

VILLAGE OF WOODHULL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

August 12, 2024

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 August 12, 2024 @ 7:00 pm.

Followed by roll call: Christena Anderson, Mark Bethell, Scott Francis, Hannah Garrett, and Jeff McCready were present. Trustee Derek VerHeecke was absent due to being out of town.

Also present at the meeting: Dave Holmes – Mayor, Kelli Hand –Village Clerk, Garrett Adamson – Village, Dusty McKeag – Public Works Director, and Deb Krueger - Village Water Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None at this time

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Trustee Jeff McCready made a motion to approve the July 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes with a correction of a dollar sign that needed to be added on page 3. Trustee Christena Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. Trustee Jeff McCready made a motion to approve the July8, 2024, Closed Minutes as presented, and Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

TREASURER’S REPORT JULY 2024:

General Fund	\$ 608,746.31
General Fund Payroll	\$ 32,947.34
Video Gaming FSB Savings	\$ 199,912.51
Veterans Memorial Fund	\$ 1,419.35
Drug Enforcement Fund	\$ 3,447.56
Playground Fund	\$ 1,007.54
WINN Checking FSB	\$ 4,248.46
Operation & Maintenance	\$ (498.06)
Deprec Checking	\$ 6,432.17
Debt Service #2033	\$ 55,416.50
Debt Service Savings	\$ 8,881.30
MFT Fund	\$ 91,801.55

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

General Fund July accounts payable were presented as follows:

Ameren	\$ 1,150.16
Bethell’s Wildlife Control	\$ 70.00
Bi-State Regional Commission	\$ 283.75
Bolduc & Sons INC.	\$ 1,169.63

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Eagle Enterprises	\$	1,312.20
Henry County	\$	377.00
Henry County HWY. Dept.	\$	273.78
Henry County Sheriff's Dept.	\$	3,135.87
IFMK Law, Ltd.	\$	188.50
Martin	\$	39.72
MTC Communications	\$	45.00
Office Machine Consultants, Inc.	\$	2,518.49
Painter Farm Equipment, Inc.	\$	369.74
Pomp's Tire Service	\$	368.49
River Stone Group, Inc.	\$	2,457.94
Spencer Brothers Disposal	\$	34.00
V & V Storage, LLC.	\$	125.00
Verizon	\$	66.22
Visa #0173	\$	286.50
Visa #0447	\$	58.19
Visa #0454	\$	113.49
Visa #0462	\$	142.77
Visa #070	\$	31.57
Woodhull Telephone Co.	\$	263.91

Total July General Fund A/P \$ **14,815.70**

Water Fund July accounts payable were presented as follows:

Ameren Illinois	\$	9,379.36
Farmers State Bank of Western Illinois	\$	3,175.00
Ferguson Waterworks #2516	\$	3,510.00
O&I Septic and Drain, LLC.	\$	280.00
Pace Analytical Services, LLC.	\$	335.10
US Cellular	\$	207.07
V&V Storage LLC	\$	125.00
Water Solutions Unlimited, Inc.	\$	867.50
Woodhull Telephone Co	\$	138.32
Zimmer & Francescon	\$	19,200.00

Total July Water Fund A/P \$ **37,217.35**

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to accept the July Treasurer's Report as presented. Trustee Hannah Garrett seconded the motion, motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Holmes reported that Governor Pritzker signed legislation regarding the state grocery tax on August 5th. Mayor Holmes asked the Board to start thinking about if the Board wants to make an ordinance or resolution on January 1, 2026, or after to impose a tax on anyone in the business of selling grocery items at retail in the Village.

Mayor Holmes reported that the June video gaming income for the Village was \$5,278.50. That makes the over ten-year income \$509,495.69. The Village has \$36,248.77 in the Video Gaming Account. Maguire Iron will be paid \$22,050 for water tower maintenance with that Video Gaming money. That will leave \$14,198.77 left in the account. The Board agreed to let that amount grow and revisit the topic of what to spend it on at another time.

