

VILLAGE OF WOODHULL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

August 14, 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 & M. Bethell

Pro-Tem Pres – C. Anderson

Economic Development – S. Francis & D. Holmes

Parks & Recreation – C. Anderson & S. Francis

Police/Civ. Def./Zon. – D. VerHeecke & H. Garrett

Mayor Dave Holmes called the meeting to order on August 14, 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, Leigh Brinson – Village Treasurer, Dusty McKeag - Public Works Director, Jaeleen Peck- Visitor and Kay Boland – Woodhull Resident. Police Chief Chad Hillier was absent due to a family medical emergency.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Kay Boland addressed the Board about her concerns with an incident that occurred in March of 2023. Ms. Boland shared her background, including her education and experiences with criminal justice work. She asked the Board to answer multiple questions about the incident. Mayor Holmes answered the question asking why someone from the Village had not followed up on the man who was injured, with the statement that there have been multiple follow ups with this resident since the incident. Mayor Holmes then informed Ms. Boland that he would get advice from the Board’s attorney on what he can legally answer. He also suggested that Ms. Boland submit a FOIA request to have information that can be provided about the incident. Ms. Boland thanked the Board for listening and the Board expressed their appreciation for her coming forward to ask the questions and show concern for the Village’s residents.

Mayor Holmes shared a thank you card from the Clover Fire District for the memorial made in Tom Sanders’ name.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mark Bethell made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Jeff Bell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Scott Francis made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 Closed Minutes as presented. Christena Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

General Fund	\$ 546,352.01
General Fund Payroll	\$ 21,613.86
Video Gaming FSB Savings	\$ 128,138.51
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$ 1,415.83
Drug Enforcement Fund	\$ 3,433.91
Playground Fund	\$ 1,003.55
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FSB Sesq.	\$ 5,249.11
FSB Vehicle Streets	\$ 8,421.15
FSB Mower	\$ 7,337.19
FSB Future Vehicle 32624	\$ 3,079.09
WINN Checking FSB	\$ 7,732.07
Water Fund/FSB	\$ 97,598.34
Operation & Maintenance	\$ 4,759.83
Deprec Checking	\$ 6,432.17
Debt Service #2033	\$ 36,746.83
Debt Service Savings	\$ 8,859.20
<u>MFT Fund</u>	<u>\$ 114,356.81</u>

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

General Fund July accounts payable were presented as follows:

Ameren	\$ 549.44
Anji Gas Inc.	\$ 914.54
Eagle Enterprises	\$ 1,312.20
Galesburg's Napa	\$ 404.79
Galesburg Termite & Pest Control	\$ 35.00
Henry County Collector	\$ 292.67
ILEAS	\$ 60.00
Johnson Excavating Inc.	\$ 6,820.00
Kathleen Field Orr & Associates	\$ 220.00
Kelli Hand	\$ 18.54
Lee's Tree Service	\$ 3,500.00
Martin	\$ 280.70
MidAmerican Energy	\$ 1,834.82
Miller Trucking & Excavating	\$ 34,882.00
Office Machine Consultants, Inc	\$ 427.70
Pat McCarthy Productions	\$ 450.00
River Stone Group, Inc.	\$ 4,405.59
Spencer Brothers Disposal	\$ 34.00
Tower Equipment Galesburg	\$ 2,104.01
Uline	\$ 384.77
US Cellular	\$ 147.31
V & V Storage, LLC	\$ 125.00
Verizon	\$ 76.02
Visa #90 Chad Hillier	\$ 466.92
Visa #73 Dusty McKeag	\$ 778.21
Visa #99 Leigh Brinson	\$ 161.54
Woodhull Oil	\$ 242.17
Woodhull Telephone Co	\$ 371.95
<b>Total July General Fund A/P</b>	<b>\$ 61,132.51</b>

Water Fund July accounts payable were presented as follows:

Ameren Illinois	\$ 152.19
Anji Gas	\$ 376.41
Essence Chemical Co.	\$ 516.41

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Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois	\$ 3,175.00
Ferguson Enterprises	\$ 3,927.40
Maguire	\$ 21,000.00
MidAmerican Energy .	\$ 2,280.03
Pace Analytical	\$ 368.30
US Cellular	\$ 207.07
V & V Storage, LLC	\$ 125.00
Water Solutions	\$ 535.00
Woodhull Telephone Co	\$ 137.72
<b>Total July Water Fund A/P</b>	<b>\$ 32,800.53</b>

Derek VerHeecke made a motion to approve the July Treasurer’s Report. Hannah Garrett seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Dave Holmes gave an update on the gaming income for the Village. The Village received \$5,793.46 from the June gaming profits. That makes the Village’s total gaming income for the last 9.5 years \$449,290.90. The Board was reminded by Mayor Holmes that half of the money will be used for the water tower maintenance and the other half will be used to cover the expenses of the updates being made at the park. The Board should also be thinking about what they want the next project to be done using the gaming profits.

Trustee Derek VerHeecke reported that he had spoken with a spokesperson from T-Mobile and thought the Village could benefit from their Connecting Heros phone plan. He also plans to reach out with our current provider, US Cellular, to see if they have similar plans. Derek will report back to the Board when he has collected more information.

There will be a meeting with Trustee Christena Anderson and Woodhull’s Water Clerk Deb Krueger to review the timeline for the Village and Farmers State Bank to start the online bill pay for the Woodhull water bills. The Board will get an update at the next monthly board meeting.

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag reported that it was recently discovered that the Ameren meter for the Wastewater Plant is being billed as the Woodhull Co-Op’s meter. Ameren, the Woodhull Co-Op, and Dusty have been working to fix this issue, however currently Ameren has not made the required investigation into this issue. The Co-Op has unknowingly been paying this Ameren bill for 3.5 years. Dusty will keep the Board notified of any progress with this situation.

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to make an addition to the agenda to revise Jeff Kessinger’s contract with the Village. Jeff Bell seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Public Works Director Dusty McKeag is now certified to do the wastewater portion of the contract, so the Village will enter a new contract with Jeff Kessinger. The changes to the contract will include as of September 1, 2023 Jeff Kessinger’s will be the Village’s Certified Water System Operator and will be paid \$375 a month with no more than 4 hours onsite. This contract will be valid until August 31, 2024 or until one of Woodhull’s Public Works employees becomes certified in Water. Jeff Bell made a motion to approve the changes to Jeff Kessinger’s contract with the Village of Woodhull as presented by Mayor Holmes. Derek VerHeecke seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote of Anderson-Y, Bell-Y, Bethell- Y, Francis – Y, Garrett- Y, VerHeecke- Y.

**POLICE/CIVIL DEFENSE/PERMITS:**

Police Chief Chad Hillier submitted his written report to the Board and was absent from the meeting due to a family emergency. The report included the following:

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In July the Woodhull Police Department responded to 47 calls for service, 3 assist to motorists, conducted 14 traffic stops, issued 2 citations, 12 warnings, and had 2 misdemeanor arrests.

Chief Hillier also reported that he met with the new AIWood Superintendent and discussed the relationship of the Village Police with the School. Mr. Nordstrom asked if there would be any interest in a resource officer for the school. Chief Hillier will be meeting with Mr. Nordstrom again in the future to discuss more details about the possibility of a resource officer for AIWood.

Trustee Derek VerHeecke also gave an update that the body cameras are still in the process of being fixed or replaced. At this time the Village has one body camera and the police officer on duty will be the one using it.

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

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag gave the June Public Works Report as follows: The Public Works Department has still been very busy with multiple projects being completed. July included a lot of preparation work for the Woodhull Fun Fest. Multiple Village roads were chipped. Village streets were swept with the street sweeper and skid steer broom. Storm drains that were clogged were cleaned out. The Village pumped 2,239,424 gallons in July.

Director McKeag, Christena Anderson, and Scott Francis will be meeting in early September for a meeting to discuss park updates. Dusty did note that the lights have a new timer and should be shutting off at the appropriate time now. Dusty also asked the Board to consider putting in a new fuse box at the park. The current one is outdated. The Board asked Dusty to get quotes for the work and supplies and report back to them.

Director Dusty McKeag updated the Board about the water main break that took place on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The water main break was the largest in the Village of Woodhull's known history. Dusty would like to thank each person who came to help the Village in our time of need. Dusty did ask the Board to start planning for replacement of the water main that runs down Division Street as it is older, and he would like to prevent any other breaks in the future. He suggested there may be grants available. Dusty also informed the Board that the damage done to the road would need to be fixed before winter. The damage will be investigated after the ground is allowed to settle and Dusty will then bring the Board quotes for the work that needs done. This water main break caused a Village wide boil order, burn ban, and a request to reserve water. This issue caused the Board and the employees to realize the Village should consider updating their current plan of action during such events. The Village's Board and employees will immediately begin discussing an updated plan that would include the best solutions for emergency situations like this. Currently boil orders are called into local tv stations, radio stations, and are posted on the Village's Facebook Page and in the Woodhull Post Office. Anyone who would like to be informed by email about water boils or other important Village news can register to be on an email list by emailing [Villageclerk@woodhullil.org](mailto:Villageclerk@woodhullil.org) and asking to be placed on the emergency email list.

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag asked the Board to approve the purchase of an upgraded pressure washer. Dusty will research options and report back to the Public Works Committee for approval.

The sealed bids for the Pine Street project came in between \$68,333 and \$136,801.51. Mayor Holmes announced Brandt Construction had the lowest bid. The Clover Drive sealed bids came in between \$43,545.29 and \$24,957.78. Mayor Holmes shared that Valley Construction's bid was the lowest bid. After a discussion the Board asked to vote on these two decisions after the Executive Session.

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag shared that the Village can't move forward with solar panels at the Wastewater Treatment Station until the Ameren and Co-Op situation is resolved and the Village can share the cost of their monthly power bill.

