

VILLAGE OF WOODHULL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
December 11, 2023

Committees

President – D. Holmes

Building – M. Bethell, J. Bell, & D Holmes

Finance/Insur. /Audit – H. Garrett, D. Holmes, & C. Anderson

Personnel – D. Holmes, C. Anderson, & D. VerHeecke

Public Works – J. Bell & S. Francis

Pro-Tem Pres – C. Anderson

Economic Development – S. Francis & D. Holmes

Parks & Recreation – C. Anderson & H. Garrett

Police/Civ. Def./Zon. – D. VerHeecke & M. Bethell

Mayor Dave Holmes called the meeting to order on December 11, 2023 @ 7:00 pm.

Followed by roll call: Christena Anderson, Jeff Bell, Mark Bethell, Scott Francis, Hannah Garrett, and Derek VerHeecke.

Also present at the meeting: Dave Holmes – Mayor, Kelli Hand –Village Clerk, Garrett Adamson – Village Treasurer, Dusty McKeag - Public Works Director, Michael Keener – Public Works Assistant, Deb Krueger – Village Water Clerk, Alex Wagner – Police Sargent, and Cindy Wermuth- IMEG Senior Construction Administrator.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Holmes reminded the Board Members and Village Employees that after each meeting there are items that need to be followed up on and finished. It is important that everyone does their part in making sure items get completed and finished.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Jeff Bell made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to approve the November 13, 2023 Closed Minutes as presented. Trustee Jeff Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

General Fund	\$ 571,767.46
General Fund Payroll	\$ 22,474.59
Video Gaming FSB Savings	\$ 149,537.68
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$ 1,416.71
Drug Enforcement Fund	\$ 3,435.32
Playground Fund	\$ 1,004.39
WINN Checking FSB	\$ 3,555.54
Water Fund/FSB	\$ 152,424.87
Operation & Maintenance	\$ 1,928.83
Deprec Checking	\$ 6,432.17
Debt Service #2033	\$ 43,882.87
Debt Service Savings	\$ 8,864.72
<u>MFT Fund</u>	<u>\$ 122,942.75</u>

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund November accounts payable were presented as follows:

Bethell's Wildlife Control	\$	105.00
Electrical Engineering & Equipment Co.	\$	280.00
Essence Chemical Company	\$	501.06
Lucky Monuments	\$	36.00
McClintock Trucking & Excavating	\$	6,875.69
McConnell Heating and Cooling	\$	174.00
MidAmerican Energy	\$	195.75
Motorola Solutions, Inc	\$	160.00
Office Machine Consultants, Inc	\$	435.79
Spencer Brothers Disposal	\$	34.00
Superior Asphalt	\$	7,000.00
V & V Storage, LLC	\$	125.00
Verizon	\$	76.02
Visa #90 Chad Hillier	\$	479.88
Visa #73 Dusty McKeag	\$	638.91
Visa #99 Leigh Brinson	\$	768.44
Woodhull Telephone Co	\$	277.26
WRMJ	\$	60.00
Total November General Fund A/P	\$	18,222.80

Water Fund November accounts payable were presented as follows:

Electric Pump	\$	690.00
Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois	\$	3,175.00
MidAmerican Energy .	\$	1,021.81
Pace Analytical	\$	639.70
US Cellular	\$	207.07
V & V Storage, LLC	\$	125.00
Visa #0173 McKeag	\$	360.56
Woodhull Telephone Co	\$	137.94
Total November Water Fund A/P	\$	6,357.08

Mayor Holmes welcomed Cindy Wermuth from IMEG to our meeting to review the bills from the Pine Street and Clover Drive projects. Mrs. Wermuth stated that the Pine Street bills would all be covered with funds from the TIF fund and the bills for Clover Drive would be paid out of the MFT Funds.

