

VILLAGE HALL OF HARRISTOWN

February 26, 2024

The Village of Harristown Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting on February 26, 2024 at 185 N. Kembark St, Harristown, IL. Trustees Les Jenkins, Kevin Vessels, Jeff Eller, Jay Trusner, April Bogan Budget Officer Rick Laskowski, Treasurer Teresa Acree, Attorney Joshua Dubbelde, Clerk Penny Allen and Mayor Evelyn Deverell were present. Trustee Kurt Terry was absent. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Meeting Agenda

Motion by Trustee Vessels to adopt the meeting agenda. Trustee Eller 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Zoom Presentation-Text My Gov – regarding better communication program. This is a two way texting solution. Capable of doing mass emails to residents and residents can text also. This is as long as the resident is signed up for this program; it is free to the residents. No app to download. Can also send texts to just a specific area for example if there is a water main break

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve minutes of regular board meeting January 29, 2024. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Motion by Trustee Trusner to approve minutes of special meeting from February 12, 2024. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Visitors

None wished to address the board

Treasurers Report

Bills needing approved

Burdick	water leak	\$ 2328	water fund
Attorney	legal services	\$ 2000	general fund

Motion by Trustee Vessels to approve above two payments. Trustee Eller 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Motion by Trustee Trusner to approve bank account balances report. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Budget Officers Report

BO Laskowski discussed. Per Mayor Deverell, the \$10,000 grant in general fund is for the park. The \$75,000 grant we will be receiving will have to be in a separate interest bearing account and any interest earned, must be used for the park. Will need to create another Illinois Fund account. Motion by Trustee Jenkins to approve Budget officers report for January. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 5-0. Will plan a budget study session meeting at the March meeting

Page -2-

Village Hall of Harristown

February 26, 2024

Zoning/Planning

Camp Wilson Church-paperwork has been signed. Engineer should have plans next week and will be in to get building permit

Storage America on Rt 36-no updates. They do own the 10 acres.

7990 W. 4th/garage-variance hearing on March 13 for height

Engineer

Decommissioning Wells-Attorney discussed. If something is installed after the lease is up, you cannot take what you put in ground. One lease says Village has authority to go get their stuff and cap and the other lease does not state this, but can ask landowner permission to cap well. Well#2 does not have a current lease and well#3 lease was terminated. The board requested the attorney send letters to them that we would like to get on the ground to decommission the wells. If no response from landowner, will have to go to Illinois Dept of Health.

Water Service Line Replacement-Mr. Closs talked to Seth Lee, all of ours are lead/lead sockets so we could get 100% funding because of that. If EPA approves, it would be 100% funded by them.

Sewer Consolidation Agreement-Mayor sent a draft agreement to Trustee Vessels and Attorney(EJ Water); Illiopolis has not decided if they want to be a part of it; they want to meet. Trustee Vessels stated this was obviously written by EJ Water; the billing doesn't make sense to him. Attorney said EJ Water is looking out for their best interest. Styled as a joint venture; don't like how that is worded. Not impressed by treatment of surcharge, excessive flows. Would want to refine the cost sharing. Mayor would need to decide what to charge them. Trustee Trusner went to coop meeting; EJ Water definitely looking out for themselves. We need to charge monthly fee and do increase every year. Attorney said a flat rate up to a certain surcharge flow may be needed. Trustee Jenkins thinks we should charge by the water and figure out the maintenance on the plant and add that into it. Trustee Vessels suggested removing the termination clause that they can terminate with a 5 year notice. Mr. Closs said we should wait to see what Illiopolis wants to do; we need to know which towns are wanting to do this. Trustee Jenkins said a meter would have to be at Niantic to find out how much is coming from Illiopolis. Illiopolis is having a board meeting on March 4 and then will probably request a meeting. Mayor requested that Trustees Trusner, Trustee Vessels and Jonathan Closs attend with her. She would like the engineer to be there too. We want to be the owner of our sewer plant and they would be our clients.

MFT Appropriation Submittal-Mr. Closs prepared an oil and chip list and sent to Seth (engineer)

Public Works

Mr. Closs discussed report.

