

May 6, 2024

Regular Meeting

6 P.M.

Regular meeting of the Village Board held at the Village Hall and called to order by President Starceвич with the following members present: Loving, Olson, Sappington, Willems, Baker, Waugaman, Starceвич, and Johnson. Absent: none.

Motion by Willems, second by Baker to approve the April 1, 2024 regular meeting's minutes. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Willems, second by Olson to authorize the April 2024 bills. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Baker, second by Olson to accept the Treasurer's Annual Report. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

Motion by Loving, second by Waugaman to rehire Kevin Willems as Village Treasurer for the fiscal year May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starceвич stated that the Village's sewer and water rates need to be raised, due to the low balances in the sewer and water accounts. The Board agreed and asked Stephen Thorp to put in the new meters so that an exact reading of usage could be made, and the meters would be read each month. President Starceвич said that putting the new meters in is high priority. The Board agreed to have the commercial meters and apartment meters read now.

President Starceвич stated that the maintenance department could hire Clayton Matcovic and Maxx Starceвич to help weed eat and clean up parks at \$14 per hour for the summer.

Motion by Loving, second by Sappington to raise the water rate by \$5 to \$25 per month, and the sewer rate \$15 per month to \$98.75 effective immediately on the June bills. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starceвич stated that May 1, 2024 is the deadline for sewers to be put in. Mr. Thorp stated that there were eleven more sewers to be put in, and if not done, there would be a \$800 fee to hookup and water would be shut off, unless the resident can prove they are on a waiting list to have their sewer put in.

President Starceвич reported that he had contacted Village Attorney Halpin about the new ordinances, including a trustee having a liquor license.

Motion by Waugaman, second by Olson to change the liquor ordinance to include that a Village Board Trustee can have a liquor license, but must abstain from voting on anything in conflict with the liquor ordinance. Voice votes: Five votes were in favor, Trustee Sappington abstained, and the motion was carried.

Police Chief Bryce Frenell present to report on fines being paid at the Village Hall or if a hearing is requested, the hearing would be scheduled in Aledo. He said that anything paid here will stay here.

Police Chief Frenell reported that the Charles and Monica David property is a marital property, and she now has a court order. He said this would be a matter for the Attorney.

President Starceвич stated that he would write a letter to put in with the water bills notifying residents of the water and sewer rate hikes.

Motion by Waugaman, second by Sappington to have the fifty feet of sidewalk replaced at the Stan Mickelson property at a cost of \$600, due to destruction of the sidewalk when the tree was taken out and the sewer put in. Voice votes: All votes were in favor, and the motion was carried.

President Starceвич reported that the house on 201 Main Street is not on Village water, but has a well. He said the owner Wayne Shull wants Village water, so the Village will look into the matter.

Mr. Thorp of the maintenance department asked about removing the pine trees in the alley by the Depot. He said there are nine trees in bad shape, and the cost would be \$3,000. The Board agreed to table the matter.

The maintenance department of Stephen Thorp and Rick Olson stated that they had stopped mowing any lots including the Fred Vann and Chris Johnson lots and the large lot off of Mercer Street.

The Board agreed to check into putting liens on properties that are not mowed. Trustee Olson stated that Chris Johnson has had her lot mowed four times already, and it should cost her \$100.

Chief Frenell stated that fines run from \$75 to \$500. He reported that he wrote two tickets to the Walshes for junk vehicles, and Dana Krider has a sinking truck, Trent DeShane has a truck, Breitenstein has cars in the alley behind him, and Bryce Weber has junk by Rod McCaw's building.

The Board noted that there is a Nuisance Ordinance, and Chief Frenell stated a title search may need to be done to see if the bank owns any properties in violation.

Chief Frenell stated that he has a candidate for a part time police officer who is retired and works for the County, and lives in Alexis. He said that 20 – 30 hours a week would be good. The Board tabled the matter.

President Starceвич said the Village needs to get an auditor, since there are problems with the current one.

Chief Frenell reported that officers Howard, Monson, and Marlow are officially done working for the Village.

Trustee Sappington reported that he is working on his building to get a bar, gaming machines, and later pizza in.

Village Clerk Johnson reported that she is working on a grant through Mercer County Better Together and Looser-Flake, finishing the USDA final requirements, and filing a report with AARPA for the funds the Village received.

Motion by Willems, second by Olson to adjourn. Voice votes: all votes were in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Claudine D. Johnson, Village Clerk