After a discussion Trustee Mark Bethell made a motion to pay the Henry County bill for \$19,934.47 for the Pine Street project with TIF funds. Trustee Derek VerHeecke seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Scott Francis made a motion to pay the McClintock's Trucking and Excavating bill of \$44,743.98 for Pine Street out of TIF Funds. Trustee Jeff Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to approve the payment of \$7,114.63 to IMEG for the engineering work for Pine Street out of TIF Funds. Trustee Jeff Bell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Mark Bethell made a motion to pay the \$39,700.14 Henry County bill for the work done on Clover Drive with \$28,448.12 coming out of the Rebuild Funds and \$11,252.02 coming out of the \$11,252.02 Local MFT Funds. Trustee Derek VerHeecke seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Jeff Bell made a motion to approve paying the Valley Construction Bill for \$31,179.58 for Clover Drive with \$25,000 out of the Rebuild Funds and \$6,179.58 out of Local MFT Funds. Scott Francis seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Derek VerHeecke made a motion to pay the IMEG engineering bill for Clover Drive for \$4,517.20 out of Local MFT Funds. Trustee Christena Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Treasurer Garrett Adamson gave the Village's November Treasurer's report. It was noted that all Ameren's bills that came in this month had a statement that read do not pay. Mayor Holmes will investigate this issue and report back to the Board. Trustee Christena Anderson noted our account is likely placed on an account freeze due to the unsettled billing issue involving the WWTP. Mayor Holmes replied that he had received a letter from Ameren but not a phone call like he requested. He will be in contact with the ICC again about the lack of response from Ameren on this topic. Trustee Derek VerHeecke pointed out that it will be important to read the kilowatts per hour and not compare the charges that were originally billed to the Co-Op because our rate could be different. Mayor Holmes thanked Derek for explaining that.

Treasurer Garrett Adamson also asked the Board to add a bill from McClintock's Trucking and Excavating that came in December 11, 2023 and was not placed on the report as a bill to pay. The bill will be paid out of the General Fund and is for \$6,875.69 covering the work that was done in front of Genisio's due to the water main break.

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to approve November's Treasurer's Report as amended. Trustee Jeff Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Dave Holmes gave an update on the gaming income for the Village. The Village received \$4,896.96 from the October gaming profits. That makes the Village's total gaming income for the last almost 10 years \$469,715.12. Trustees were reminded to give the Village Clerk any suggestions for future uses for the gaming funds.

Trustee Derek VerHeecke reported he has the quote for US Cellular for cell phone plans and had spoken with T-Mobile. There is not a big price difference so Trustee VerHeecke believes it might be best to stay with US Cellular. He is going to investigate a few other items and report back in January.

Water Clerk Deb Krueger has been working with Amber at Farmers State Bank to arrange the online bill pay for Village Water bills. Deb asked for a motion to add Garrett Adamson and herself to a cash management account that will share files and allow payments to be made to the Village. Hannah Garrett made a motion to approve and give access to Deb Krueger, Garrett Adamson, and Hannah Garrett to the ACH account/ Cash Management Account at Farmers State Bank. Christena Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Hannah Garrett will work with Deb Krueger and Garrett Adamson to complete the paperwork for the bank.

Mayor Holmes gave an update on the annual audit. The audit is being completed by accountant Dant Odoni. Treasurers Leigh Brinson and Garrett Adamson are working with Mr. Odoni to gather the information needed. Mayor Holmes will continue to keep the Board updated on the audit.

Mayor Holmes updated the Board on the changes made to the health insurance policies for the Village's employees. Amy Ruhl with Porter Hay in Galva, Illinois said the changes would be increased 8.4% per month for the two full-time employees that are on the Village's health insurance. The new premium will be \$1,512.93 a month. Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to continue providing Blue Cross/ Blue Shield health and dental insurance through Porter Hay with a December 15, 2023 start date at a cost of \$1,512.93 a month for both full-time Village employees. Trustee Hannah Garrett seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Village Clerk asked for approval for Maulden's Sports Bar and Genisio's Bar and Grill to stay open until 2:00AM on January 1, 2024. New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday this year and both businesses have the proper liquor license to be open on Sundays. They are just asking for the closing time to be extended for the holiday. Both businesses would also like to stay open until midnight on Superbowl Sunday. The Board had no issues with granting these requests.

Trustee Derek VerHeecke made a motion to allow the businesses to remain open until 2:00AM on January 1st, 2024 and 12:00AM on Superbowl Sunday. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Trustee Derek VerHeecke made a motion to add an amendment to the liquor license ordinance that would allow businesses to stay open until 2:00AM on the morning of New Year's Day. Scott Francis seconded the motion. The motion was passed 6-0 after a roll call vote of Bethell -Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, VerHeecke -Y, Anderson- Y, and Bell -Y.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

POLICE/CIVIL DEFENSE/PERMITS:

Police Sargent Alex Wagner presented the November Police report.

In November the Woodhull Police Department responded to 22 calls for service, 1 assist to motorists, conducted 18 traffic stops, issued 5 citations, 13 warnings, 3 misdemeanor arrests, and assisted with 2 traffic accidents.

