

Village of Pocahontas
Regular Board Meeting
Monday August 26, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Village Trustee, Sue Kovach. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following trustees present: Matt Hawley, Dave Crawford, Adam Evans, Danny Beard Jr, and Pat Forhan. Mayor Karen Heilig was absent.

Consideration/Action: Adam spoke about the Ordinances that were mentioned in the agenda: Ordinance No. 2024-826: An Ordinance Adding Article IV “Gas Tax” to Chapter 36 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the Village of Pocahontas, IL; Ordinance No. 2024-827: An Ordinance Adding Article V “Electric Utility Tax” to Chapter 36 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the Village of Pocahontas, IL; and Ordinance No. 2024-828: An Ordinance Adding Article III “Simplified Telecommunications Tax” To Chapter 36 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the Village of Pocahontas, IL. He advised those attending the meeting that we were not going to be acting upon the items. They were presented to us for what we could potentially be receiving.

Consideration/Action: *Approval of July 22, 2024 Minutes*

Sue asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes, if not, a motion would need to be made to accept them. Matt made a motion to approve the July 22, 2024 minutes as written. Danny 2nd the motion – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Consideration/Action: *Acceptance of August Bills*

Adam made a motion to accept the August bills as presented. Matt 2nd – roll call on motion, with all yes, motion approved.

Attorney – *Michael Geaschel*

Problematic Property Update: Papers have been filed at the courthouse and have a court date of September 9th. They have been attempting to serve the resident their papers but appear to be evading from the process servers. Next step is that the Bond County Sheriff will be serving the papers. If he is not able to get served by the court date, then it will be a default of judgement. They will let the judge know that he was not able to be served. Then, there would be a notification put in the local paper. We must follow the proper process. There was also talk about him selling the property.

Easement Update: This is still in the negotiation process. They are currently looking into the change of the way of the flow.

Robinson Cemetery Road Update: Sunny's attorney would like the Village to acquire the road from the State, in which he would pay for it. The Trustees all agree that it is not in their best interest for the Village to take over the road.

USDA Grant: Ryan is currently working on that for the ROW.

Water/Sewer

Installed 3 setters and 3 meters.

Briar asked about getting a different meter reading system as there are issues with the current one. Loni will talk to Steve with Boson to see about getting it recalibrated.

The board wants both Briar and Randi to take the water and sewer classes but does not want them going at the same time.

Old Business

Consideration/Action: *Hiring of a part-time treasurer*

We should be fully in the LOCiS system by September 9th so they will wait to offer the job until that night.

Consideration/Action: *Moving forward with creating a new Comprehensive Plan*

The board would like to have an updated quote since it has been a few months since it was first presented. Loni will reach out to Moran to get an updated quote.

Consideration/Action: *Actions moving forward with the property of Dawson Chestnut tapping onto the Village water system.*

Dawson and Mr. Markey made an agreement and have received all permissions to move forward. The tap on fee has been paid.

New Business

Consideration/Action: *Authorize pay raises for elected officials (Mayor, Trustees, Clerk)*

Discussion was held and this will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Matt said he would like the clerk to be able to get a raise yearly. He would also like to see about changing the position to a non-elected position.

Public Comment

Tracy with Allpoint Network wanted to ask what the status was on the sewer line on the annexed property north of town. He cannot install the fiber lines until the sewer line has been installed, as they are laying it on top of it.

Chris Timmermann asked about getting his water meter changed because the readings are off. He also let us know that the County has access to a group that would help with grants and possibly do the comprehensive plan. He will bring more information about this program to the next meeting.

David Goodall wanted to discuss the tax ordinances that were on the agenda. He thinks that before any changes are made that the Village holds a public hearing regarding this.

Brenda Kleinik asked if we collect MFT.

Scott Kuhn asked how to get the homeless people away from the Lighthouse Lodge.

Rich Accornero wanted to inform the board that IAW has asked to raise the water rates up to 47%. A letter has been written to the consumer commission to explain the hardship this would cause.

Robert Ferris advised he was in the process of purchasing 911 Simpson St. He asked what needs to be done since he knows there are some legal issues going on with that. Michael did not want to comment in a public forum about that. He will give Mr. Ferris his contact information to discuss further.

Adam made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a 2nd by Matt, meeting adjourned at 7:44pm