

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
August 19, 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 Richison, Daniel, Cornell, Black, Jones, and Gammon physically present.
Trustees absent – None

Guests present were Clerk White, Treasurer Ault, Harold Hunt and Leo Rodgers III.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held July 19, 2024 were presented. Motion was made by Richison, seconded by Cornell to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated July 19, 2024 and approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for July 2024, was presented. The treasurer's report was reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting held earlier. The ending TIF balance was missing a digit. The amount will be amended to read \$505,038.65 instead of \$50,538.66. Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Richison to accept the Treasurer's report for July 2024, as amended. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – Mayor Queen explained the two demo projects, referred to in the last paragraph of Superintendent Lusk's report, are 217 Perry and 308 Maple.

Trustee Gammon stated when the maintenance employees are filling potholes, there is a big pothole at the Methodist Church drive that needs to be filled.

Trustee Daniel asked if the sidewalk on Gilbert Street, that has been promised to get fixed in August, has been fixed yet. Mayor Queen stated the sidewalk has not been fixed yet, but it remains on the "to do" list. Mr. Hunt, owner of the house whose sidewalk needs to be fixed, asked when the stump of the tree that was cut 2 years ago was going to be removed. Mr. Hunt watched other trees being cut and stumps removed around him but his is not fixed. Mayor Queen restated that the stump will be removed then the sidewalk will be fixed.

Mr. Hunt also asked if Gilbert Street is going to be repaved because every time a semi goes down Gilbert Street, his whole house shakes. Mayor Queen stated the street will have tar and chip placed on it hopefully within the next 2 weeks. Mr. Hunt asked if Gilbert Street is dedicated as a truck route. Mayor Queen stated Gilbert Street and Attica Street are the 2 streets dedicated as truck routes. Trustee Black stated Gilbert Street was dedicated as a truck route back in the "Corn Pack" days at the Packing Company. Trustee Black stated Stewart Street is used by semis as well.

Sewer Operator Price's report – Trustee Black asked if the grading/landscaping at the Park Lift Station still needs to be completed. Mayor Queen stated the grading and landscaping at the Park Lift Station will be completed in September along with planting grass seed.

Police report – Trustee Black reported the "engine Brake" signs were authorized to be ordered. Trustee Richison stated the order should be put on hold. Trustee Richison spoke to a "State" representative who stated a State special sign permit application is required to replace/reinstall the signs on Route 1. Once the application is completed and a copy of the Village ordinance is attached to the application, sent to the State and is approved, the State will reinstall the signs at the north and south ends of the Village. Trustee Richison stated Clerk White has already given him a copy of the ordinance to attach to the application. Someone will also check with Ross Township Road Commissioner Shawn Cade and the County Road Commissioner to see if permits are required to reinstall signs on East/West Attica Street. Trustee Richison reported the crosswalks should be completed on Route 1 at the stoplight in a couple of weeks. Mayor Queen asked when the decals will be put on the Explorer. Trustee Gammon stated, at a committee meeting Chief Greene reported the Durango needed warranty work done so the police department is using the Explorer until the Durango is fixed.

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Trustee Black reported Chief Greene requested the banks of the river to be cleaned up (weed eat or mowed) so police officers can view the river to make sure everyone is safe and no one has not fallen into the river. Trustee Black stated that is not the Village jurisdiction to maintain.

Trustee Black stated the “Ride Along” program will not be reinstated as Chief Greene requested.

Chief Greene requested, in her report, that the First Responders Children Foundation event, where the Village First Responders receive presents and distribute them to children, should be moved outside of the school this year to make it more centered around the police department, fire department and EMS. Trustee Black stated we don’t have a location big enough to host the event so the location should remain the same, at the grade school during the carnival.

Accounts Receivable - Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$20,324.37. There were miscellaneous invoices totaling \$33,213.99, making the total accounts receivable \$53,538.36. There were no disconnections this month.

217 Perry – Mayor Queen reported the owner will not sign the quitclaim deed to the Village. Mayor Queen instructed Attorney Andy Mudd to proceed with the demolition process and place an ad in the newspaper requesting bids for the demolition. Trustee Gammon asked if we are done cleaning the house out. Mayor Queen reported Erik Pelikant got what he wanted out of the house. The Village paid for 3 dumpsters. If the house is going to be demolished anyway, why pay for more. The Village has stopped the clean out of the house. The remaining can be removed with the demolition cleanup.

Petition Packets for Candidates to run for election at the Consolidated Election to be held on April 1, 2025 – Clerk White announced Nominating Petition Packets, for candidates to run for office at the Consolidated Election to be held on April 1, 2025, will be available beginning tomorrow, Aug. 20th during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30-12, 12:30-5 p.m.) Nominating petition packets must be turned into the Local Election Official (Clerk White) at the village office between November 12, 2024 and November 18, 2024. Clerk White announced the elected offices available are Mayor for a 4 year term, Clerk for a 4 year term and (3) Trustees for a 4 year term. Anyone wanting to run for election may stop by the village office during business hours to pick up a packet. Due to a legislative change, the packets can be circulated earlier this year.

