

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
July 21, 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, Ward, Ault and Gammon physically present.
Trustees absent – None

Guests present were Clerk White, Treasurer Bridget Ault, Officer Finley, Ken Gammon, Rex Brooks, Cathy Brooks, Mike Peters, Mary Catherine Roberson, Director of Constituent Services in Congresswoman Robin Kelly's office and Richard Queen.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held June 16, 2025 and special board meeting held on June 25, 2025, were presented. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them with an omnibus vote. Vote: Gammon, yes; Ault, yes; Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for June 2025, and the amended May 2025 report were presented. The May Treasurer's report was amended to show the Gas Money Market account at Iroquois Federal's interest rate as 1.41% instead of 0.60%. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Wallace to accept the Treasurer's amended report for May 2025 and the June 2025 report, with an omnibus vote, as presented. Vote: Ault, yes. Ward, yes; Mikel, yes; Jones, yes; Wallace, yes; Gammon, yes.

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – Mayor Black stated the Gilbert Street project will begin soon. The maintenance employees have filled in the potholes prior to Ribbe beginning the remaining part of the project. Trustee Ault stated the project is being done with the best option for the budget we have. Trustee Ault suggested trimming some trees along Gilbert Street to allow the sun to shine on the street to dry it out.
Trustee Gammon is looking for an alternative parking lot for the semi drivers, who park on the CSX-owned commercial lot, but are accessing the lot on Village streets that are not built for the weight of the semis.
Superintendent Lusk expects Ribbe to begin the Attica Street/Gilbert Street seal coat project at the end of July
The old mower trailer has been sold for \$1,500.
Sidewalks have been backfilled. The maintenance department will seed them later.

Sewer Operator's report – Mayor Black read the Wastewater Treatment Plant monthly report. There were no comments on the Sewer Operator's report. Clerk White announced that congratulations are in order for Clayton Snyder who passed his wastewater license test on the first attempt.

Police report – Officer Finley read Chief Greene's written report that included the number of traffic stops, calls for service, PNTs, citations and arrests, a stop that resulted in recovering methamphetamine and crack cocaine, status of clean up at 506 E. Attica and 403 Holmes, no issues with new squad after police chase and discussed the incident at 302 Dale where a vehicle drove through the property and almost hit the house. Officer Finley has noticed more speeders in town.

Storm Drain Back Up Issue at 207 Harrison- Rex Brooks, owner of 207 Harrison, stated he has a storm drainage system backup issue that caused his basement to flood and property damage. Mr. Brooks has spoken with Superintendent Lusk regarding the issue with no results. Mr. Brooks feels the storm drain was installed incorrectly. Mr. Brooks felt the Village should dig up the storm drain and cap it off. Trustee Gammon suggested the committee review the issue and see what needs to be done to correct the problem. Mayor Black stated that several of Mr. Brooks' neighbors have removed themselves from the storm tile. Trustee Ault stated that he installed a "check valve" when he had an issue. Mr. Brooks requested a waiver for damages if he is required to dig up the street. Mayor Black stated the

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
July 21, 2025

Village is not liable for storm sewer system impact according to the Illinois governmental and Employee Tort Immunity Act. Mayor Black reiterated the committee will need to meet to discuss options and possible resolutions to the issue after speaking with the Village attorney to understand liability limitations and determine who could perform the required work. Mayor Black suggested that Mr. Brooks send a written complaint about the problem to the village office. Mayor Black suggested establishing a standard system for citizens to submit written complaints regarding maintenance issues, ensuring they are tracked and addressed.

Mary Catherine Roberson (Director of Constituent Services) from U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly's office, whose office is in Danville, Illinois explained some of the services and resources offered by her office that constituents could benefit from such as social security issues, tax returns, passports, oversee internship program, spring art competition, service academy, Funding-grant specialists-letters of support, Commercial project funding, tours and tickets in Washington, D.C. and commendations and greetings-can issue proclamations. Mary Catherine highlighted the office's grant specialist, who works with nonprofits and municipalities to identify funding for projects, including sewer and drainage issues.

Accounts Receivable –Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance as \$21,877.68 for utilities plus \$821.12 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$22,698.80. There were 3 shut offs with 2 of those accounts being paid in full and reconnected. One account remains disconnected with a balance over \$1,000 being due.

