

**Village of Rossville  
Regular Board Meeting  
September 16, 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, Nancy Cox, Kenneth Gammon, Tia Petersen, Mike Jackson, Chase Maden, Crystal Johnson-Maden, Gus Johnson, Ann Smith, Jim Smith, Alex Danner, Maura Price and Ella Morris.

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

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

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – Trustee Gammon reported the work on Gilbert Street has begun. Mayor Queen reported the company had a sweeper to clean the street, then put a primer on and hoping to begin tar and chipping Gilbert Street tomorrow.

Trustee Daniel asked if the sidewalk is going to be repaired in front of 210 Gilbert. Mayor Queen stated the maintenance employees have been preparing for the Gilbert Street project and the tar and chip project to begin. Mayor Queen stated the sidewalk will be repaired but the street projects are being done first. Trustee Gammon stated the fall tree cutting will begin also.

Sewer Operator Price's report – Trustee Black asked what the flowmeter on the cascade is. Clerk White assumed it was for the lift station since the invoice for Gasnova was questioned earlier. Trustee Gammon stated the lift station is almost completed. Trustee Black asked if applying grass seed is the last thing that needs done. Trustee Gammon said yes. Mayor Queen stated Superintendent Lusk rents a grass seeder to apply grass seed for the lots that buildings were demolished on, the pond and to complete the lift station area.

Police report – Trustee Black read Chief Greene's police report.

Donation to PBIS(Positive Behavioral Intervention Support) – Mayor Queen stated the Rossville Community Organization (RCO) received a similar request. RCO members did not know what the request involved or what the monies would be used for. Mrs. Petersen will attend the next RCO meeting to explain the request. A few RCO members were in the audience to listen to the information Mrs. Petersen provided. Mrs. Petersen explained that prior to COVID, students and staff meet in the gym to celebrate birthdays, dance, play music and have fun to get a sense of community. After COVID, that sense of community was lost. Now, PBIS is a school-wide program established to help regain that sense of community. School bucks were established as an incentive to promote positive behaviors. Superintendent Johnson-Maden learned of a program founded by Ron Clark, who is an educator. Mr. Clark developed a program that divided children into "Houses" that teaches community and leadership. Rossville-Alvin Grade School (RAGS) sent some teachers to Mr. Clark's Academy (a private school) to learn how to implement the program correctly. RAGS has implemented the "House" program and divided the students and staff into 4 Houses by spinning the wheel to see which House they get into. The Houses meet every Friday for

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meetings but 1 Friday per month is for fun to celebrate birthdays or a lesson. Each House has students K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. A leader is appointed for each House. Students receive points for times they show good character so there is a competition between the Houses to get the most points.

The donation request is to help with the cost of materials for projects for the kids to do. Mrs. Petersen would like to get \$5,000 in their account eventually. One project is to get 40 fishing poles so the kids can go to the pond and fish. Mrs. Petersen stated eventually, they would like to do community projects with the kids. The attending students helped explain their Houses and what they like about their House. Students invited attendees to their House Party at the end of September. Mrs. Petersen will get the information to attendees.

A motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to donate \$1,000 to PBIS. Vote: Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes.

Accounts Receivable - Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$35,115.99. There were miscellaneous invoices totaling \$8,500.00, making the total accounts receivable \$43,615.99. There were 2 disconnections this month and 2 reconnects.

Salary Ordinance for Newly Elected Officials for 2025 – An ordinance was presented stating the current salaries of elected officials that will be up for election on April 1, 2025. The salaries are as follows:

Mayor	\$3,000 annually (Paid in April)
Clerk	\$2,400 annually (Paid \$100 semi-monthly)
Trustee	\$ 50 per month (Paid in April annually)

The ordinance presented does not allow for an increase in salary for the newly elected officials, to be elected on April 1, 2025. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to approve the ordinance as presented. Vote: Cornell, no; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes. Ordinance 2024-08 passed.

Salary Ordinance Amendment-Bismarck SRO/Possible Chief of Police Salary- The ordinance will be discussed after executive session.

Declaration Declaring the Week of Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week – A declaration declaring the week of September 17-23, 2024 as Constitution Week was presented. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to authorize Mayor Queen to sign the declaration. Vote: Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes.

Low Speed Scooters – Mayor Queen reported the State of Illinois passed a law granting permission to municipalities to authorize low speed scooters to ride on the streets of the Village. Scooters are not allowed on State highways. Attorney Andy Mudd does not have the ordinance prepared so the matter was tabled.

Discuss Special Use Permit Fee for Solar Ordinance Amendment – The amendment was tabled.

Update on 2 Properties Requesting Information on Solar Panel Installations – Mayor Queen stated 2 different properties are inquiring about installing solar panels on farm ground within the Village's 1.5 miles of zoning district. One is next door to Davan's Body Shop. The project has been reduced to 15 acres. Mayor Queen, Trustee Gammon and Superintendent Lusk met with solar project representatives who presented their original plan to install solar panels close to Route 1 on the land next to Davan's, which is in the 1.5 mile Village zoning district. After meeting with officials, the representatives will return with a plan to move the solar farm farther away from Route 1, which has now been reduced to 15 acres.

Another person wants to install a solar farm of 40 acres within 1.5 miles of the Village zoning district but it would not be visible from Route 1. Trustee Black reminded board members that the ordinance that was passed and approved gives 0 tolerance for commercial solar projects within the Village 1.5 mile of zoning district. Trustee Black suggested if the Village wants to consider these projects, a supplemental agreement and fee need to be prepared since the zoning ordinance does not allow for commercial solar projects.

Bids of Demolition 308 Maple, 305 Benton – Mayor Queen announced we have bids for 308 Maple and 305 Benton but we cannot proceed with 305 Benton since we don't have the proper paperwork. Superintendent Lusk has spoken to the children of the owner of 308 Maple regarding the vehicles and tractor, etc. They want everything gone.

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Clerk White opened the bids and read the bids and description of work for 308 Maple as follows:

A.J. Hetrick Enterprises	\$6,000	
Drennan Excavating	\$4,800	Village to pay dumping fees
ARD Farms & Contracting	\$5,700	

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to accept and award the bid of \$5,700 to ARD Farms. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, abstain; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes.

Resident Mike Jackson remembered when the Village closed Maple Street, from the north/south alley between Maple and Attica Streets, to Gilbert Street, the elevator paid to have the alley on the 300 block between Maple and Gilbert Streets oiled. Mr. Jackson stated the alley needs coated again. Mr. Jackson asked if the elevator paid to have the alley oiled annually. Mayor Queen stated no, that was a one-time payment for a one time application.

Finance & Purchasing – Trustee Gammon and Trustee Black have worked on an ITEP grant. They worked with the engineer to find places that need sidewalks. Four areas are proposed for potential sidewalks: 1) on the east side of Route 1 from York to the Medical Clinic, 2) on the east side of Route 1 from the Dollar General to the Family Restaurant, 3) off of Perry and Park Place to the pond and 4) the south side of Stufflebeam Drive up to Watson. Trustee Gammon stated the original thought was go around the park on Watson Drive to the cemetery entrance, but several members of the Park District were concerned about destroying so many trees. The plan was then altered. The total of the grant request for the sidewalk projects is approximately \$992,000. The Village’s 20% portion would be around \$190,000. The sidewalks would assist getting kids to their destination of the park.

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

Police, Health & Safety – Trustee Black established Trick or Treat hours as 5:30-8 p.m. Mayor Queen stated RCO is not sponsoring a Halloween parade this year that goes from the post office to the school. They are just asking kids to go directly to the school for the program.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Jones noted the blue tank is gone from Casey’s that was used when the water tower was down.

Gas Committee- Trustee Richison had nothing to report regarding the gas committee at this time.

Old Business - Trustee Richison reported the “Engine Braking Prohibited” signs have been installed at the north and south ends of town. The Village is now responsible for the signs. Trustee Richison spoke with the County, who explained if the Village will purchase the “Engine Braking Prohibited” signs for East and West Attica Streets, the County will install them. Trustee Black said the Board has already authorized Superintendent Lusk to order the signs. Trustee Black will ask Superintendent Lusk to order the signs.

Crosswalks-Chicago/Attica Streets – Trustee Black spoke with Superintendent Lusk regarding the crosswalks on East/West Attica Streets. If you use regular paint to paint the crosswalks, the paint will fade away. The plan is for next year to smooth Attica Street, apply some black top mixture but cut in an area to paint so the snow plows, etc. don’t chip away the paint.

Trustee Richison suggested using temporary stick-ons to mark the directional arrows to verify left turn, straight or right turn lanes. Trustee Black asked Trustee Richison to give him the information on the cost estimate for the temporary stick-ons.

Trustee Richison expected the crosswalks across Chicago Street to be done by now. Trustee Richison will call his contact again.

Trustee Black stated a wheelchair cannot get up the ramp on the southeast corner because of the post from the old building is in the way. Trustee Black asked Superintendent Lusk if the post could be removed to give wheelchairs access on the southeast corner. Superintendent Lusk stated yes, the post could be removed.

Pond Parking Lot Path to Connect to Golf Cart/Walking Path – Trustee Gammon asked Mayor Queen if he spoke with Superintendent Lusk about connecting the parking lot by the pond with the golf cart/walking path. Mayor Queen said Superintendent Lusk will connect the parking lot and path with rock when he gets time.

Trustee Gammon asked what the maintenance staff were doing by Perry Street. Mayor Queen stated they are preparing for a company to bore under Route 1 to repair the damaged area from a water leak.

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New Business – Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to remove, by the Village, the post on the southeast corner of Attica/Chicago in front of the handicap ramp for wheelchair access. Vote: Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes.

Trustee Daniel told Mayor Queen that he forgot to ask if there was anything to report on the Public Improvements Committee. Mayor Queen apologized. Trustee Daniel had nothing to report.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Daniel to adjourn to executive session to discuss salary increase for Chief of Police under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1. Vote: Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to return to regular session. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 8:51 p.m.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to increase the hourly rate of Beth Damilano, SRO at BHRA, to \$37.15, as awarded by the BHRA Cooperative School Board. Vote: Jones, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Gammon, yes. Ordinance 2024-05B passed.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Richison to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White  
Village Clerk  
Board approved 10-21-24