

**Village of Pocahontas
Regular Board Meeting
Monday May 20, 2024, 7:00 P.M.**

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

Approval of Minutes

Karen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 6th meeting minutes. Susie made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Matt 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Approval of Bills

Karen asked if there were any additions or questions regarding the bills. Susie made a motion to accept the bills as presented. Danny 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Guests:

Rick Holmes & Roger Morthland with LOCiS were present. The Village has been using LOCiS for years but on the older version. They were here to show the benefits of upgrading to the new version.

Attorney – Michael Geaschel

Robinson Cemetery Road Project/Truck Stop: Michael advised that Ryan is working with the landowner's attorney on negotiations for the easements so there is not an update for that right now.

Sunny needs to get a bond lined up for IDOT to approve the temporary connection. Discussion was held about what to do to get this resolved quickly.

Consideration/Action: Matt made a motion to adopt Ordinance# 5-20-24 for AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #6-272022 REGARDING INCREASING RATES & CHARGES FOR WATER AND TRASH SERVICES. Susie 2nd the motion – with all yes, motion approved.

Consideration/Action: Problematic Property – A resident keeps burning items that are not allowed. The EPA and Health Department have been called several times. They have been issued citations and sent certified letters but does not accept the letters. The Board advised sending everything to the attorney.

Karen advised that those that received letters about needing to fix issues (i.e. tall grass, derelict vehicles, trash/debris) have not had any action taken. Moving forward, Karen and Rob will be taking care of enforcement of the violations.

Discussion: McGuire Lane

This land needs to be surveyed to know for sure who owns what so that we have legal documents.

Matt advised that he sent a request to Ryan to update the rental inspection occupancy ordinance stating that current renters have a certain number of days to get their inspection done and that the building inspector cannot inspect any property that they may own.

Committee Reports:

The Park committee had an informative meeting, and some great ideas were brought up for future projects.

Another suggestion was to have separate accounts for separate projects (i.e. playground, general maintenance).

Water/Sewer:

A paper report was given to the trustees.

Briar advised that he ordered chemicals for the algae.

Dawn Weiss wanted to compliment Briar and Randi on the work they had done.

Building/Zoning:

Don advised that he is currently waiting on some quotes to re-do the pavilions.

There are trees on Gerald St that need to come out. He checked with the homeowners to see if they would be ok with the Village removing the trees and the sidewalk as well. One owner has said yes but he is waiting to hear back from the other homeowner.

There are some trees on Simpson and South Division that Ameren will be cutting down within the next few weeks.

Police:

Angie has let the Pocahontas Police Department and has gone to work at Aviston.

We will be on the lookout for additional police.

ZBA:

Hal Wittman read the letter to the Board that the ZBA would like to make the recommendation to accept adding a text amendment regarding fences in the Zoning Ordinances. Matt made a motion to accept this request. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Hal also had a recommendation that the Board approves the addition of R3 and R4 zoning classes. Matt made a motion to accept this request. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

The Zoning Board also recommended the approval of turning the Tahoe motel into studio apartments but would need to have a fire wall at every 6 units as well as the separation of the laundromat. Matt made a motion to accept this recommendation. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Old Business

Lift Station - No update on the lift station.

LPR Camera - The LPR camera will be discussed at the next meeting.

Employee Handbook - There is an employee handbook in the new ordinance book. Susie advised that she made a few updates but other than that, she thinks it looks good

Comprehensive Plan - We will be tabling the Comprehensive Plan until we figure out the water loan and lift station loan payments.

Body Cam/Storage purchase - Susie made a motion to purchase a body cam and 5TB storage for the Building Inspector to use. Matt 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

New Business

Part-time employee – The person must be a Pocahontas resident. A different description of the job will be needed.

Turf tires on golf carts – This will need to be discussed further before making any decisions.

Name Change of the Park – Matt made a motion to put the renaming of the Gretchen Wilson Park back to the American Legion Park on the ballot for the next election. Susie 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Appropriations – Loni will be sending the numbers out to the Board to review.

Public Comment – none

Susie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.