

**Village of Rossville
Regular Board Meeting
December 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 Gammon, Jones, and Daniel physically present.

Trustees absent – Trustee Richison due to resignation in November, 2024 and Trustee Cornell

Trustees attending electronically-Trustee Black

Guests present were Clerk White, Ken Gammon, Renae Ward, Chase Wittich and Kyle Hawkinson from Summit Ridge Solar Project and Neal Kuester from Feller & Kuester CPAs PLLC.

Minutes of the regular board meeting held November 18, 2024 were presented. Mayor Queen asked Village Attorney Andy Mudd if a redevelopment agreement could be signed with the potential buyer for 217 Perry. Mayor Queen reported Attorney Mudd said if the Village is selling the property outright, no redevelopment agreement will be allowed. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Jones to dispense with the reading of the regular board meeting minutes dated November 18, 2024 and approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

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

Superintendent Lusk's report – There were no comments on Superintendent Lusk's report. Trustee Gammon stated 217 Perry looks good since the maintenance employees have been removing trees and cleaning up the property.

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

Police report – Trustee Black stated the traffic stops dropped in numbers substantially from previous months. The numbers are expected to increase after the first of the year. Trustee Gammon reported over 400 gifts were wrapped. Roughly 300 gifts were handed out at the carnival at the grade school. The remaining gifts were given to the Women's shelter and Circle Academy.

Accounts Receivable – Due to an out of balance condition last month, an accounts receivable report was not presented. The out of balance condition has been corrected so Collector White reported the accounts receivable balance for November, 2024 was \$16,758.56 plus \$1,834.95 in miscellaneous invoices, totaling \$18,593.51. Clerk White reported the accounts receivable for December, 2024 as \$55,911.83 plus \$1,576.93 in miscellaneous invoices, making the total accounts receivable as \$57,488.76. There were no shut offs for either month.

Mayoral Appointment of New Trustee to replace Trustee Richison who resigned the end of November, 2024 – Trustee Gammon suggested Justin Wallace as a candidate to replace Trustee Richison. Mayor Queen asked if the board members know Mr. Wallace. Most of the board members know of Mr. Wallace. Mayor Queen recommended appointing Justin Wallace to replace Trustee Richison to serve out Trustee Richison's remaining term. Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Daniel to concur with Mayor Queen's appointment of Justin Wallace to replace Justin Richison as trustee for the Village of Rossville. Vote: Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes; Jones, yes; Black, yes.

Holiday Resolution for Calendar Year 2025 – A holiday resolution was prepared and presented to board members, listing 13 dates for holidays in the calendar year 2025, as previously discussed at the November meeting. Motion was

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made by Gammon, seconded by Daniel to approve the holiday resolution listing 13 dates for holidays in calendar year 2025. Vote: Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Daniel, yes; Black, yes. Resolution 2024-11 passed.

Safety Awards for Village Employees-Clerk White reported safety awards were issued last year as \$150 for full-time employees and \$100 for part-time employees as payroll checks with the appropriate taxes deducted. Trustee Black suggested \$200 for full-time employees and \$150 for part-time employees. Motion was made by Black, seconded by Gammon to award \$200 (net check, gross minus taxes and withholdings) to full-time employees and \$150 (net check) to part-time employees as a safety award. Vote: Black, yes; Jones, yes; Daniel, yes; Gammon, yes.

Approve Meeting Dates for 2025-The Village Board meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the village office. A list of the meeting dates for 2025 were presented. Motion was made by Jones, seconded by Gammon to approve the 2025 meeting dates as presented. Vote: Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes.

Discuss Animal Control and Citations- At a previous meeting, board members asked what Vermilion County Animal Control is paid for. Clerk White explained the contract is for dog pick up only. If an animal is dangerous, Animal Control will pick it up. Animal Control does not pick up strays after hours, weekends or holidays.

Ordinance to Make Owners/Occupants Joint & Severally Liable-Mayor Queen asked to table the ordinance until next month.