A community request was made for a "Snowbirds' Water Bill" during months where residents reside outside of the state but return to spend months in Woodhull as well. Trustee Jeff Bell and Mayor Holmes will investigate what other Villages do about this situation and bring their findings to the Board at the September Meeting.

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag asked the Board to make a policy that water bills for multifamily homes with only one water shut off go to the landlord or the landlord pays to have individual shut offs installed for each unit. There have been some issues with multifamily homes having renters who should be shut off for nonpayment but shutting off the water would result in the whole complex being shut off. The Board agreed to discuss this and investigate how other Villages handle this situation and have it on the September Meeting Agenda.

Christena Anderson made a motion to accept the July Public Works report as presented. Scott Franics seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. The Board also thanked retired Village Public Works Director and past Board Trustee Jeff McCready for his help with the water main break and for attending our August meeting in support of Dusty's management with the water main break.

#### **DANGEROUS BUILDING UPDATE:**

None at this time.

#### **ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Nothing at this time

#### **PARKS/RECREATION/TOURISM:**

Christena Anderson gave an update that the Woodhull Village cleanup day will be held September 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00AM to 12:00PM. Items accepted must be brought to the North parking lot of the Village Hall. Volunteers will help load the dumpsters.

Trustee Christena Anderson updated the Board that the Fun Fest Committee is thrilled with the 2023 Fun Fest Event that took place in July. Once again, the funds that came in from donations were enough to cover the costs of the event.

Christena Anderson thanked the Public Works Department for all the work being done at the park. More improvements have been completed and there are still a couple more items that will be finished soon.

Christena Anderson reported that the Henry Co. Tourism Committee met and had the pleasure of meeting the new Henry Co. Employee who will be handling the Henry Co. Tourism. She will be starting on a new webpage for Henry Co. Tourism. Christena said the new slogan will be Explore Henry County, Illinois. Christena will continue to keep the Board updated on these topics.

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mayor Holmes gave an update on information regarding the TIF discussion he had with the Village's TIF Attorney Kathi Orr. The Village has two different TIFs. The American Dream Subdivision TIF ends December 31, 2033 and the Travel Plaza TIF will end December 31, 2038. In October the Village will begin paying the reimbursements to the Travel Plaza which would be 90% of the EVA increase on their property taxes. Mayor Holmes suggested the Board start thinking about what they could do with the TIF money in the future, once the Plaza Road and Pine Street projects are completed.

Mayor Holmes reported the Travel Plaza has their pumps fixed and that the restaurant is doing great. The state is also closer to approving the gaming license for the Travel Plaza.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor Holmes reported the real estate matter for 240 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave is completed and the Krause Family now officially own the property.

Trustee Mark Bethell reported that the water fountain at the Town Hall is now fixed and ready to use. The door sweeps will be installed on exterior doors throughout the Village Hall soon. Mark also shared two quotes that the Village and Township received for building a fence around three sides of the recycling dumpster area located on the Northeast side of the Village Hall Parking Lot area. Lovewell's quote was \$4,750, and Heartland's quote was \$5,900. Both bids were for a black chain length fence that will be 6ft tall. Mark suggested taking the lower bid and noted that Lovewell can start the project in early October. Jeff Bell made a motion subject to Clover Township approval to accept the Lovewell bid for \$4,750 to do the 6ft tall black chain length fence around three sides of the recycling dumpster area. Mark Bethell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote of Anderson-Y, Bell-Y, Bethell- Y, Francis – Y, Garrett- Y, VerHeecke- Y.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time

## **CLOSED BUSINESS:**

Mark Bethell made a motion to go into Closed Session for a real estate update, a litigation item, and a personal item at 9:11 P.M.

Christena Anderson made a motion to return to Open Session at 10:12 P.M. Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

## **VOTES AFTER CLOSED:**

Derek VerHeecke made a motion to not vote on the Pine Street project bids until the Village's Attorney Mike Massie can respond to the issues surrounding the lowest bid and Cindy Wermuth from IMEG is informed about the situation as well. The Board will then meet to vote on the Pine Street project bid following the guidance from the Village's attorney. Scott Francis seconded the motion.

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Motion carried 6-0. The motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote of Anderson-Y, Bell-Y, Bethell- Y, Francis – Y, Garrett- Y, VerHeecke- Y.

Christena Anderson made a motion to accept the lowest bid of \$24,957.78 from Valley Construction to complete the work as presented for Clover Drive. Mark Bethell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with a roll call vote of Anderson-Y, Bell-Y, Bethell- Y, Francis – Y, Garrett- Y, VerHeecke- Y.

Mayor Holmes also updated the Board that he will be meeting with Water Clerk Deb Krueger Tuesday night to review an issue with a resident who has been paying sewer costs but is not on the Village's sewer service. Trustee Derek VerHeecke requested to ask if the resident would accept a credit to her water bill as the refund. Mayor Holmes will contact the resident and discuss possibilities once the amount is figured.

Christena Anderson made a motion to adjourn the August meeting at 10:22PM. Derek VerHeecke seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Hand, Village Clerk