Finance & Purchasing – 1) Sidewalk Grant-Trustee Gammon handed board members a list of proposed sidewalks for the ITEP (Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program) project. Rob Macklin, engineer, prepared an estimated cost for each sidewalk, including engineering costs and total expense. On the list some areas say A or B (one will have to be chosen, the other will be removed from the list). There are 3 Phases – 1) Includes public meeting and explain the proposed project, 2) Planning and getting ready and 3) doing the sidewalks and monitoring the project. If we get the grant, the Village may be required to pay 20% of the \$835,300 cost (\$167,079.80) but the State can waive the 20%. If the Village is required to pay the 20%, the Village can refuse the grant if we don’t have the funding. Trustee Gammon was hoping to do the sidewalks along Route 1 from York Street to Carle Clinic and from Dollar General to the Rossville Family Restaurant first so people don’t have to walk in the street. The paperwork must be turned in prior to September 30th. The ITEP program is granted one year then Safe Sidewalks is granted the following year.

2) Grocery 1% Sales Tax – Trustee Gammon announced the Governor signed legislation to end the 1% grocery sales tax as of January 1, 2026. Municipalities may pass an ordinance prior to October 2025 to impose a local 1% grocery sales tax. Trustee Gammon has attempted to find out how much the Village would lose if the 1% grocery tax was not imposed. Clerk White contacted the Department of Revenue and was told a report could not be generated to show how much the Village receives for the 1% grocery tax currently. Local businesses charge 1% for groceries, medicines and medical supplies and they are not separated when turned into the State on how much for each department to total the 1% tax. Mayor Queen was in favor of implementing the tax. Trustee Black was opposed to the tax.

Streets & Alleys - Trustee Cornell had nothing to report at this time.

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

Water & Sewer – Trustee Jones stated the water tower project is complete. The water tower is full and operational. We are waiting for the company to pick up the blue tank over by Casey’s that was used when the tower was drained.

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Trustee Gammon explained the reasoning behind painting the water tower red, white and black. Rossville's school colors were red and white and the mascot is a Bobcat. Alvin's colors were black and they were known as the Pirates.

Gas Committee- Trustee Richison had nothing to report at this time.

Public Improvement – Trustee Daniel reported that the Beautification Committee met. The committee is waiting to see how many benches are requested to see how many benches can be placed around the pond. The benches will be black and not green. The bench project will be included in the FY25-26 budget if the Village is going to pay for the concrete slabs for the benches to be attached to. Superintendent Lusk wants to get around the pond area seeded in September. Then the committee will have to see how many benches can be placed and where to place the benches around the pond. Sixteen people have requested a bench or information about the memorial bench project. Trustee Gammon stated we may have to select the first few people who called on the list to offer benches. Since there are so many interested in the benches, another project or item may be dedicated as an “In memory of” project.

Trustee Jones asked if a path will be made to join the parking space with the golf cart path around the pond, so people don't have to drive through the grass to get onto the golf cart path. Trustee Gammon already spoke to the Mayor about making the connecting path. Mayor Queen has already spoken with Superintendent Lusk about the maintenance employees creating the connecting path.

Trustee Daniel suggested buying a plaque for each grain bin gazebo that Rosella Ray donated. One plaque would be in remembrance of Bill Ray and the other plaque would say donated by Rosella Ray.

Trustee Daniel stated the committee recommended another entrance being made to the pond area since people cannot go through the maintenance lot for access to the pond. A proposed new entrance could begin just past the last house on the south side of West Attica and proceed to the pond. That entrance would give the school easier access to take classes to the pond to read or a biology class could use. Trustee Gammon put the additional entrance on Phase II of the Pond project.

The grade school has been grouped into 4 “Houses”. It was suggested to put 4 flags, one to represent each “House”, around the pond. Trustee Gammon added that to Phase II as well.

Mayor Queen stated Bismarck has a horticulture class that may come up and plant some items around the pond in the spring. Trustee Black suggested applying for a beautification grant from Keep Vermilion County Beautiful for trees, etc. since the Village is a member.

It was suggested to link the pond to the river. Trustee Gammon stated that cannot be done because if the river rises then lowers, the pond will be drained.

Trustee Daniel discussed digging pockets for the bigger fish to go into. Trustee Gammon stated Allen Decker dug a couple of deeper pockets in the pond as extra work done when he was clearing the trees beside the pond.

Dredging the pond was voted down.

Mayor Queen wrote a letter to Allen Decker and thanked him for the great work and the extra work he donated to the project.

Bridget Ault asked if the benches could have 2 memorials on them so the cost could be split since there are so many people who would like a bench. Bridget Ault also asked if there was a deadline to request a bench. Trustee Gammon stated a 6'x8' concrete slab is needed for each bench. Trustee Daniel reported a tree memorial was suggested in case the number of benches that can be placed around the pond is smaller than the number of requestors.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, no. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 9-16-24