

**Village of Pocahontas
Board Meeting
Monday February 27, 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, Joe, Tim, and Jeff present. Board members JR Hentz and Chris Marshall were absent.

January Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November minutes. Joe questioned the previous minutes about the board was in agreement with oil and chip should be done by a professional. Discussion was held about why just the rock cannot be there. The request for a hard surface was for weed control. Susie made a motion to accept the January minutes with the modification to remove in the minutes about referencing that the board agreed that the oil and chip should be done by a professional. Jeff 2nd – Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Bills:

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

License Plate Reader

Chief Deputy Josh Hill was present and wanted to discuss the license plate readers. He advised that the County purchased a camera for Mulberry Grove and for Pocahontas. These were ordered through Flock Safety. Phil, with Flock Safety was in attendance via video. He explained how the cameras work and how beneficial they are. Their mission is to help eliminate crime with that, they have had a 60% reduction on crime. They use technology to aide the police to be able to respond faster. The cameras detect, decode, and deliver in real-time. There are 3 differences in Flock Safety that stand out from other companies: infrastructure free company, subscription service, and vehicle fingerprint technology. These cameras do not have facial recognition. The data is stored for 30 days then hard deleted. The cost of a camera is \$2500 per camera per year for a 2-year contract not including the one-time install fee of \$750 for IDOT and \$350 for city/county. The price will be going up shortly. Jeff made motion to purchase 2 license plate readers from Flock Safety. Susie 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Village Attorney – Ryan Connor/Lou Laugges

The employee handbook is still being worked on.

Lou advised that for the appropriations, we can use the same numbers as last year, if that is what the board members want to do.

Jay Keeven is currently looking at the newest annexation agreement and everything should be ironed out by next month's meeting.

Business/TIF District – Jake Zambaldi – Moran Economic Development

Jake presented the prepared plans for the TIF District, I-70 Business District, and the Downtown Business District. He advised that Dollar General is annexed into the village but for some reason the County has not recognized this. Notification for the taxing districts have been printed and mailed. There will be a meeting for them on March 17th at 1:30 PM. A question was brought up about fire protection for the new structures. Jake advised that the documents are written up that the fire department should be provided with funds to adequately provide for equipment needed to protect the facilities.

Jake presented the ordinance to set a public hearing for the TIF district on April 24th at 5:45PM. Joe made the motion to approve the ordinance to set a public hearing for the TIF district on April 24th at 5:45 PM. Susie 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Public Comment

David Crawford wanted to discuss some much needed upkeep at the ball diamonds. He advised that the picnic tables and panel box boards need to be replaced. The roof on the concession stand has been repaired but new shingles will be needed very soon. Discussion was held on whether or not to replace all the boards in the parks at one time or just the ones that need to be repaired. Also, the power box will need to be set in something more solid and protective. Dave will get a quote on the price of the boards and bring this to the next meeting.

Mike Brandy with Curry & Associates was present and discussed some of the logistics for getting the sewer line over to the property that is proposed to be annexed. He advised that he will need to get a permit to place an updated sewer line to just past Pokey Rd on the east side and stop at a manhole. We will need to look into updating the lift station on Russell as this is where the sewer is intended to go. This is the smallest lift station we have. Mike is currently working on the easements. Sunny asked if the Village would annex Robinson Cemetery Rd and Pokey Road for IEPA and IDOT for crossing.

ZBA Appointment

Pat Forhan's term for the Zoning Board expired. Karen advised that she will be re-appointing Pat for the ZBA again. This will be a 7-year position.

Attendance at Meetings

Karen advised that she thinks that board members should only get paid for the meetings they attend. The board advised Karen that this had already been addressed and voted on.

Water/Sewer

There was not a paper provided to advise what was done throughout the month.

Chris came back to work today.

Susie made motion to accept the MFT numbers as they were presented. Jeff 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Building/Zoning:

210 East National cleaned their yard.

The hotel still has had no progress.

We will be working on a list for those that have unkept yards. We will be sending ordinance letters to them.

Police:

The part for the Explorer is still on back order.

Susie made motion to go into closed session at 7:50 PM. Jeff 2nd- roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Karen called the meeting back to order as 8:35 PM, with no decisions made in the closed session.

Roll call – Jeff, Susie, Tim, and Karen were present. Joe, JR, and Chris were absent.

Jeff made a motion to increase Danny's pay to \$25.50 per hour, effective February 28. Tim 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yeas, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM