

Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
October 21, 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, Kenneth Gammon and Brenda Adams from Keep Vermilion County Beautiful.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held September 16, 2024 were presented. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated September 16, 2024 and approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes.

The minutes of the special board meeting held on September 23, 2024 were presented. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes of the special board meeting held September 23, 2024 as presented. Vote: Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes.

Treasurer Ault's report for September 2024, was presented. The September Treasurer's report was reviewed in the Finance & Purchasing Committee meeting held earlier. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to accept the Treasurer's report for September. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes.

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – Trustee Daniel asked if the sidewalk in front of 210 Gilbert has been repaired. Mayor Queen stated the sidewalk was repaired by lifting a portion of the sidewalk out, remove the tree stump, level the original location then placed the portion of the sidewalk back into its original spot.

Mayor Queen stated the clock will run out on 305 Benton on October 28th. Mayor Queen spoke to Village attorney, Andy Mudd, who stated the Village should wait until November 1st then proceed with the demolition of 305 Benton, 308 Maple and 217 Perry. Mayor Queen will attempt to contact Marie Leland, owner of 217 Perry, one more time to see if she will sign the quitclaim deed to the Village. If Ms. Leland does not sign the quitclaim deed, the Village will demolish the house due to the Dangerous Building Ordinance.

Mayor Queen reported the vehicles around 308 Maple are gone. The vehicles were purchased from the owner of the property by an individual.

Superintendent Lusk mentioned on his report that he has some work to do at the gas plant and is getting prices for the repairs. Clerk White asked what the problem is at the gas plant. Mayor Queen reported the gas meter needs replaced because during the summer months, there is so little gas consumption that the meter does not read correctly.

Superintendent Lusk is getting prices to replace the meter. Trustee Richison asked why Panhandle is not repairing the gas meter at the plant since it is their pipeline supplying natural gas. Clerk White stated each town is responsible for their own gas plant repairs.

Sewer Operator Price's report – Trustee Gammon noted on Sewer Plant Operator Price's report that a flowmeter needs replaced and they are waiting on a quote. Where is the flowmeter that needs replaced? Trustee Gammon will ask Superintendent Lusk.

Police report – Trustee Black read Chief Greene's police report. Trustee Black commented the Explorer looks nice since it has been striped with the Police logo. Also, Chief Greene has signed up for the Toys for Tots gift give away. Mayor Queen stated the concrete pad has been poured at the grade school for the squad to be parked on for the SRO.

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Accounts Receivable - Collector White reported the utility accounts receivable total as \$15,566.28. There were miscellaneous invoices totaling \$1,705.10, making the total accounts receivable \$17,271.38. There were no disconnections this month.

Christmas Parade Resolution – The RCO is sponsoring a Christmas Parade on December 7, 2024 from 6-6:30 p.m. on Route 1 from Green St. to Stufflebeam Drive. The resolution authorizes closing Route 1 during the parade route and outlines the detour route. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Richison to approve the parade resolution. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes. Resolution 2024-08 passed.

Resolution authorizing the destruction of executive session tapes that have been retained at least 18 months after minutes were released – Motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to approve the resolution authorizing the destruction of executive session tapes that have been retained at least 18 months after minutes were released for the following dates: regular meeting executive session tapes dated 9/16/19, 4/19/21, 10/17/22, special board meeting tapes dated 11/10/22, 2/8/23, and Police, Health & Safety Committee meeting tapes dated 10/19/22, 11/2/22 and 12/14/22. Vote: Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes. Resolution 2024-09 passed.

Declare TIF Inner Core Tax Revenue as Surplus Funds – Trustee Black asked what that means. Clerk White explained the Inner Core Revenues are to be declared surplus funds so a Joint Review Board meeting can be scheduled and the taxing bodies will receive checks for their portion of the TIF distributions. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to declare the TIF Inner Core Tax Revenue as surplus funds. Vote: Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes.

The tax levy estimate has been calculated as \$19,403.96, which is lower than 5% over last year's levy. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to approve the tax levy estimate as \$19,403.96. Vote: Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Cornell, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Richison, yes.

Rossville-Alvin Snack Pack Program Donation Request – A request was received for a donation to the Rossville-Alvin Snack Pack Program. The fiscal year budget includes \$1,000 for the Snack Pack program. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to donate \$1,000 to the Snack Pack program and review prior to next year's budget for additional donation amounts. Vote: Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Keep Vermilion County Beautiful Membership – Brenda Adams, Executive Director of Keep Vermilion County Beautiful explained membership fees and grant eligible beautification grant changes this year. The Village usually contributes at the business level of \$150 annually which is eligible for up to \$1,000 beautification grants. Grant applications are usually mailed in the spring. A newsletter is being mailed out to members. Membership dues will be tabled for discussion until next month's meeting.

Declare 106 E. Attica as Surplus Property/Possibly Advertise for Sale – The property located at 104 E. Attica has sold and the new owners have inquired if the Village owned property at 106 E. Attica is available for purchase. Board members discussed declaring the property as surplus, selling the property with a suggested minimum bid of \$1,000 and advertising for bids. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to declare the property at 106 E. Attica as surplus, advertise for a minimum bid of \$1,000 with bids to be received by November 15, 2024 then vote on the bids at the regular board meeting to be held on November 18, 2024. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Cornell, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Richison, yes.

Discuss Fee for Commercial Solar Farm Ordinance – Village Attorney Andy Mudd sent a revised ordinance clarifying the description of solar garden and commercial designation. No fee for solar gardens/farms were inserted. Mayor Queen stated Andy Mudd told him that it is questionable whether a fee can be added to the ordinance. If a special use permit is required, Clerk White suggested preparing an ordinance to establish solar projects to be added to the special use permit section of the ordinances. If allowed, the owners/companies will have to apply for a special use permit and pay the application fees prior to the Zoning Board meeting to discuss the requests. Trustee Black will speak with

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Attorney Mudd to get clarification of these matters. The matter will be tabled until the November regular board meeting.

Discussion on an Ordinance Making the Owner and Occupant of a Property Joint and Severally Liable – Trustee Gammon stated the Village has had several customers that use utility services from the Village through the winter then move off with unpaid bills the Village usually has to write off. The Village cannot shut gas off in the winter when the temperature is below a certain degree. Trustee Gammon would like to consider an ordinance that would help protect the Village from losses due to non-payment of accounts. Trustee Gammon reported the Village of Westville has an ordinance that makes the owner and occupant joint and severally liable for utility bills. Clerk White will contact the City of Georgetown and request a copy of their ordinance that states the utilities will not be reconnected for a new customer until the previous bill is paid in full. Clerk White has requested a copy of Westville’s ordinance regarding the owner and occupant being joint and severally liable. The Clerk from Westville will email a copy to Clerk White. Andy Mudd is also looking into these procedures.

Trustee Gammon announced that Mayor Queen, Clerk White, Deputy Clerk Rife and herself attended a webinar with a representative on the Comptroller’s office regarding the Local Debt Recovery Program. If the Village enters into the program and a Village customer leaves a balance due on their account-utilities, mowing, etc. and that customer is due an income tax refund or wins something in the Illinois lottery program over \$599, the State can withhold 25% from that customer refund or lottery winnings to pay on the monies due to the Village. There was some confusion about whether the customer’s debt can be withheld from their wages or if they have to be paid with State funds in order to withhold the monies from their wages. Clerk White will contact the Comptroller’s office to find the answers.

Finance & Purchasing – Trustee Gammon reported the committee met earlier and discussed the general fund CD#155798 that is maturing on October 24, 2024 at Iroquois Federal. Options on CD rates were obtained. The Finance & Purchasing Committee recommend to purchase a CD, with the maturing CD funds, for 60 days with a 4.35% APY at Iroquois Federal. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to purchase a CD, for the general fund, for 60 days with a 4.35% APY at Iroquois Federal. Vote: Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes.

Also, Trustee Gammon picked up the fish order for the pond. Superintendent Lusk put the fish in different areas of the pond from the man lift. Trustee Gammon recorded a video of the fish being released and showed to the school kids since they had been fishing in the pond last Friday.

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

Police, Health & Safety – Trustee Black introduced an ordinance allowing for the use of low-speed electric scooters, which was prepared by Village attorney Andy Mudd according to State restrictions. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to adopt the low-speed scooter ordinance. Vote: Daniel, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, no. Ordinance 2024-09 passed.

Purchase (4) Taser 10s – Chief Greene applied and received a grant for the purchase of 4 Taser 10s. A quote was received from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for 4 Taser 10s for \$19,897.60 including a 5-year warranty. Chief Greene is a Taser instructor for tasers up to level 7. Chief Greene will have to be certified for the new tasers to be an instructor. Per the grant, the State will pay the first payment of \$12,548.00 then the Village will pay \$1,837.40 for the next 4 years until paid in full over 5 years beginning December 2024. Axon will supply practice tasers as well, which are included in the price. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to purchase 4 Taser 10s from Axon Enterprises for \$19,897.60 over a 5-year plan in which the State will pay the first payment of \$12,548 in December 2024 then the Village will pay annual payments of \$1,837.40 beginning December 2025. Vote: Richison, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Cornell, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes.

Water & Sewer – Trustee Jones had nothing further to report at this time.

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

Public Improvement – Trustee Daniel had nothing to report at this time.

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Old Business – 305 Benton Status Report – Mayor Queen reported that as of November 1, 2024, 305 Benton can be demolished.

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to adjourn to executive session to review executive session minutes under 5 ILCS 120/2 C21. Vote: Richison, yes; Daniel, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:13 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 8:18 p.m.

Motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to release executive session minutes dated August 17, 2020 and April 15, 2024. Vote: Gammon, yes; Richison, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes.

Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Daniel, no; Jones, yes; Richison, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 11-18-24