Mayor Holmes reported he has once again checked in with the accounting firm that is doing the Village's audit. There are still no updates. He is unable to reach Mr. Odoni by telephone but has left many messages for him. Mayor Holmes said he would continue to reach out to Odoni and report back to the Board.

Trustee Mark Bethell brought a quote for new keys and locks for the 3 exterior doors and the Village Clerk's Office door. After some research Trustee Bethell believes getting new locks and keys is the best solution to the current situation of some keys no longer working. This approach would also allow the exterior doors to have turn style deadbolt locks on the inside. After a discussion Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion pending township approval to purchase 3 deadbolt locks, 4 new doorknobs with locks, 30 new exterior keys, 12 new office keys, and key engraving, for no more than \$1,725.00. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the vote. Motion passed 5-0 after a roll call vote of Anderson-Y, Bethell-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, and McCready-Y. It was noted that Trustee VerHeecke was absent.

Trustee Christena Anderson said there have been some recent complaints about the Village Hall not being cleaned after rentals. After a brief discussion it was decided that Trustee Anderson and Trustee Bethell would meet with Amanda Beck, who does the Village Hall cleaning and get her thoughts and concerns on the matter and proceed from there. It was noted that Water Clerk Deb Krueger said she would be willing to come up after each rental to check the building if needed. Trustee Anderson will update the Board next month.

Mayor Holmes gave a brief update on the Henry County Economic Development Partnership meeting. He reported there are currently 47 active loans with the Henry County Economic Development Partnership. The partnership still has \$349,442.00 in COVID funds that can still be used for appropriate loans associated with the coverage of those COVID funds.

POLICE/CIVIL DEFENSE/PERMITS:

Police Sergeant Alex Wagner was absent due to illness, so Trustee Bethell presented Sergeant Wagner's written July Police Report.

In July the Woodhull Police Department responded to 24 calls for service, conducted 19 traffic stops, issued 10 citations, 16 warnings, 1 arrest, and 2 citations.

Trustee Mark Bethell reported he is still trying to reach the correct person in Springfield to get help with returning the Village's Humvee. Since no other local police want the Humvee, the Village will be faced with shipping the Humvee to a designated state with the cost of shipping falling on the Village. Trustee Bethell will continue to try to resolve the issue and will keep the Board posted on any updates.

Trustee Mark Bethell said Sergeant Wagner is still working with Knox County to see if they would like the K9 car that the Village no longer needs.

Village Clerk Kelli Hand asked if the Board was aware that Henry County Police are behind on responding to local requests to have neighborhood vehicles inspected before allowing the owner to purchase a required sticker permit to drive the vehicle in the Village. The Board expressed the best response would be to ask those seeking an inspection to contact Henry County Non-Emergency and ask for the next available office on duty in Woodhull to reach out to them for an inspection.

Trustee Jeff McCready noted he saw multiple items in a recent insurance review that the Village no longer needs to insure. Village Clerk Kelli Hand said Sergeant Wagner has not returned the review pages with the corrections yet but did note last month that there were corrections to be made.

Bethell said he would remind Sergeant Wagner that this review needed to be completed soon. Mayor Holmes was also going to reach out to Julia Reynolds to ask if items could be removed throughout the year.

Trustee Mark Bethell made a motion to accept the July written Police Report as presented. Trustee Jeff McCready seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Public Works Director Dusty McKeag gave the July Public Works Report.

Director McKeag reported that a new trailer was purchased after the request was approved at last month's meeting.

Director McKeag reported there was a large water service line break at the AlWood Middle/High School, and he had to reach out to a company in Indiana to help fix the Village's part of the issue. Trustee Jeff McCready noted that the AlWood School needs to be getting the service line replaced immediately. He suggested the AlWood Superintendent call him to discuss how big of an issue this could easily become. School Board Member Kelli Hand thanked him for offering his advice and will reach out to Mr. Nordstrom after the meeting to share Trustee McCready's important message. Trustee McCready also noted that Director McKeag did run everything that needed to be done to fix the issue by him and did a great job handling a serious issue.

