

**Village of Pocahontas
Board Meeting
Monday February 26, 2024, 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting called to order by Village President, Karen Heilig. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with trustees Matt Hawley, David Crawford, Sue Kovach, Tim Palen, and Danny Beard Jr present. Trustee Adam Evans was absent.

February 12th Minutes:

Loni read the minutes from the previous month's meeting. Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 12, 2024, minutes. Matt made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Danny 2nd, roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Bills:

Bills for February 13th, 2024, through February 26th, were presented to the Board for their approval. Matt made a motion to accept bills as written with a 2nd by Danny. Roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Public Comment:

Joe Rakers – he advised that he is going to go with Rudders Asphalt out of Beckemeyer to complete the pickleball court project. This will cost approximately \$7,000 to complete the project. They will be hosting a Golf Scramble to try to raise some funds for this project. Joe advised that donations are welcome.

Chris Timmermann – he was here to discuss the Side-by-Side inspection process through the County. Chris stated that they are anticipating this process to be in place as of May 1st. He advised that the municipalities would receive \$10 for every Side-by-Side sticker sold. If an individual only wants to purchase a Pocahontas sticker, then they would have it inspected by Angie at the Village Hall. Golf cart inspections will remain the Village's responsibility.

Michael Romshek – was here to present a drawing of the plans for the Tahoe project. He advised that everything being done to the existing rooms will be cosmetic except for adding kitchenettes in them.

Sunny Tut and Pat Netemeyer – were here giving an update on the truck stop. They advised that there have been some delays in receiving paperwork from the State. Their idea is to investigate jurisdictional transfers and see if the Village can sign the paperwork in hopes of getting the process donated. It was asked of them to see about making a pathway for emergency vehicles to get through as well as the residents that live on that road.

ZBA:

***Consideration/Action** – *Creation of a zoning class for 7 or more units.* The Board will put together information and send it to the attorney information on the creation of an R3 ordinances. It was advised to review Marine's codes as they would be pretty similar.

***Consideration/Action** – *Approval of Shek Group to turn the Tahoe Motel into 13 studio apartments.* Based on the information provided to the ZBA, they have denied this request. Their concern is there is no zoning class for this currently. Also, they had not received any information about the plans for the rooms, so they wanted to make sure this was safe.

***Consideration//Action** – Approval to change 213 W State St from R1 to an R2. Hal Wittman read a letter from the ZBA advising that they recommend the board considers approving this request. Matt made a motion to change 213 W State Street from R1 to R2 zoning. Danny 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Attorney – Ryan Connor:

No update currently.

Water/Sewer:

The report provided some highlights of what the Public Works was working on from 2/12//24 through 2/26/24, which include: plow and salt roads, clean ditches of leaves and sticks, read/scan water meters, burn dump, replace some broken water meter probes, put rock in roads and alleys, change hydraulic fluid in backhoe, signs in alley on E National and E State St, paint valves and water meter lids, and work on meter pit on Stallard Street.

Randi advised that they are planning on opening the bathrooms on March 1st.

Dog waste signs for the parks have been ordered.

Randi advised that the fire department offered to install new breakers at the park. The board discussed and thought it should be done by the village workers instead.

Danny advised that he would like to suggest we sell the big generator and install stationery generators at each of the lift stations. It would be approximately \$2,000 for each generator.

Randi asked about using the sewer jetter for lines. She was advised that this could only be used on main service lines.

Building/Zoning:

Don advised that he has gone to each of the businesses in town and let them know we are getting a village website. He is looking to showcase all the businesses in town. And he will take it as permission from them for him to do so from that business if they submit a 500 word, or less, blurb about their business. He has already received some.

Don advised that the Visitors Guide of Southern Illinois mentions Pocahontas 3 times. He thought that maybe we can submit an ad in there once we start getting the 1% sales tax.

The truck stop has been working on getting the gas tanks put in, the electric, and plumbing.

Don wanted to check with the board about adding information about the taverns as he had not contacted them yet. He also had not reached out to the 2 tree trimmers and 3 contractors that run their businesses out of their home.

Don advised that he was told he will not be inspecting the hotel on State St as they are having someone else inspect it. The board advised that he is the Building Inspector and should be the one to do the inspections. He asked that due to the animosity, someone go with him when he is to inspect this property. Matt advised he believes the Building Inspector should wear a body cam anytime he enters a place he is to inspect.

Police:

Angie advised that K9 Frank's fundraiser at Mod Pizza made \$360. She needed \$330 for him to get certified.

Angie also advised that she had a DUI arrest over the weekend.

Old Business:

Supervisor of Parks position – it was decided not to create this position at this time. We will continue to seek out grants to fund these projects.

New Business:

***Consideration/Action** – *Hire a grant writer.* Angie advised that she is still looking to host a Grant Writer class. She would need to get enough people that will take the class. The minimum amount to hold the class is 15. She will look at dates and see about getting some people registered.

Matt made motion to adjourn and Danny 2nd the motion – meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm