

**Village of Rossville
Special Board Meeting
April 6, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

Mayor Queen called the special board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Rossville Municipal Building, located at 120 East Attica Street in Rossville, Illinois. The special board meeting was called to discuss an update on the new police officer and status of 206 Thompson, open bids to demolish 113 W. Attica and 508 E. Attica, discuss trading the police truck, license plate readers, privately owned solar panels, FY2024 proposed budget, meter change out program-gas/water, establishing sinking funds for meter replacement-gas/water, amending the new equipment sinking funds ordinance and hold executive session to discuss employee compensation under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1.

Members physically present – Mayor Queen, Trustees Hackett, Cornell, Sturm, Gammon and Black.

Members absent – Trustee Daniel

Guests present – Clerk White, Superintendent Lusk and Kenneth Gammon.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Update on police officer- Mayor Queen reported Ryan Soderstrom will drive a police vehicle to Belleville to begin PTI on May 1st. Classes were full in Champaign. Classes will be for 16 weeks. Chief Greene took Mr. Soderstrom to Ray O'Herron's to purchase uniforms. Mr. Soderstrom will be paid, beginning May 1, 2023, \$17 per hour while in training. Upon completion, Mr. Soderstrom will be paid \$20 per hour.

Mayor Queen stated that an application was received from a person, who was discharged as an MP for the Army, that is interested in being an SRO (School Resource Officer). However, the rules state a candidate must be a police officer for at least 3 years before becoming an SRO. A petition was sent to the State for a waiver, hoping that his 5 years as an MP will count. We are waiting to hear from the State.

Update on 206 Thompson- Mayor Queen stated the owner of 206 Thompson is making an attempt at repairs to the house. Mayor Queen and Superintendent Lusk will meet with the owner to prepare a redevelopment agreement. If the redevelopment agreement is not signed, Attorney Mudd stated the Village can have the house demolished. Trustee Gammon asked if the redevelopment agreement is not signed by the owner, does the Village have to wait 2 years to tear the house down? Mayor Queen said if the redevelopment agreement is not signed, the Fast Track Demolition procedures will be restarted. Superintendent Lusk stated the structure has foundation issues, roofing issues, etc. The Village may give the owner 30 days to fix the roof without using used materials.

Bids to demolish 508 E. Attica and 113 W. Attica- Clerk White opened two bids for the demolition of 508 E. Attica and 113 W. Attica. The bids were as follows:

ARD Farms Contracting-tears down structures. Remove debris to Hoopston landfill, level lot

508 E. Attica-tear down \$7,000 estimated 65 tons of demolition material to landfill

113 W. Attica-tear down \$8,500 estimated 85 tons of demolition material to landfill

Drennan Excavating, LLC

demo house, haul to landfill, remove concrete haul off, fill basement with clay

508 E. Attica- \$11,200 Village to pay landfill fees estimated \$12,000

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113 W. Attica-\$12,400 Village to pay landfill fees estimated \$12,000
Superintendent Lusk attempted to contact Mr. Drennan to clarify his bid but there was no answer. The matter was tabled until a special board meeting to be held on Monday, April 10, 2023.

Trustee Gammon reported the Village of Rossville will be charged at a rate of \$58 per ton of demolition material taken to the landfill. Now the Village will receive comparable rates like Danville. With prior projects, the dumping fees were charged to the contractor, who received a higher rate. Therefore, the costs of the projects were more expensive.

Trade Police truck? – “Hoopeston” offered to buy the Ford truck squad from the Village of Rossville. The Village would have to purchase a new vehicle to replace the truck. Trustee Black stated the matter should not be considered since the Village does not have funds to purchase a new vehicle currently.

License plate readers – The referred license plate readers are called Flock cameras. The cameras record traffic coming and going. The cameras can be programmed to record different tasks such as stolen vehicles, Amber alert vehicles, etc. Trustee Black suggested obtaining 4 cameras which are \$3,000 annually each plus installation. Mayor Queen asked what the maintenance fees cost. Chief Greene will be asked to present the quote for the cameras so the matter can be discussed at the April 24th rescheduled regular meeting.

Solar Panels on private property – Trustee Black has spoken with resident Darrell Danner, who had inquired about rules regarding solar panels being installed on private property. There are no ordinances regarding solar panels in the Village. Mr. Danner owns a vacant lot next to his house and was investigating installing solar panels on the vacant lot to support his residence. Mr. Danner would install shrubs so the panels cannot be seen from the street.

Clerk White asked if the Board should consider preparing an ordinance with requirements, fees, regulations for solar panels. Trustee Sturm suggested a building permit should be established regarding solar panels. Trustee Black suggested also including a section on non-carbon energy usage and fees.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Hackett to authorize Mr. Danner to install solar panels, within 2 years, on 1 of his parcels of property with enough solar panels to supply his residence only and not be visible from the street. Vote: Gammon, yes; Hackett, yes; Cornell, yes; Sturm, yes; Black, yes.

Meter Replacement Program – Superintendent Lusk stated years ago a Sinking Fund was started in the Water Fund for replacing meters. There was an intent to begin Sinking Funds in the Gas and Sewer Funds to offset the cost of replacing meters as well, which did not get done. The sewer bill is based off the water readings so the Sewer Fund should be expensed a portion of the cost to replace water meters. The meters the Village has currently have warranties expiring. Superintendent Lusk is researching companies who sell systems to replace the ones we have, especially in the water. Superintendent Lusk suggested if the gas meters start to fail, expensing the new gas meters out of the surplus funds but also establish a Sinking Fund for the Gas and Sewer Funds to prepare for the expense in the future. Figures would need to be determined as to how much should be deposited into the sinking funds each month to cover the potential cost.

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Clerk White stated resolutions were passed in 2019, that were worded incorrectly to say the unspent amount in the line item for new equipment should be deposited into a sinking fund. Superintendent Lusk is proposing after the audit is complete, to take gain per fund and subtract the depreciation then if there is a positive balance, deposit those funds into a sinking fund for each fund for the purpose of purchasing new equipment. Trustee Black suggested the matter be deferred to the Finance & Purchasing Committee. A Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the village office.

FY2024 Budget - Superintendent Lusk explained to board members why the line maintenance line item in the gas fund was budgeted for a higher amount next year. The higher budget amount is to repair the gas lines that are incorrect and need repaired so a fine is not issued to the Village.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Hackett to adjourn to executive session to discuss employee compensation for FY2024 under 5 ILCS 120/2 C1. Vote: Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 6:21 p.m.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Hackett to leave executive session and return to regular session. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes. The meeting returned to regular session at 6:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Hackett, seconded by Sturm to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Gammon, yes; Black, yes; Sturm, yes; Cornell, yes; Hackett, yes. The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk

Board approved 4/24/2023