There was a brief discussion about the water shut off list for nonpayment. Mayor Holmes noted the issue has been improving each month and that the Village's Water Department is doing a great job handling the water shut offs. There were a few questions asked by the Board and it was decided that Director McKeag and Water Clerk Krueger should continue doing what they are doing. Trustee Anderson did ask about charging a late fee and Water Clerk Kreuger commented that the hook up fee after a shut off is used instead of late fees. The Board agreed that continuing not to charge a late charge would be the best practice for the Village.

The Board approved a request for Director McKeag to attend a conference in Springfield, Illinois September 9-11th. This will allow him some study preparation and a chance to take his next exam. Since this type of event was already worked into the budget there was no need for a vote. Trustee McCready agreed it would be valuable training for him to attend.

Trustee McCready also suggested the Board approve sending Director McKeag to the Northern Conference in October. After a brief description of the event the Board agreed this would also be beneficial. Director McKeag said he would book both trips and thanked the Board for the opportunities.

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to renew Jeff Kessinger's contract starting September 1, 2024. This contract will allow Jeff Kessinger to continue being the Village's contracted water operator per the stipulations of the contract and with the understanding that either party can end the contract with at least 15 days of notice. Trustee Hannah Garrett seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Jeff McCready made a motion to accept the July Public Works report as presented. Trustee Mark Bethell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

DANGEROUS BUILDING UPDATE:

None at this time.

ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nothing at this time

PARKS/RECREATION/TOURISM:

Trustee Christena Anderson reported that the Fun Fest was a success. There were no issues to discuss. Trustee Anderson announced that the Fun Fest Committee members have resigned and that they will be looking for a replacement committee to take over the Fun Fest. Please watch the Fun Fest Facebook page for more information.

Mayor Holmes reported there was not a quorum for the Henry County Tourism meeting so there was no meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Trustee Scott Francis reported the next meeting will be on August 20th at 6:30 at the Village Hall.

Trustee Francis also reported that Village Clerk Kelli Hand has been working on letters to send to all of Woodhull's businesses to start a project where the Village will highlight different businesses. The Economic Development Committee will discuss the best time to send out the letters and information to the businesses.

Mayor Holmes announced a new restaurant, Little India, has opened at the Travel Plaza.

OLD BUSINESS:

Trustee Christena Anderson reported she hopes to have more information about the Village Sign at our September meeting.

Mayor Holmes updated the Board on the additions that Attorney Mike Massie made to the Village's Solar Ordinance draft. The Board discussed three items that needed to be settled before the Board could vote on the final ordinance. The Board decided on the price range of the permits, the price range of the penalties associated with not getting a required permit, and that Public Works Director McKeag will be responsible for distributing and collecting the required permits and fees associated with the ordinance. The Board also decided the Ordinance would be placed into action on September 1, 2024. It was noted that any project completed before September 1, 2024, will not require a permit. After discussion Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to approve Ordinance 24-02 once Village Attorney Mike Massie makes the necessary additions and edits to the draft copy of the prepared Solar Ordinance. Trustee Hannah Garrett seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 after a roll call vote of Anderson-Y, Bethell-Y, Francis-Y, Garrett-Y, and McCready-Y. It was noted that Trustee VerHeecke was absent from the vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business was discussed.

CLOSED BUSINESS:

Trustee Scott Franis made a motion to go into Closed Session for two litigation updates, three personnel items, and more discussion about the Village's overtime policy at 8:49pm. Trustee Jeff McCready seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Hand, Village Clerk

Trustee Christena Anderson made a motion to go back into Open Session at 10:11 p.m. Trustee Scott Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted, Mayor Holmes

VOTES AFTER CLOSED:

Trustee Hannah Garrett moved to accept the Timesheet and Personnel Manual changes discussed in Closed Session at 9:34 p.m. And Trustee Christena Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1.

Trustee Christena Anderson moved, and Trustee Mark Bethell seconded to require Village employees to complete Sexual Harassment and Cyber Security Training on an annual basis and sign a waiver when completed. The State format is to be used. Roll Call, Christena A. – Y, Scott F. – Y, Mark B. – Y, Hannah G. – Y, Jeff M. – Y. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Christena Anderson then moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Jeff McCready seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Dave Holmes, Village President