

**Village of Pocahontas
Board Meeting
Monday August 28, 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 Kovach, Jeff Weiss, Matt Hawley, David Crawford, Tim Palen, and Adam Evans present.

July Minutes:

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July minutes. Adam made motion to accept the July 17, 2023 minutes after noting that he was absent from the meeting and Tim Palen was present. Matt 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved. Susie made a motion to accept the July 24, 2023 as written. Matt 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Bills:

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

Public Comment:

Barb Kalous was present and wanted to address some issues she has seen. First, she thanked the Public Works for starting to clear the weeds around the viaduct. She passed around several pictures and talked about some safety issues of low branches, dead trees, loose rock on sidewalks, weeds in front of The Tribes, and bent up street signs were just some of the items. Barb also wanted to state that the public should have been notified about the sanitization of the water as there was no communication.

Will & Katelyn White wanted to discuss some issues and had pictures as well. Right behind their house there is a camper that gets frequented quite a bit. They are noisy, rowdy, and get worse every day. Rob and the Sheriffs Department have been contacted several times. A letter needs to be sent to the owner to have this removed. They burn trash and speculation of drug drops. They were advised to keep calling the Sheriff Department and document everything until we can get it removed.

Kris Parent advised that he personally purchased 14 tons of rock for \$487 to use on the alleyway. He said the alley needs more rock. He passed around pictures of things that were concerning to him. He thinks there needs to be a service maintenance plan that needs to be acted upon or else nothing will get done. Kris said that being short-handed is not an excuse for these items to not be done. He is concerned with the speed of people on Academy Street and asked that a "Slow Down, Children Playing" sign be put up. He feels if the city doesn't clean up their property, then they shouldn't be sending letters to residents to clean up their property. Kris wanted to know when the sidewalk on North Division would be replaced.

Jeff Weiss was speaking and left the meeting early at 6:54 PM.

Mike Brandt with Curry & Associates was present to answer questions about the quote on the lift station on Russell Street. He answered all questions asked by the board. Mike stated that the completion would take a few months as he will do some testing before starting the project.

Committee Reports:

The Ordinance Committee met on August 7th to discuss building permit fees. They decided to keep them the same as what was presented in November 2022. For the Building Inspector Responsibilities, they discussed a list of responsibilities that had been provided and decided to go along with them. To add to it, the Building Inspector cannot go into a property without written permission from the contractor or homeowner but can enter a commercial project. They also reviewed the Occupancy Overview and Rental Inspections. They researched to see what Greenville and Mulberry Grove use. In July, they both went to the 2020 and 2021 Building and Electric codes. Adam made motion to send the Building Inspector Responsibilities, Occupancy Overview, and Rental Inspection Guidelines for Ryan to create ordinances. Susie 2nd motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Adam made motion to accept to enact Ordinance # 8-28-23, Building Permit Fees that were presented in November 2022. Matt 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Attorney – Mike Eberly

Mike advised that Michelle has not gotten back with them regarding USDA grants for the lift station. An Ordinance making the recently annexed property zoned from R1 to B2 will need to be drafted.

A draft handbook has been created but it was suggested not to enact it until the new ordinances are in place. Mike will send it to review and make changes until then.

Mike will have the Ordinance Violation Ordinance ready for the next meeting.

ZBA

Karen would like to recommend appointing Ed Evans to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Matt made motion to appoint Ed Evans to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a 2nd by Susie. Roll call on motion, Susie, Matt, Dave, and Tim all yes, Adam abstained, motion carries.

Water/Sewer

A list was provided as to what had been done for the month.

The emergency line for water issues have been changed over to the Village cell phones.

John Deere has released their equipment. We should get our new mower in October, and it will be a 2024 model.

Someone came in the office interested in purchasing the old dump truck. Next month we will discuss the sealed bids on

Building/Zoning

Don received some complaints about someone living out of a camper on Yates/Cullom St. He was informed that it was family to the residents that were visiting from Florida, and they would be leaving soon.

Don also brought up the question if the Village wants to annex property on the south side of city limits to be contiguous.

Don mentioned an email he sent a few months ago about 5 properties that are in bad repair. He wanted to see how the board wanted to proceed.

Police

Angie advised that the new radio should be here within a couple of weeks.

Frank's surgery is set for September 12th. He will be off duty for at least 14 days.

Angie spoke about possibly getting tests to do drug testing in-house rather than going to the hospital. The Board would prefer that we continue to go through an approved medical facility.

Website

Adam made a motion to go with the Moonlight Computing Company to set up a website for the Village. Susie 2nd motion. Adam also advised that he would like the company to come in and discuss questions the Board members have before making a decision. Dave 2nd, roll call on motion, motion approved.

Notary

Loni asked if the board would like her to look into becoming a Notary. The Board agreed for her to move forward with becoming a Notary.

Dump Update

We will begin burning the dump at 8 am. The Fire Department will be there at 6PM to make sure it doesn't get out of hand. Before anyone can start dumping things again, it will need quite a bit of cleaning up.

Rental Property Committee

Tabled until next month.

Vendor Event

Currently we have almost 19 vendors. They are working on the food plan. Port a potties have been reserved. Proceeds of the softball tournament go to the Little League; Lenjos items go to Joe; Vendor profits will go to the Village; bake sale will go to the school; nachos and popcorn will go to the K9 account. The fire department will be letting us use their picnic tables and trash barrels. Need to work on lighting but might get a light tower from the MABAS group.

Adam made a motion to go into closed session at 8:03 PM for personnel issues. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:39 PM. Roll call taken with all present except Jeff Weiss.

Adam advised Loni to order another recorder so that we have one for closed session and one for open meeting.

Adam made motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Loni Hensler

Pocahontas Village Clerk