Membership with Vermilion Advantage- An invoice for \$500 was submitted to join Vermilion Advantage. Usually, membership renews in January. Vermilion Advantage gave the Village the option, since we are halfway through the year, to pay \$250 for the remainder of the year or pay \$500 and the renewal date will be changed to July. Vermilion Advantage has grant opportunities available. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to approve paying the invoice for \$500 to join Vermilion Advantage. Vote: Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes.

Mayor Black appointed Trustee David Ault to the Grants & Funding Committee. Mayor Black had previously appointed 2 trustees to the committee and needed a third trustee to complete the committee.

Memorial Bench at Bobcat Cove in Memory of Longtime Trustee Charles Cornell – Discussion was held to see if the Village would place a “Memorial Bench” at Bobcat Cove in Memory of Longtime Trustee Charles Cornell, who had overseen the pond improvements for years. Trustee Gammon stated memorial benches had been discussed previously and a list of approximately 16 people have contacted the village office stating they were interested in sponsoring a memorial bench. There is not enough room to place that many benches around the pond. Richard Queen, president of the RCO, reported the RCO members voted to plant a tree, in the fall, by the pond in memory of Matt Price, who passed away while being employed by the Village of Rossville. Other memorial suggestions were to build a dock, made from planks with names for memorials on them or memorial stones to be placed around the pond. Mayor Black proposed preparing a standard way to remember employees or trustees who have passed while serving the Village. The committee will meet to discuss plans for Bobcat Cove and a plan to remember employees and/or trustees who have passed away while working for the Village of Rossville.

Return to Work Policy- Risk Management reminded the Village that a Return-to-Work Policy must be on file prior to September 8, 2025. A sample policy was presented at last month's meeting with questions about whether a physician or emergency care facility is required to be named on the policy or if the employee can choose who to go to for care. After speaking with a Risk Management representative, it was determined the Village is not required to insert a particular physician or facility for employees to use for medical attention. A revised policy will be presented at next month's meeting for approval.

Village-Owned vacant lots as Surplus Properties and possibly sell the lots – A list of Village-Owned vacant lots and the “Triangle” at the end of McKibben were given to board members to review if the property should be declared surplus property and advertised for sale. Board members agreed to declare the following Village-owned lots as surplus property and sell them:

121 E. Attica
213 Stewart

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
July 21, 2025**

403 Benton

406 Holmes

Triangle at end of McKibben-PIN# 08-12-609-002

A price for the lots was not determined.

Street Dance Road Closure- The Street Dance will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025. East Attica Street will be closed from noon-midnight from Chicago Street to Harrison Street. Mayor Black would like to close East Attica Street from Chicago Street to Harrison Street to have other events on Saturdays in the month of August for Founders Day activities. MorningStar Church will have the Back to School Bash on Saturday, August 16, 2025 on their parking lot. RCO is sponsoring an event at Christman Park, entitled "Founders Funday" on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Richard Queen reported they will have games for adults and kids to participate in, food, popcorn, a movie and sack races. Everyone who participates at the park will receive a wooden nickel to buy a pop or something at the event. Mayor Black would like to have an event on August 9th in the downtown area. No event will be planned for August 30th since it is Labor Day weekend.

Mayor Black suggested making a flyer to promote the Founders Day events.

Trustee Ault asked if Ribbe will be done with Attica Street before the Street Dance since Superintendent Lusk reported Ribbe will be here at the end of the month. It is to be determined.

Permit application for solar residential – A request has been received in the village office for a solar permit application. The Village adopted rules for solar projects to avoid commercial projects within 1.5 miles of Village jurisdiction. Mayor Black attached an ordinance for board members to review with setbacks, permit application and fees and a building permit. The attorney will review the ordinance. Mayor Black is hoping to have a finalized copy to present to the Board by the next regular board meeting.

August 9th Founders Day event – Mayor Black would like to allocate \$6,000, not that it will all be used, for activities in the downtown area and possibly help with the Street Dance expenses. Two members of the Street Dance committee have backed out from helping organize the Street Dance. Trustee Gammon suggested contacting past supporters for donations. Richard Queen asked Mayor Black if donations are needed for the Street Dance, as a previous donator, send a letter requesting donations to RCO prior to August 4th. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to donate to the Street Dance an amount not to exceed \$2,000. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Wards, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes.

The Electric Aggregation contracts will be received Wednesday, July 23, 2025. Jerod McMorris, Good Energy, will hopefully let us know the prices that have been received by noon. Members of the aggregation will be required to sign the contract prior to 3-4 p.m. on July 23, 2025.

Finance & Purchasing – Trustee Jones had nothing to report at this time.

Police, Health & Safety – Trustee Wallace reported that Chief Greene submitted a quote for 2 Handheld radios for \$2,699.34 and 2 handheld radar units for \$954 each. Motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Gammon to approve the purchase of 2 handheld radios for \$2,699.34. Vote: Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes.

Motion was made by Wallace, seconded by Jones to purchase 2 handheld radar units for \$954 each. Vote: Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes; Wallace, yes; Jones, yes.

Chief's Salary- Mayor Black was made aware of a statute regarding equality in pay and time of service. Mayor Black had the Village attorney research the statute to see if there was any merit in a claim. The attorney reported there was no merit to the statute for the Chief.

Planning/Public Works- Trustee Gammon has spoken with the new grant contact, Fredi, regarding possible grants for sidewalk extensions on the north end of town, from Henderson Street to the Rossville Clinic (approximately 546'), on the south end of town, from Dollar General to the Rossville Family Restaurant (approximately 650') for a total of 1190' of sidewalks, downtown curbs, from Maple Street to Sprague's (110 N. Chicago), which is approximately 1165' total and street lighting for both ends of town. Superintendent Lusk is getting estimates for the cost of the street

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
July 21, 2025

lighting. Trustee Gammon got online and found 9 streetlight posts, that came out of Chicago, that have been sandblasted and powder coated. The lady is wanting \$2,500 each for the remaining posts. The Village is missing 13 streetlights if posts were to be installed from Thompson Street to the north end of town. The wiring, globes and base would cost extra. Trustee Ault may also have resources to find streetlight posts.

Grants/Funding – Trustee Mikel spoke to Fredi about the Safer Routes Grant. If the Village could apply for this grant and receive a substantial amount of money, the sidewalks may be finished around town to make it safer for children to travel to school in a safer manner. A committee meeting will be scheduled in August to discuss the grants. Mayor Black suggested obtaining letters of support from community members. Also, documentation of any incidents of anyone tripping or falling due to poor sidewalk conditions may help show the need for sidewalk improvements to make a grant possible. The more documentation that is provided, the better it will show the need for the grant. The grant application is not due for several months.

Beautification/Public Spaces – Trustee Ward stated the Community Garden is thriving. Discussion to use part of their funding to plant cherry trees, pear trees, berry canes and grape vines in the fall was held. Next year, more of the grassy space from the apple tree to the easement will be cleared to make usable. Plans are to remove the redbud tree and fill that area with fruit trees. Trustee Ward stated there is basil planted that people can use. Trustee Ward stated the garden is well maintained by community members and evidently several community members have used the produce because the garden is usually picked clean. A compost area is being planned.

Economic Development/Business Growth – Trustee Gammon reported the committee met with Hayley Siefert, realtor and Wes Taylor, builder to discuss possibly building a spec home in Masengale's subdivision on a Village-Owned lot at 306 Earl Court. Hayley provided board members with pages of information such as types of shingles that may be used, siding, homes that have sold for Wes and house plans with options for 3-bedroom and 2-bedroom homes. Mike Peters stated Mr. Taylor is getting ready to build a subdivision in St. Joe with 18 homes. Trustee Gammon stated the Board needs to decide if we really want to do this. Mayor Black expressed that the Village would probably want to do this but how are we going to fund the project. Trustee Mikel encouraged board members to consider cautiously the risk if the Village proceeds with funding this project and the builder has no risk involved. Trustee Gammon reminded board members of 3 homes that recently sold in Rossville. Homes are selling. Trustee Gammon asked if anyone knows anyone that would build a home they could sell. Trustee Wallace suggested contacting the gentleman that just sold the house on Perry to see if he has any contacts that would build a home to sell. Trustee Wallace will ask. Chris White noted that the first house built as a "demo house" in the Masengale Subdivision was built by a developer who took the risk and funded the house build with his personal finances. The Village did not risk "Public Funds" to finance the project.

Trustee Mikel proposed finding a person who is interested in building a new home on the dollar lots, sell them the dollar lots then they can use the builder the Village has been talking to or find a contractor of their own. It was also suggested to contact Todd Miller, a local rehabber, to see if he is interested in undertaking new construction. Trustee Wallace will contact Mr. Miller.

Old Business – There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business – There was no new business presented.

Guests- Guests had no comments at this time.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Ward to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Wallace, yes; Jones, yes; Mikel, yes; Ward, yes; Ault, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 8/18/2025