

**Village of Pocahontas
Board Meeting
Monday September 25, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Village Trustee, Sue Kovach. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with Jeff Weiss, Matt Hawley, David Crawford, and Tim Palen present. Board member Adam Evans was absent.

August Minutes:

Sue asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August minutes. Matt made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Tim 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Bills:

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

Public Comment:

John Forehand was present. He wanted to thank whoever mowed the grass at the residence next to his home. He was here to inquire about culverts. He said he understood there was a budget for culverts and wanted to see if the Village would consider putting in a replacement at his property or use the sewer jetter to clean his out. We will look into this and get back to him.

Jim Sheldon with Moonlight Computing was present. He was asked to attend the meeting to answer some questions pertaining to the website quote he submitted. The \$1080 quoted was for a one-time set up of up to 12 pages (or tabs), with it costing \$40 more per page. Image work will cost extra. There would be yearly domains that need to be paid for which is approximately \$12 per year per domain. The annual hosting would be \$600 per year that includes 3 hours of on-going maintenance. They would own the copywrite on the webpage but would transfer domains if, after created, it was decided to go with another web designer. It was asked if there could be key words used to search the site, especially when it comes to the ordinances. Jim suggests making them chapters or in PDF documents.

Amanda Bodi & Dianna Griffith wanted to present their idea to the board for their approval. They are looking to create a fun committee. They would like to partner with the Board but be a separate entity. At their events, they would donate a portion right back to the Village. They would have their own board and by-laws and are currently working on their own tax ID. The board members thought this was a great idea and had no issue with this group forming.

Tina Aper was also present and wanted to commend all the people that put together the Fall Festival. She wanted to see if she were to find a grant writer or get donations, could the tennis courts be changed to pickleball courts instead. She will check into pricing and cost for the project and get it back to us.

Dawn Weiss wanted to address a concern she had. She asked if the board could refrain from using negative words to describe a person (i.e., "druggie" and "homeless"). She said it does not sound very professional coming from a board of trustees. Dawn also advised that board members should be cautious of that they are putting on social media as well.

Donna Hill was present and asked about getting a refund or a portion of the building fees paid back. Sue advised that we would look into it and get back to her.

Don Hawley wanted to speak on behalf of the Fire Protection District. He advised that as of October 1st, A1 EMS will be taking over as the ambulance service for Pocahontas. They will be a 24/7 service.

Attorney: Mike Eberle

Mike advised that there were questions about annexing property into the Village. He said that would be up to the owner but if the Village wants to force annexing, this could cost as much as \$20,000 to do so.

As for adding the \$1 to the water bill in place of the village stickers, this would need to be on the ballot to impose the fee.

There is a new guy working with the state about getting the back sales tax. They are working on getting back at least the past 6 months.

Mike advised that they are trying to get grant apps pushed to get this project underway.

Mike advised that Ryan would look into the occupancy permits, rental inspection guidelines, and building inspector job responsibilities. He would like to wait until the codification is complete so that they can be added then. Tim advised that, as for the job responsibilities, they could just be added to the job description and an ordinance is not needed for that.

An Ordinance Repealing and Replacing the Village Code of Ordinances, Chapter II – Article V-Section 1. Penalties was presented to the board. Matt made motion to approve this and create ordinances number 2023-925, after updating the typo. Tim 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Water/Sewer

Ady provided a list of 4 items that are not in use that could be sold. Jeff made a motion to accept sealed bids for these items and declare them as surplus equipment. Dave 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved. These will be accepted until the next meeting.

Andy advised that he, Randi, and Loni will be attending a MFT training at the courthouse on October 16th.

Andy advised that it is difficult to get in and out of the dump truck safely and would like to see about getting steps installed on it. Also, to create more space, he believes a bed cargo/bed slide would be beneficial. The backhoe needs the tires replaced. He received a quote on all of the above items, and they are under the \$7,500 allotment that he gets monthly. Andy realized that but he did not want to make any modifications to the vehicles without permission.

Building/Zoning

Don presented a list of properties that need repairs: #3 National, 303 Academy, 301 Academy, 506 Stallard, and 909 Cullom. He asked how the board wanted to move forward with these properties. It was decided to send ordinance letters to these properties. They also added 210 W National needs taken care of as well.

Police:

Angie advised that Frank's surgery was rescheduled for this coming Wednesday. She will be off for 7 days to care for him as he will need 24-hour care during that time. Rob and other officers will be covering the shifts she is not here. Frank should be able to return to work on October 12th.

The Murder Mystery fundraiser will be on October 7th. Tickets are still available.

Matt advised that he would like to see a list of tickets that have been written a month. Angie advised him to talk with Rob about that one.

Website:

This issue is tabled until the next meeting.

Parking Police Vehicles on Streets

Matt said he would like to see them parked on different streets to try to slow traffic down. Rob had indicated he didn't want to do this in case they were to get damaged, we wouldn't know who did it. Matt commented that Rob works for the Village and should do what the board requests.

Lighting in the Park:

We asked Ameren about installing 2 new lights in the park. They advised the first 50ft of wire would be covered but anything after would be charged. There was a pole in the park that was leaning that is the Village's. We would need to replace that one ourselves. The lights by the restrooms might work if the bulbs are changed out. We can replace the bulbs to see. Andy will get some quotes for this. Matt made a motion to have Andy remove the leaning pole and box the end of the wire, so no one tampers with it. Jeff 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Roof Repairs in the Park:

Jeff made a motion to move forward with Goestenkers quote for repairing all the roofs in the park. Dave 2nd motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Rental Property Committee:

This will be created once the ordinances are in place.

Vendor Event Update:

Susie thanked everyone that was involved in helping with the event. She thought it was a good crowd. They are planning another event, possibly in the spring or summer. We are working on the actual total as we still need to pay some bills. Currently, the gross is \$1887.81. The Fun Committee will be kept informed of when this will be happening.

Andy asked the board whose responsibility it is to take care of the annexed property and he asked for permission to mow grass by the 4-way towards the property.

Sunny had the ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday, and it was a great turnout.

Jeff made a motion to close the meeting at 8:11PM. Tim 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.