

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
November 16, 2020**

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.

Roll call was taken. A quorum was established with Mayor Queen and Trustees Cornell, Black, Maden, Sturm and Mahorney physically present. Trustee Leaver attended the meeting electronically due to COVID regulations. Guests present were Clerk White, Chief Kelnhofer and Neal Kuester, from Feller & Kuester CPAs.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held October 19, 2020 and the special board meeting held November 5, 2020 were presented. Trustee Maden was absent at the meeting where offering the owners of 106 E. Attica money for their property was discussed. Mayor Queen stated the Village would save money if the owners accept the offer and sign a quitclaim deed for the property over to the Village, since the attorney's fees will be more than the offer. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Black to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the regular and special board meeting minutes as presented. Vote: Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Maden, yes; Leaver, yes; Sturm, yes; Mahorney, yes.

Treasurer Ault's October report was presented. Clerk White noticed an entry error on the Water Premier Account beginning balance. The beginning balance should have been \$410.33. The balance of the premier account and the total balances of all accounts will be amended and a corrected report will be presented at next month's meeting. Motion was made by Maden, seconded by Mahorney to accept the October treasurer's report after the amendment. Vote: Sturm, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Leaver, yes; Maden, yes; Mahorney, yes.

Current bills – Current bills were reviewed earlier in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting. Motion was made by Maden, seconded by Mahorney to approve the bills as presented. Vote: Mahorney, yes; Sturm, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Maden, yes; Leaver, yes.

Superintendent Lusk's report – Discussion was held on the permanent repair to the gas main on Henderson Street.

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

Police Chief Kelnhofer's report – The crash reporting software will place ECrash reports on the computer instead of handwriting the reports, updates the system with report numbers and insurance companies can obtain the reports that they need. The cost of the ECrash software is \$5,000 with maintenance fees of 1,160.45.

The stolen property of one burglary has been recovered.

Thomas Wimmer was interviewed at the previous Police Committee meeting for a fulltime police officer position. Police are monitoring people riding bikes due to the number of thefts increasing.

Accounts Receivable -Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$33,556.27. There were no miscellaneous invoices this month. There were no utility disconnects or reconnects last month.

Resolution authorizing the destruction of executive session tapes that have been retained at least 18 months after minutes were released-A resolution was presented to authorize the destruction of executive session tapes, regular meeting tapes dated 4/15/19 and 4/20/20 and Police, Health & Safety Committee tapes dated 4/20/20, that have been retained at least 18 months after minutes were released. Motion was made by Maden, seconded by Mahorney to approve the proposed resolution authorizing the destruction of executive session meeting tapes dated 4/15/19 and 4/20/20. Vote: Sturm, yes; Mahorney, yes; Maden, yes; Leaver, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes. Resolution 2020-04 passed.

106 E. Attica Street Property – Mayor Queen stated there is nothing to report. At the meeting held on November 5, 2020 with Village attorney Andy Mudd, Mr. Mudd stated nothing could continue until after 45 days.

Sewer Project which funds the Village has made application – Mayor Queen received a phone call from Shari Lannon, from USDA Rural Development, asking the Village to apply to a local bank for a loan for the \$1.718 million dollars for the sewer project. Ms. Lannon stated the bank would most likely decline the funds. Ms. Lannon requested a copy of the letter from the bank declining the loan to include with the Village's loan application.

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Tax Levy Ordinance – The estimate of the tax levy this year was presented at last month’s regular board meeting. The estimated tax levy is \$18,667.16, which is the dollar amount being proposed on the tax levy. Motion was made by Maden, seconded by Sturm to adopt the tax levy ordinance in the amount of \$18,667.16. Vote: Black, yes; Maden, yes; Cornell, yes; Mahorney, yes; Leaver, yes; Sturm, yes. Ordinance 2020-14 passed.

Neal Kuester, from Feller & Kuester CPAs, presented the fiscal year end 2020 audit. Mr. Kuester presented a Letter to the Trustees stating they found no issues during the audit, a Letter of Findings and Internal Control showing they prepare the audit and financial report and a Management Letter with notes prepared during the audit. Mr. Kuester suggested budgeting in the TIF Fund accordingly. Mr. Kuester presented a letter with a proposed fee for next year’s audit. Mr. Kuester explained the tax levy to attendees stating the Village is levying for general fund expenses only. The Village can levy for items as insurance, audit fees, social security and IMRF if the Village wants to consider this in the future. Mr. Kuester also stated the Storm Water Fund should be allocated more expenses such as salaries next year.

Finance & Purchasing Committee – Chairman Leaver had nothing further to report.

Streets & Alleys Committee – Chairman Cornell asked board members their opinion of how much the Superintendent can spend without board approval. Trustee Cornell presented board members with a policy that was established by former mayor Terry Prillaman regarding spending limits. The policy required all orders of \$500 or more to have a purchase order signed by either the Mayor or the Chairperson of that Committee. Board members suggested a spending limit of \$1500, with a purchase order signed by the Mayor or Committee Chairperson and with orders not to be split in order to avoid limits. A resolution will be prepared for the next regular board meeting.

Trustee Cornell also suggested if a customer’s gas or utility is to be shut off for repairs, knock on the customers’ door to inform them or if not home, leave a door hanger to advise them of the service being temporarily off.

Trustee Cornell also asked when the customers affected by the installation of the new 8” water main, along Holmes and Church Streets, will be individually connected to the main in order to obtain better water pressure. Trustee Sturm suggested looking on the Construction Permit to see what was included in the permit. Trustee Sturm will meet with Clerk White to review the Construction Permit.

Police, Health & Safety Committee – Chairman Black stated Thomas Wimmer was interviewed during the previous Police, Health & Safety Committee for a fulltime police officer position. Chairman Black requested amending the ordinance regarding distance an officer can reside from the Village.

Water & Sewer Committee - Chairperson Maden had nothing to report.

Gas Committee - Chairman Sturm asked who establishes the gas rates since they seem to be really high currently. Clerk White explained that she calculates the rate after receipt of the estimate of cost from IMGA then advises Mayor Queen, who then sets the rate. Clerk White reminded board members to keep in mind when establishing a gas rate that Panhandle has increased their transportation costs, which means the Village has to charge more to cover the transportation expense.

Public Improvements – Trustee Mahorney had nothing to report.

Trustee Black asked what it would cost to change the antique streetlights to LED lights? Superintendent Lusk will be asked the question.

Motion was made by Mahorney, seconded by Sturm to adjourn to executive session under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1 to discuss hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance of an employee. Vote: Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Mahorney, yes; Leaver, yes; Sturm, yes; Maden, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:24 p.m.

Motion was made by Mahorney, seconded by Maden to return to regular session. Vote: Mahorney, yes; Sturm, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Maden, yes; Leaver, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 8:40 p.m.

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Motion was made by Black, seconded by Maden to hire Thomas Wimmer as fulltime police officer, beginning December 1st, at \$18 per hour during his probation period. Vote: Maden, yes; Mahorney, yes; Sturm, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Leaver, yes.

Motion was made by Mahorney, seconded by Sturm to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Mahorney, yes; Sturm, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Maden, yes; Leaver, yes. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk

Board approved 12/21/2020