Discuss Solar Farm Ordinance/Proposed Solar Project-Summit Ridge – Chase Wittich and Kyle Hawkinson, from the Summit Ridge Energy Solar Project presented their presentation on the proposed commercial solar project on a 39-acre parcel of land on the south edge of Village limits, adjacent to the Masengale Subdivision and within 1.5 zoning jurisdiction of the Village. The project area was reduced to a sub15 acre project with evergreen trees to be used as a fence around the project. Trustee Black previously asked what happens after the project is over and how to get the equipment out of there. Mr. Wittich stated a decommissioning bond would be posted for the removal of the project infrastructure. Summit Ridge would enter into an AIMA (Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement) which means the landowner basically returns the property to pre-construction condition. Since the project was pushed back to the southeast corner, the landowner can use the remaining portion of the parcel at his discretion. Summit Ridge representatives asked if the Village wants to proceed. Trustee Gammon stated Village ordinances prohibit commercial solar projects within its 1.5-mile zoning jurisdiction, which she is opposed to any solar project that violates Village ordinances. Mayor Queen did not feel like the Village Board will act against the ordinance that is in place. Summit Ridge representatives stated they have hosted public meetings to get residents’ opinions of the solar project. Trustee Gammon stated if the Village decides to move forward with discussions, a public meeting would be advised. Trustee Gammon thanked the representatives for attending the meeting this evening.

Bids for 106 E. Attica Street Village-Owned Property- One bid was received for the Village-Owned property located at 106 E. Attica Street. The bid was from Amanda Plonka for \$3,000, with no plan for the property listed. Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Gammon to accept the bid from Amanda Plonka for \$3,000 for the property at 106 E. Attica. Vote: Black, no; Gammon, yes; Jones, no; Daniel, yes; Queen, yes. Motion did not pass with the required $\frac{3}{4}$ of board members’ affirmative vote for real estate.

Bids for the 2019 Ford F250 plus the 8’ Snowplow- Three bids were received for the 2019 Ford F250 plus 8’ snowplow. They were as follows:

Watseka Ford	\$28,701.01
Scott Barragree	\$29,100.00
Midwest Asphalt Co.	\$32,850.00

Motion was made by Daniel, seconded by Jones to accept the bid of \$32,850 from Midwest Asphalt Co. for the 2019 Ford F250 + 8’ Snowplow. Vote: Black, yes; Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes.

Legion Liquor License Fee for 2025 – Discussion was held on whether to require the American Legion to purchase another liquor license for 2025 since they didn’t use the license that was purchased for 2024 due to the State not granting them a 2024 liquor license. Several board members objected and did not want to set a precedence. A motion was not made to waive the license fee. Mayor Queen will let the Legion members know the Board’s decision.

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Finance & Purchasing – Neal Kuester, from Feller & Kuester CPAs PLLC., presented the fiscal year 2024 audit and 3 letters. Mr. Kuester reported the audit fees for next year will be \$16,300, including the audit, preparation of financial reports, GATA, TIF reports and assistance throughout the year. Mr. Kuester checked the status of the GATA for the Village of Rossville. The 2025 questionnaire is complete and there was no GATA reporting required for 2024. Mr. Kuester will bring the TIF reports after he gets signatures from Mayor Queen and Clerk White. The mayor and clerk were sent emails that the Comptroller needs to verify their emails then the reports will be ready to send as a PDF to Clerk White to distribute to the Board.

CD Rate for General Fund CD – New CD rates from Iroquois Federal were included in the board packets. Trustee Gammon reported the APY for a 60-day CD and a 91-day CD are the same at 4.15%. A motion was made by Black, seconded by Jones to purchase a 91-day CD with an APY of 4.15%. Vote: Daniel, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes; Black, yes.

Streets & Alleys – Trustee Cornell was absent.

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

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

Gas Committee- No report.

Public Improvement – Trustee Daniel had nothing to report.

Old Business – Trustee Gammon requested a status report on 217 Perry. Mayor Queen reported the Village wanted to sell the property by means of auction or have a realtor sell the property. Mayor Queen has had no luck finding someone who will auction or sell the property. Mayor Queen stated Superintendent Lusk seems to think the Village will get more money for the property by doing an auction. Mayor Queen stated the property was appraised at \$28,000 and if the Village sponsors an auction for the property, the Village must receive a minimum of 80% of the appraised value of \$28,000.

Motion was made by Gammon, seconded by Black to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Daniel, yes; Black, yes; Jones, yes; Gammon, yes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk
Board approved 1-20-25