sidewalks. Trustee Gammon told Superintendent Lusk that she needs the total feet of sidewalks needed to apply for that grant. Trustee Gammon also needs more letters from residents on why we need more sidewalks.

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Cornell announced the bid opening for the seal coat project will be tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the village office. An engineer's estimate of \$118,825.85 for the seal coat project was provided to board members with Daniel Ribbe Trucking listed as the only bid received on the project.

Police, Health & Safety – Trustee Black reported the committee met and Chief Greene requested 2 additions to the police policies and procedure manual: 1) Secondary Employment and 2) Responding to Persons with Mental Illness. Trustee Black has no issues with adding either policy. However, the Secondary Employment section needs reformatted so it can be easily added to the policies and procedures manual. Trustee Black has already reformatted the Responding to Persons with Mental Illness section for easy transfer. Trustee Black suggested removing OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center Emergency Department and replacing it with the closest medical emergency department, not just OSF. A motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Richison to accept and add the Secondary Employment section and Responding to Persons with Mental Illness section, with the removal of OSF Medical Center to the closest medical emergency department, to the Police Policies and Procedures manual. Vote: Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes.

Discussion on adding Retail Theft to the PNT ordinance was tabled until Village attorney, Andy Mudd, can review the document.

A quote from Stop Stick for 2-9' Stop stick Kits with storage bags and 1-9' training kit with storage bag for \$1,370 was presented. The Stop Sticks have a 5-year warranty. A motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to purchase the Stop Sticks as presented for \$1,370. Vote: Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes.

A quote from Ray O'Herron for 2 Ruger rifles and 2 open reflex red circles for \$1,950 was presented. Rifles were suggested by Chief Greene due to being better weapons in case of a shooting event at the school. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Daniel to approve the purchase of 2 Ruger rifles and 2 open reflex red circles from Ray O'Herron for \$1,950. Vote: Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes.

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
June 17, 2024

Chief Greene told Trustee Gammon that she had talked to the company and told us what the cost would be but had not received the quote to stripe the squad. Trustee Gammon has not seen the quote. The matter was tabled. Chief Greene will be instructed to bring a quote for the vehicle striping to committee.

Review Maintenance Log Sheets on Police Vehicles will be tabled to committee. Trustee Black suggested a list of items to be repaired on the F150 be brought to the committee for review. SRO vehicles will be tabled to committee. Mayor Queen asked if the vehicle used at BHRA has been returned to the police garage. Nobody knew the answer to the question. Trustee Gammon suggested bringing the F150 back to the police garage and the SRO can come to Rossville to pick up the vehicle and return the vehicle every day.

Mayor Queen did not realize Trustee Jones was not a chairperson of a committee. Mayor Queen appointed Trustee Jones as the chairperson of the Water & Sewer Committee.

The proposed Parental Responsibility Ordinance was supposed to be added to the agenda for discussion this evening but is not on the agenda. Trustee Black suggested tabling the matter until Village attorney Andy Mudd approves the ordinance. Mr. Mudd is working with the City of Tilton on the matter. Trustee Black stated if we did a fine, that would be above the State requirements. Mr. Mudd is still looking into the matter. Trustee Gammon requested the items to be added to the next agenda.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Gammon reported 400 more water meters have been ordered.

Work will begin tomorrow at the Park Place lift station moving the fence 4' away from the neighbor. They are also turning the gate around to face the correct way. Trustee Gammon asked if the concrete will be moved to prevent runoff. Mayor Queen stated new concrete is being poured to deflect the runoff.

Trustee Gammon reported the pond project is coming along nicely. A lot of people have been fishing and using the gazebos.

Mayor Queen asked if there are any garbage cans by the pond. Trustee Gammon stated if garbage cans are placed down there, they need to be bolted down. Trustee Gammon would like to have signs around that pond that say, "please take all things with you that you brought when you leave". Mayor Queen had heard we are going to install a fish cleaning station. Trustee Gammon said No because we have no water down there. Trustee Gammon stated when all is done, signs will be ordered with the new name of "Bobcat Cove".

Gas Committee- Trustee Richison had nothing to report on gas.

Public Improvement – Trustee Daniel has received some suggestions from Rosella Ray such as a Village-sponsored Fishing Derby, place some benches around the pond and possibly a playset. Trustee Gammon thought the fishing derby was a good idea for later on. Board consensus was No on the playset. The park has playground equipment. Mayor Queen thought a couple of benches was a good idea but no decision was made. Trustee Gammon stated the benches, if approved, would have to be set in concrete which will be discussed at a later date.

Fulltime employees' additional week of vacation – Discussion was held at the special board meeting held on May 28, 2024 to authorize an additional week of vacation for full time employees. The topic was not placed on the agenda this evening. Trustee Black suggested pulling the current ordinance, review it, prepare a vacation ordinance amendment and put the topic on next month's agenda for discussion and possible approval.

Motion was made by Richison, seconded by Jones to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 7-15-24