Sargent Wagner reported he is working with Getz Fire Equipment to order a fire extinguisher for the patrol vehicles. He is doing walk throughs with the AlWood Superintendent and assisted with the quarterly lockdown drill at both schools and drafted an asset list for the police department. The Motorola V300 Body camera was ordered and should be here in 4-6 weeks. A Big Easy Lockout Kit was ordered from Galls. Surveillance cameras were installed at the police station. There have been a few complaints about lose dogs and Sargent Wagner is reminding residents that they must have their dogs on leashes.

Trustee Jeff Bell made a motion to accept the November Police Report as presented. Trustee Derek VerHeecke seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag gave the November Public Works Report as follows: The Public Works Department spray coated the trucks, mowers, and snowplows. The AlWood State Scholar Signs were put up. They fixed a few driveways around the town. Electric Pump came out and fixed the west lift station, which had a faulty float switch. They also prepared equipment for winter.

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag thanked the Woodhull Telephone Company for assisting with hanging the Village's Christmas decorations.

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag requested the Village purchase a skid steer snow pusher attachment from RTR in Orion. Trustee Jeff Bell made a motion to purchase the 8foot snow pusher attachment for the skid steer from RTR in Orion for a price not to exceed \$4,000. Trustee Derek VerHeecke seconded the motion. The motion was passed 6-0 after a roll call vote of VerHeecke -Y, Anderson- Y, Bell -Y, Bethell-Y, Francis- Y, and Garrett-Y.

Mayor Holmes and the Board discussed raising the deposit for new water service. The Board agreed the deposit needed to be raised since the minimal monthly charge is \$71.50 for a water bill. Trustee Derek VerHeecke made a motion to raise the water deposit from \$50 to \$100 as of January 1, 2024. Scott Francis seconded the motion. The motion was passed 6-0 after a roll call vote of Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, VerHeecke -Y, Anderson- Y, Bell -Y, and Bethell-Y.

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to accept the November Public Works report as presented. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

DANGEROUS BUILDING UPDATE:

None at this time.

ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nothing at this time

PARKS/RECREATION/TOURISM:

Trustee Christena Anderson gave an update that Henry Co. Tourism meeting will be held December 13, 2023 in Orion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

The Economic Development Committee will meet Tuesday December 19, 2023 at 6:30pm and an update will be provided at the January Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Christena Anderson said she was going to reach out to another business about the Village Welcome sign. Mayor Holmes added he had spoken with landowners along the highway, and all were favorable to having the sign on their property. Trustee Christena Anderson will keep the Board updated on the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Holmes shared a letter of resignation from Jacki Beck who currently cleans the Village Hall. The position opening will be posted to Facebook and applications will be due Friday December 22nd. Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to respectfully but regrettably accept the resignation of

Jacki Beck and thanked Jacki for her service. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

CLOSED BUSINESS:

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to go into Closed Session for a litigation update, two personnel items, and salary projections at 8:59pm. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Hand, Village Clerk

Trustee Derek VerHeecke made a motion to return to Open Session at 10:35P.M. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0

Respectfully submitted by Dave Holmes, Village Mayor

VOTES AFTER CLOSED:

Trustee Derek VerHeecke made a motion to increase the following Village of Woodhull employee salaries starting January 1, 2024 to the following: Public Works Director Dusty McKeag at \$54,075 annual, Public Works Assistant Michael Keener at \$42,000 annual, Water Clerk Deb Krueger at \$790 per month, Village Clerk Kelli Hand at \$920 per month, Treasurer Garrett Adamson at \$700 per month, Sargent Alex Wagner at \$29 per hour, and Seasonal Help at \$14 per hour. Including giving full-time employees a Christmas bonus of \$400 each and part-time employees a Christmas bonus of \$250 each. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. The motion was passed 6-0 after a roll call vote of Bethell-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, VerHeecke -Y, Anderson- Y, and Bell -Y.

The Board discussed the future of the Village Police and decided to enter into a temporary agreement with the Henry County Police. The agreement would allow 80 hours a month of police protection at a cost of \$42.15 an hour. Trustee Mark Bethell made a motion to have Attorney Mike Massie draw up the agreement to be brought to the Board at the January meeting. Trustee Christena Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was passed 6-0 after a roll call vote of Anderson- Y, Bell -Y, Bethell-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, and VerHeecke -Y.

Trustee Mark Bethell made a motion to adjourn the December meeting at 11:12pm. Trustee Christena Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Holmes, Village Mayor