

**Village of Pocahontas
Board Meeting
Monday January 23, 2023 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Village President Karen Heilig. Following the Pledge of Allegiance roll call was taken with Susie, JR, Joe, Tim, and Chris present. Board member Jeff Weiss was absent.

December Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November minutes. Susie made a motion to accept the December minutes as written. Joe 2nd – Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Bills:

January bills were presented to the Board for their approval. Susie made a motion to pay bills as written with a 2nd by Tim. Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Public Comment:

John & Diana Forehand were present and wanted to voice their concerns. They live next to one of the nuisance properties (210 W National). They described some of the things they have seen come and go in that residence and it makes them feel unsafe. They wanted to know what was going on with the property and what is going to happen. They also advised that one of the individuals that frequented the residence was going to attempt to break in. It was explained to the Forehands that action is being taken on this residence.

Attorney Ryan Connor:

Ryan advised we were granted a right to inspect at 210 W National. Don made a list of items that need fixed. There needs to be significant progress made to make these repairs. Now, there is no timeline for this process as court statuses will determine the timeline.

1 E State St – Christina Williams was able to let Don inspect the property today. She asked if they were able to polish the property a bit if they could sell the property as an “as is” sale. She advised that they comply with what needs to be done to make this possible. Ryan advised that it was discussed that this will be at the Board’s discretion. Christina asked if they would be able to give her a few months to get things in order. They had a potential buyer, but the bank would not finance the property since it was in legal action. The board advised her that they have no problem with her making it OK on the outside and fix whatever needed to sell the property, but it needs to remain inhabited until all things have been completed.

Ryan had the offer letter, and it is ready to go. He will get an electronic copy for Loni.

The handbook is still in process.

A draft for the Keeven property was discussed. The section with the liquidated damages is not agreed upon by the board. It was discussed to remove Section 4 and suggested to add ‘unless required by some other entity.’ The annexation could start moving forward as early as next month.

Water/Sewer

List was presented on what was done last month.

Loni advised that Chris was going to use his whole 4 weeks’ vacation in the month of February but said he would still be on call. The Board advised that if he was going to take the whole 4 weeks off, then he did not need to come in on the weekends. Either take off 2 weeks and be on call for the weekend or take the 4 weeks without being on call.

The signs have not been hung at the park for no swimming and no playing on ice.

Building/Zoning

Don presented the action plan for 1 E State St. He advised that the building was structurally sound but not on the inside. He would have no problem with working on 1 floor at a time as long as there aren't any occupants. The property is zoned as commercial. He advised that the porches on the 2nd level will need to be replaced.

Don also advised that it is a similar situation with 210 W National. The building is structurally sound but the inside needs work before it can be inhabited. He gave Ms. Lopez the name of a contractor to help her get things repaired.

We received 1 remodel permit this month.

Police

Angie would like to have the golf cart/side by side inspections done one day a week (Wednesdays) from 10AM-3PM. It was noted that the ordinance said that the golf carts needed to have seatbelts, so she was looking for directions as to how to proceed with that.

Both Rob and Angie were able to participate in Shop with a Cop. About 5-6 local children were able to partake in this event.

Angie is wanting to hold a birthday "pawty" for Frank on March 25th on the square. She would also like to have a demonstration done to show his skills.

Susie wanted to compliment Angie for being so involved at the school and just showing presence.

Angie is working on a community project with the kids at the school. They have been asked to draw or write, or both, about what they think Frank does off duty. She anticipates making these into a book.

There is a Valentines raffle for Frank that is to be drawn on Valentines Day. The items are a revolver, quilt, and charcuterie board.

The new squad car is working out well.

Franks bullet proof vest is on the way. This was a donation from Protecting K-9 Heroes.

Discussion was held about selling the Crown Vic as a sealed bid.

Angie is looking to set up a Narcan training course through Chestnut Health Systems. This will be held at the Gordon Lodge.

Bond County will be purchasing LPR cameras for each community but wants to see if we would purchase an additional one. Chief Deputy Josh Hill advised he can come and explain this more in depth.

ZBA Recommendations:

Hal advised that the ZBA met on January 10th for a variance request by Joe on the storage units. The request was to have a variance on the hard surface on the property.

The recommendation of the ZBA is to hold the decision on the hard surface but consider deeming oil and chip as a hard surface. Joe has no problem with oil and chips. The Board agrees that it needs to be done by a professional. Don will look into pricing and legal determination of what sort of composite can be used.

Water Rate Increase:

Bond Madison Water's supplier went up 27%. Which caused Bond Madison to raise rates. Joe made a motion that we increase the water rates by 27% and leave sewer as is for now. Susie 2nd, Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Use of Village

Susie advised that the community was wanting to start a crochet/knitting group. She was asking permission to use the meeting room as their meeting place. It is unsure as to how many times or when they will be meeting. The Board had no problems with this request.

Business District/TIF

Susie made a motion to adopt the Inducement Resolution. JR 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Susie made a motion to adopt the Feasibility Resolution. JR 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Susie made a motion to adopt the Ordinance Establishing Interested Parties Registry & Rules. JR 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Susie made a motion to place the TIF Plan & Feasibility Study on file and post it for 10 days and approve sending it to all affected taxing districts. JR 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Susie made a motion to set a public hearing for the establishment of the I-70 Business District on April 24th at 5:15PM. JR 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Susie made a motion to set a public hearing for the establishment of the Downtown Business District on April 24th at 5:15PM. JR 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

March 27th Moran is anticipating having the redevelopment plans drawing and discussing the budgets and how to utilize them.

Liquor Licenses:

Chris made a motion to renew the liquor licenses for the businesses that have them. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved. Karen advised that she does not want to give out any new licenses.

Karen asked Don to research residences that are running businesses out of their home and see if they are zoned business residential or commercial.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM