

**Village of Rossville
Special Board Meeting
March 3, 2021**

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 approve an amendment to engineering Services for the Attica St. Water Main Replacement Project, update on gas prices and billing procedures and discuss what to use Cares Act/Cure monies on.

Members physically present – Mayor Queen, Trustees Mahorney, Sturm, Cornell, Maden and Black
Members absent – Trustee Leaver
Guests present – Clerk White, Superintendent Lusk, Rex Hackett, Susan Misner and Marilyn Danner

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Donahue Engineering Services Amendment – Mayor Queen reported the bids for the Attica Street Water Main Replacement Project were opened today. Six bids were received. The low bid was a company from Paxton, Meuser Company. The engineer's estimate was \$110,000. The low bid was \$53,000. The engineering services agreement amendment would increase the engineering service by \$5,800, resulting in a total contract amount of \$32,000. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Mahorney to approve the increase in engineering services to \$32,000. Vote: Sturm, yes; Black, yes; Cornell, yes; Maden, yes; Mahorney, yes. Final approval of bids will be presented for Board approval at the regular board meeting to be held on Monday, March 15th.

Gas Prices and Billing Procedures- The Village received an estimated invoice for February gas purchases for \$422,000. Mayor Queen stated if the Village bills at 88 cents per therm, the invoice would be reduced by approximately \$100,000, leaving a remaining balance to pay to IMGGA of \$320,000. Mayor Queen suggested cashing in a CD held at Iroquois Federal for \$375,000 then beginning next month, add \$4-\$5 to the customer charge or add 5 cents per therm to help recover the CD money. The auditor was consulted regarding this suggestion. Mayor Queen stated the auditor agreed the procedure is legal.

Trustee Maden asked, at the last meeting, that if the Village does not complete the low interest (1% for years) loan application from the IFA, the government will think we don't need the money and not give us any grant money. Superintendent Lusk explained the Village is only receiving 0.65% interest on the CD and the loan charges 1%, the Village would be money ahead to cash the CD in. Iroquois Federal wrote a letter stating they will not charge penalties to the Village if the CD is cashed in before the August 2021 maturity date. If the Village receives any grant money from the federal government to offset the additional cost, the Village would invest that money into a new CD and remove the 5 cents per therm charge. Superintendent Lusk suggested the Board consider adopting an ordinance to make the landlords and tenants joint and severally liable so the Village does not lose money on people moving out and leaving a balance on their account.

Resident Sue Misner asked the name of the source that caused the drastic price increase. Superintendent Lusk explained the gas was purchased on the market and it could be multiple suppliers who sold the gas at a much higher rate. Mrs. Misner would like the name of the source so they can be held accountable for the price gouging. Superintendent Lusk explained the federal agencies who are investigating will hold the company(ies) accountable. The Village has contacted the State of Illinois representatives and Federal representatives regarding this matter to ask for assistance in investigating the matter and possible monetary assistance. There are multiple agencies investigating. Motion was made by Sturm, seconded by Black to cash in the CD at Iroquois Federal for \$375,000 to pay the invoice. Vote: Maden, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Sturm, yes; Mahorney, yes.

Cares Act/Cures money – The Village received approximately \$55,000 from the State of Illinois. Mayor Queen received some applications for Cares Act money from other communities, which will be revised, that will get distributed to local businesses who were affected during COVID. The Cares Act money applications will be required to be returned to the village office prior to Monday, March 15th. It was recommended to authorize no more than \$5,000 to each business for expenses during COVID.

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Motion was made by Mahorney, seconded by Sturm to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Maden, yes; Cornell, yes; Black, yes; Sturm, yes; Mahorney, yes. The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White
Village Clerk

Board approved 3-15-21