Old Business

Treasurers Position-Attorney thinks we have to decide pay 180 days before position is open-next election.

Page-3-

Village Hall of Harristown

February 26, 2023

New Business

Text my Gov proposal- \$3000 to set up, then \$2000 /year; must commit to 2 years. To terminate, have to give a 60 day written notice. Mayor stated she did not think facebook was a good way to communicate with residents. Motion by Trustee Trusner for Mayor Deverell to contact Text My Gov and accept this proposal and sign contract. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Personnel Committee

Hire Public Works Employees-interviews were conducted

Health Insurance Coverage-Blue Cross was only covering one person; they will terminate if no one on policy now. If this expires, we can look at other insurance providers. Trustee Bogan will look at possible new insurance coverage.

Illiopolis Request- Illiopolis asked if Jonathan Closs could help them up since one of their public works people quit and they terminated their contract with EJ Water. Originally they just wanted him to sign off on paperwork but now have a big list they would like to use him for. Mayor would like to have a meeting with Illiopolis about this.

Direct Deposit-was this mentioned to the interviewees; would like to require it.

Streets and Alleys Committee

Twin Lakes Road Ditch-quote was \$17,000. Resident Byers said per IDOT, this had to be a 36" pipe. The farmer said they could use some of his fill dirt if needed. If the pipe could be smaller, our guys could do this. Mark Bingham, engineer, his quote for surveying and planning was \$6500. Trustee Jenkins said he will talk to Mr. Bingham and see if he can just tell us what size of pipe we need with no fee. Our guys could do the 36" pipe too just need to rent the equipment.

Street Lights-Indus Drive and Western – Board wants to get a quote. Will talk to Ameren about street lights on West Main/Western T road. Mayor said a sign may be able to be put up showing where to turn into Mystic Greens.

Finance Committee-nothing to report

Ordinance

21 violation letters sent. Mr. Antal on West Main owes \$ 524.15, last payment received was June. Mayor Deverell will check with a collection agency.

Water and Sewer

Leak Credit-request received from Jean Halahan for a leak credit. She did receive a leak credit not quite a year ago (\$994). Does Board want to give her one? Trustee Vessels said to give her credit, approximately \$800. Trustee Trusner suggested to do half of credit. Board will credit her ½.

Page -4-

Village Hall of Harristown

February 26, 2024

Economic Development

Donation Sangamon Valley PTO –a certificate for one free use of the community building was donated to the Sangamon Valley PTO quarter auction

Donation Sangamon Valley Youth League-currently village has a banner; will give them \$100 to renew

Sangamon Valley Primary School-they need help with a playground project; they will come to the board

Wycklesfest-3 bands booked

Music Bingo – March 14

4th of July -working on this

Park Planning-have not received grant paperwork yet. TOPO survey needed for park. Trustee Jenkins will talk to Mark Bingham's surveyor and will ask him to donate his services

Motion by Trustee Trusner to enter closed session to discuss public works employees and closed session minutes. Jonathan Closs requested to stay for this closed session. Trustee Vessels 2nd. Approved 5-0

Entered closed session at 8:39 pm

Back to regular session at 9:12 pm

Motion by Trustee Trusner to hire 2 people for public works department. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Motion by Trustee Trusner to hire Chad Leffler and Jessie Hamilton. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0.

They will be requested to start on March 11. Motion by Trustee Trusner to pay Chad Leffler \$25.50/hr. starting March 11. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 4 yes, 1 no Eller. Motion by Trustee Trusner to pay Jessie Hamilton \$24.50/hr starting March 11. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 4 yes, 1 no Eller. Motion by Trustee Trusner to pay 2 new employees out of general fund. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0.

Motion by Trustee Jenkins to release 3 closed session minutes, April 28, 2020, June 28, 2021, October 25, 2021. Trustee Trusner 2nd. Approved 5-0

Motion by Trustee Eller to adjourn. Trustee Jenkins 2nd. Approved 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Penny J. Allen

Village Clerk