

Village of Harristown

Special Meeting

February 12, 2024 6 PM

Meeting called to order at 6 PM by Mayor Deverell.

Present: Trustees: April Bogan, Jeff Eller, Les Jenkins, Kurt Terry, Jay Trusner and Kevin Vessels. Also present: Rick Laskowski, Budget Officer; Jonathon Closs, Public Works Supervisor; Mike Sorrentino, Zoning and Planning; Seth Flock, Milano Grunloh Engineering and Mayor Evelyn Deverell.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Streets and Alleys:

1) Seth Flock discussed the 2024 MFT project for 2024 and presented the Dunn Company estimates for Suburban Road. Culverts and ditch work are not included in this estimate. The two options of asphalt and rock/chip were discussed. The Board feels, since this is not a heavily traveled road, the rock/chip option would be best for this road. Other Village streets needing work were discussed. Jonathon Closs will get measurements for First, Third, Fourth, Waldorf, Houck and Westway Drive and get them to Seth Flock. Seth advises that the IDOT appropriation for all work done this year would have to be submitted at one time.

2) The work needing to be done to the ditch along Twin Lakes Road (South of Main Street) was explained. The ditch is eroding and getting very close to our road and the water main that runs down next to the ditch. No quotes were available and the subject was tabled.

Water and Sewer:

1. Work on the Sewer Lift Stations was discussed. This work would be for the West Main and Harristown Boulevard lift stations. The Village will receive a \$45,000 Grant from DCEO (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) through Senator Sally Turner's office. The quotes from Gasvoda are approximately \$25,000.00 for the West Main lift station and \$23,000.00 for the Harristown Boulevard lift station. The lift station at the Village sewer plant would be done later as part of a possible consolidation project. Jonathon Closs explained the need for this work and also said new impellers are needed for both lift stations. (impellers are not included in the Gasvoda quote). Kevin Vessels asked if there is backup power to those lift stations. Jonathon Closs explained that there is not and that the Village purchased a large CAT generator to be moved from station to station. The Board told Jonathon Closs to order the needed impellers. Kevin Vessels moved to have the Village purchase the needed

parts and to have Gasvoda do the work for the improvements to the two lift stations. The Board approved this motion 6 to 0.

2. Water service lines and meter pits were next on the Agenda. The maps prepared by Les Jenkins were presented—these show leaks in service lines the Village has had in the last 3 years and the number of homes built in the Village since 1990. The amount of water loss the Village has every month was provided. Seth Flock verified that the number we experience is very high and much higher than expected. A 20 to 30 year IEPA loan could be available at a 1.3% interest rate with \$500,000.00 loan forgiveness. After discussing the need for this work, Kurt Terry moved to have Milanoh & Grunloh submit paperwork to the IEPA to start the process to get a loan for this work and to have Public Works start replacing some of the service lines. The Board approved this procedure.

A water and sewer rate was discussed. Mayor Deverell said the water rate will increase 3% May 1st, per Ordinance. The rate for water from URWC increased 5.9% on February 1, 2024. A list of water and sewer averages from other communities was passed out. The Village water fund lost almost \$95,000.00 last Fiscal year and the sewer fund lost almost \$46,000.00. A large part of the shortages were due to the payroll allocation split. Both funds would still have lost some money, even if payroll allocation had not been made.

Jay Trusner asked if the Village had these large water loses before we joined the URWC. Rick Laskowski said the Village had has large water loses since at least 2000. Seth Flock and Jonathon Closs both discussed the fact that the water rates would have had to increase no matter what.

Kevin Vessels questioned how much the water fund has decreased since joining URWC. He cited figures he had from previous Budgets and Audits. Rick Laskowski will work on a report of these differences and the reasons the water fund has fluctuated so much.

The Board agreed to further discuss water and sewer rates increases at future meetings. This will be after more definite information is available on costs for needed water and sewer projects.

3. Decommissioning our water wells was discussed. Seth Flock told the Board that this is required by the IEPA and the cost will be approximately \$15,000.00. The Village Attorney is reviewing well Lease paperwork and will have information on Village access to the land the wells are on by the next meeting.
4. Sewer Consolidation. Seth Flock explained the changes in the quote for work at our sewer plant. Josh Dubblede, Village Attorney, is reviewing the Draft Agreement for possible consolidation with EJ Water (Niantic) and Harristown. Illiopolis is still considering whether or not they want to be a part of a consolidation. No final decision on work at the sewer plant can be made until an Agreement is reached and signed.
5. Water Leak Credit were discussed. The Board would like to lhandle thse on an individual basis.

6. Work on planning for the Park will start so that prep work can begin. Kevin Vessels will serve on the planning committee along with Jonathon Closs, Les Jenkins, Misty Peters and Mayor Deverell.

A short 5 minute break was taken.

7. Hiring of Public Works Personnel: The Board agreed that the Village needs to hire 2 employees. Monday, February 19th was agreeable to the Personnel Committee to do interviews for prospective employees. Jonathon Closs will give Mayor Deverell a list of 6 people to call to schedule interviews on that date. Starting pay rate was discussed and will be decided for sure at the Board meeting. However, a starting rate of \$23.00 per hour was in the INDEED ad and will be used as a starting point. Further discussion of payroll allocation will also be at the next Board Meeting.

Mike Sorrentino asked if the Village could consider helping Sangamon Valley Primary School with any needed projects. Mayor Deverell said that TIF funds could be used for any such project. Mayor Deverell will contact the School Principal as well as the School Superintendent to start getting information.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Evelyn Deverell