

**Village of Westville Regular Meeting**  
**February 21, 2024**  
**6:00pm**

Mayor Weese called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Present at Roll Call: Trustees J Slavik, Strebin, Hughes, Ellis, McFadden and Gallion, as well as Village Attorney Barney, Village Treasurer Larson, and Village Clerk V Slavik.

**AGENDA** The Clerk amended the agenda to reflect 2021-2022 for the audit to be accepted, rather than 2022-2023. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the agenda and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** (none)

Gary Delhaye has had calls about people still wanting to purchase Sesquicentennial historical books. He said we had sold 600, and he will get a quote for reprints and present to the board to decide how many to buy; he is thinking maybe 100-200.

Andrew Dugas wanted to ask about the Village fireworks donation. Last year the Village donated \$3,000.00. He said costs are increasing and they wrote a check last year for \$7,000.00. They prefer the Village send the check directly to the fireworks company. The Lions want to increase their \$10,000.00 show to a \$12,000.00 show. They have the concert booked. For Lions Club questions, since Darren VanDuyn went to Danville Lions Club, people need to contact Andy now. They have three acts booked: Catlin Crozer, Jerod Neiman and Maddie and Tae.

Mary Catherine Roberson with Congresswoman Robin Kelly's office visited to share what their office in Danville can assist constituents with since the district was extended to now include Westville. Congresswoman Kelly now represents our part of the state. They can help navigate federal agencies for things like passports, IRS, Social Security, Dept. of State. They have a grant specialist and can identify funding and write support letters. Federal agencies will be in Danville in April to discuss available grants. "Community Funding" (this is through congress and used to be called "ear-marked" funds) brings money back to the district. Last year Rantoul was selected to receive over \$500,00.00 and Danville was selected to receive \$800,00.00. The congresswoman's office can help with proclamations and tours of the White House, the US Capitol and other DC landmarks. They can also provide Congressional recognition for events that are historic or noteworthy. They host youth programs that include a youth cabinet and a high school art competition (they are taking submissions now), where the winning pieces are hung in Washington for a year. They are currently recruiting artists (students) if anyone knows of anyone. Winners and their families are flown to Washington. They are currently establishing a Congressional Youth Cabinet (CYC) because the youth know what is going on and how it affects them; these downstate youth can share their issues and ideas for solutions with the Congresswoman. They host an intern every semester at all three of the district offices; if anyone knows of anyone interested in interning with the Danville office. All of this information is available at <https://robinkelly.house.tgov/>. Their offices are located across from the old Schroeder's restaurant. (Clerks note: You can reach Mary Roberson at [mary.roberson@mail.house.gov](mailto:mary.roberson@mail.house.gov) or by calling 217-516-4556. They are located at 425 N. Gilbert St., Suite 5 in Danville.)

**MINUTES** Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024 and the Police Committee Meeting minutes of 01-31-2024. Motion by Ellis; second by Strebin. No further discussion. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS** The Clerk said that there was a duplicate listing as “Postmaster” and also “Westville Postmaster” and the check to “Westville Postmaster” will be cancelled. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Claims and place the report on file. Motion by J Slavik; second by Hughes. Motion carried.

**CLERK REPORT** Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Clerk Report, turn the money over to the Treasurer and place the report on file. Motion by Gallion; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** Treasurer Larson’s report was for January 2024. Larson said it is time to start on our budget. There will be line-item transfers (especially in tree removal) coming up for areas that went over budget. We bought a little more equipment than we planned but there are other areas where we spent less. He said we need to schedule some meetings to have the preliminary budget ready in March. Our new insurance agent is due to visit next week to introduce herself. The first 8 months are budgeted at the current rate and the remainder is represented as a 12% increase. J Slavik would like a Finance Committee meeting 3/11/24 to go over the meat of the budget and then another Finance Committee Meeting 3/13/24 to go over wages and salaries. Larson said Bennett has a 5-year plan. Larson asked Bennett to reach out to council members that head up his committees since he is Director of Public Works to work with him. He and Strebin talked to Chief Varvel; Varvel returns tomorrow and has suggestions. He wants more line items with more detail of their needs. Gallion asked about Bennett’s on-call and weekend pay. Barney needs to look at the overtime statutes to see whether Bennett falls under Administration (because he does not fall under Executive or Professional). Weese said we only have one person qualified right now and cannot run Jake into the ground. Larson said it is temporary and said Bennett was told they may have to deduct it later. Also, Jake had to be off and has to be off again and there is no one else qualified. Barney will let Bennett know what he finds out. Barney explained Professional and Executive categories. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Ellis. No further discussion. Motion carried.

### **COMMUNICATIONS (none)**

**POLICE REPORT** Chairman Strebin had no report. Weese said Varvel got the permit from IDOT for the sign and we just need the pole put up. It will be by the high school. Chief Varvel’s report covers January 13, 2024 through February 12, 2024. There were 27 reports, and 226 calls logged this reporting period. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to accept the Police Report and place it on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS Streets & Alleys** Chairman Slavik had no report. **Sewers** Chairman Ellis deferred to Jason Biava. Jason said they found a sinkhole in the alley between bank and old CVS. He described exactly where it is, and they did an emergency locate and excavated today to see what the problem is and try and correct it. He said the catch basin to north of the old CVS is centered and is an old brick-laid basin and is falling in. They will find where the break is and replace the basin and 10-15 ft pipe. When they excavated, they found anything north of it for about 15ft. is destroyed. There is a sanitary sewer running through there at the same level. ERH will come tomorrow and come by Latoz and jet (new portion was put in 5-6 years ago, they feel what was connected to beyond that may be damaged; that may be why water pools around Latoz). They will get a footprint from ERH. Tilton was

going to camera, but they did not want to put their \$20,000.00 camera in a hole full of water. **Gas & Water** Chairman McFadden said Brandon left and went to work at the PSB in Danville and we are short-handed again. Applications have been accepted and they will start interviewing soon. **Sidewalks** Chairman Ellis had no report. Biava said they will deal with the sewer before they begin sidewalk work. **Park** Chairman Gallion said RC Electric is going to begin March 1 installing new LED lights on the tennis court. He said we got one email from the park grant people and we are just waiting on the check. He emailed his contact but has not received a response yet. Mike Zaayer looked at the cannon – and wants it raised on the stand and thinks he can straighten it and then weld the turret back on. **Bldgs./Grnds.-Comm. Beaut.** Chairwoman Hughes said the next four target properties are 306 Vaught, 225 Victor, 214 Michigan, 405 South St. Gas/water bills are current; and everything is turned off. There will be bids to take them down next.

### **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT BY DIR. MICHAEL BENNETT January 12, 2024 through February 15, 2024**

**In the Water Department:** Changed meters, worked on repairs, took routine samples, changed daily totalizer chart, calculated daily usage, took chlorine residuals, swept, and mopped the plant, Had a water break at 112 Urban Dr on a 6-inch main, had a water break in front of 418 E. Kelly on a 4-inch main, repaired a service line in front of 1 Veterans Ave., filled out EPA Water Survey for water system audit and inspection, will have an EPA audit in March, will attend Illinois Rural Water Association seminar in Effingham, had a water training held at Aqua Illinois over cyber security and nitrification rule, still working on Customer Service Line Inventory for ILEPA, Dan and Clint met with ILRWA over apprentice DACC sponsored grants, updated Water Emergency Plan. **Water Surveys are still being turned in MANDATORY RESPONSE REQUIRED PLEASE REMIND YOUR NEIGHBORS these are due BY MARCH 15, 2024!** **In the Gas Department:** Changed meters, worked on repairs, changed daily high/low charts, checked odorizer daily, Patrolled system, Took odorant readings, **WILL BE SHUTTING OFF ALL DELINQUENT GAS AND WATER ACCOUNTS.** Had a Paradigm pipeline safety meeting in Champaign, cut off gas service and removed farm tap east of town on high-pressure gas system, had a Gas Utility Alliance audit, will have Operator Qualification training in Sullivan on Gas Regulators, Clint and Dan will have gas training in Olney, IL, replaced gas carbonite signs 1670 E. Rd., LiHeap/CAP program is open for grants. **Call 217-554-9110 730a-430p** for funding gas bills. **WILL BE SHUTTING OFF ALL DELINQUENT GAS AND WATER ACCOUNTS.** **In Village Business:** Will have training in Georgetown over blood-borne pathogens, personal protective equipment, trenching and shoring and fire-fighting equipment, plowed and salted streets, cleaned all catch basins in town, washed windows at City Hall inside and out, washed trucks, car hit Cannon in park with damages to cannon, park bench and landscaping. Repairs are required and being pursued, filled potholes Urbana St., took rock to E. Kelly after water break, picked up and disposed of dead weasel from park, moved clerk file boxes on and off site for destruction review, moved gas and water files offsite to make room, replace stop sign Connecticut & English. There were 16 J U L I E CALLS, 7 Gas & Water Work orders, 49 Water Work Orders, 21 Gas Work Orders, 19 Public Works Work Orders, 4 CO Calls, 3 Odor Calls. The Clerk added that there was also damage to the electrical as the light pole was also impacted and Bennett is getting an estimate from RC Electric. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Public Works report and place on file. Motion by Gallion; second by McFadden. Motion carried. The Clerk added that besides the cannon, shrubs, bench and light pole damage, the electric was yanked out and said that Bennett is getting an estimate from RC Electric for that for the insurance, as well.

**LICENSES/INSURANCE:** Chairman McFadden had no report. **BUSINESS DISTRICT UPDATE** The \$5,000.00 grant given out really helped the recipient out and it looks good. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (nothing)**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Non-binding gas supplier contract: Barney got a sample contract and reviewed. He said it is non-committal; they just want us to say we commit to being interested. Then they would move forward with bonds and rates. He sees no reason they cannot vote to be interested. Then if there is enough interest, within about a month they would send an actual contract with the blanks filled in. There are a couple of things he wants to change and then he would share with the board, but not with the public until it is put on the floor. We could say “no” at that point. They have an estimate of what they can save us and that would be in there, too (it depends on the bond rate). The last one was in Massachusetts, and that is where the bonds were; he said we may want to hire an attorney from that state if they are there this time. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to the non-committal interest in a contract. Motion by McFadden; second by Strebin. Motion carried.

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to adopt Resolution #24-01 for the Labor Day Parade. The resolution is adopted with a motion by McFadden and a second by Gallion. Motion carried.

For the FY2021-2022 Audit: Larson said because we gave the sanitary lines to the WBSD, that hurt us, and we had to write them all off of our books. They said that is why it was in the red; they wrote off the assets and that was a few million dollars. Barney said the costs were extravagant to maintain those with all the lift stations. Larson also said this audit deals with the gas problem with the high rate, so they went back to May 2021 and worked forward. Then Larson had told them we received a settlement, so they had to go back to May and figure the settlement in and redo all of that. He said every auditor changes how they want things presented. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to accept the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Audit. Motion by Slavik; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

The opening date for the park is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Weese entertained a motion after consideration and discussion regarding a donation at the same level as last year to Keep Vermilion County Beautiful. Motion by Hughes; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

J Slavik asked if we could have a Special Meeting next week instead of waiting until the March meeting for the particulars to return gas credits to customers. McFadden is meeting with the Gas & Water clerks next week before he has a committee meeting to discuss what they will bring to the board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:45p.m. Motion by Strebin; second by Hughes. Motion carried.