

Village of Westville Regular Meeting
March 20, 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 Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the agenda and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (none)

Bob Heater asked if Westville can issue tickets from the speed signs; Varvel said Cook and Sangamon can issue tickets, but Westville cannot. Bob asked how many citations are issued a month; Varvel said there were around 60. Donna Haluska asked for an update on Michigan St. at the end – Weese said it is boarded up and they cleaned garbage up. Barney said it is pending legal so we cannot discuss it on the floor.

MINUTES Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 02-21-2024, the Special Meeting Minutes of 02-26-2024 and the Finance Committee Meetings of 03-11-2024 and 03-13-2024. Motion by McFadden; second by Hughes. No further discussion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Claims and place the report on file. Motion by Gallion; second by Ellis. 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 McFadden; second by J Slavik. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT Treasurer Larson's report was for February 2024. He explained that the line-item transfer is an estimate of what would be spent through April and then he would determine if there were any line items where more was spent than was budgeted and so he can transfer funds. He said we cannot change the total; but we can re-distribute funding. He also said we should be under budget for the year. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by Gallion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS (none)

POLICE REPORT Chairman Strebin deferred to Chief Varvel. HB3603 prevents officers from making traffic stops, speeding, violations. The police would not be able to do anything unless the driver is over 26mph over the speed limit. Varvel would like people to contact the representatives and ask them to not vote for it.

Varvel's report covers February 16, 2024 through March 14, 2024. There were 28 reports, and 205 calls in this reporting period. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to accept the Police Report and place it on file. Motion by Hughes; second by J Slavik. No further discussion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets & Alleys Chairman J Slavik said he and Bennett are meeting the engineer Rob Macklin on Friday to go through street projects. Already on the list: Brooks, Ellsworth, striping at intersections (state says we are responsible for); he THINKS they should be able to use MFT money for striping. **Sewers** Chairman Ellis had nothing to report. **Gas & Water** Chairman McFadden said during the Special Meeting he wondered why we had a special meeting and what was the hurry regarding the money that the city lost. \$8,500.00 was tossed out as a possible cost to the Village of what the clerks thought the city was out, so we put \$10,000.00 aside from our refund. He was not comfortable voting on that; he wanted to wait. He says the Village was out \$103,443.23; taxpayers are then out \$93,443.23. He also cited a \$56,000.00 loss, with the total being \$149,444.23. He says we failed and are not fiscally responsible. He mentioned the cost of \$50,000.00 to tear down a building and leave an empty lot. He says it is total \$200,000.00 we cost the tax payers and have to recoup somewhere. **Sidewalks** Chairman Ellis had nothing to report. **Park** Chairman Gallion the tennis court lights were not installed the first week of March; will be done this week or next for sure. The trees are in at Berry's. Will meet with them Monday evening to walk through the park and stake where the new trees are to be installed April 1st. Finally got the \$50,000.00 check for the playground equipment grant. **Bldgs./Grnds.-Comm. Beaut.** Chairwoman Hughes said four properties are getting title searches. 306 Vaught, 214 Michigan, 225 Victor and 405 South St. We are waiting to hear from the landbank. Hughes said that Santa's Anonymous is getting a \$2,500.00 check from Festival of Trees and Balloons over Vermilion. Darlene Oakes and Debbie Serpinas submitted a letter to Jim Anderson and said in January they were getting a check. The public is invited. For the summer, she talked to Ben Bitto, and she will take care of the planters at the depot but had asked to put one on each corner downtown and plant flowers. She welcomed ideas if anyone would like to see something done to improve the village. They can call or email her. Weese said he has seen the planters that hang from light poles and said there were some at Full Circle and someone came with a truck and stole them.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT BY DIR. MICHAEL BENNETT February 16, 2024 through March 14, 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 EPA audit, still working on Customer Service Line Inventory for ILEPA, ILRWA Assoc conference in Effingham, Mike, Dan, Clint attended, Dan & Clint had first Water Apprenticeship class, will have testing for nitrates and nitrites, repairs to drive area 114 Urban after water break, water surveys are still being turned in MANDATORY RESPONSE REQUIRED PLEASE REMIND YOUR NEIGHBORS these are still needed. **In the Gas Department:** Changed meters, worked on repairs, changed daily high/low charts, checked odorizer daily, Patrolled system, Took odorant readings, , Evaluate copper line Delaware Ave has been changed out to steel, ****NOTE TO GAS CUSTOMERS ONLY AGA APPROVED PIPING FOR GAS NO COPPER ALLOWED**, request has been made to Keystone for adjustment file request for Gas Credit & water & Cap rate changes, system updates, had Operator Qualification training in Sullivan on Gas Regulators. All attended two separate days, will have mandatory training April 3rd in Springfield, Clint and Dan will have gas training for 5 days in Olney IL, had GUA committee meeting in Olney, had Board of Directors meeting with MPUA, 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:** Had Risk Management training in Georgetown over blood-borne pathogens, personal protective equipment, trenching and shoring and fire-fighting equipment, fill pothole next to fire station 119 W. Williams; 116 W. Kelly, repair stop sign 303 Jules; Rt 1 & N. State & Ellsworth, take stop signs to Hickman St. power outage, remove bricks from roof of 225 Victor. pickup large plastic wrap State St by Izzy's. replace School Crossing sign Golf Lane. check man-hole cover 101 E Main bank alley, pickup skunk 105 Bridgett/E. Main; possum Indiana Ave., put cannon back on stand, check sink hole in alley behind old CVS & Latoz, verify light status Welcome Sign 1800 N State, have been and will continue

to shut off delinquent Gas and Water accounts will have more to do, clean up & board up & cut off gas 541 Michigan Ave. There were 24 J U L I E CALLS, 9 Gas & Water Work orders, 25 Water Work Orders, 27 Gas Work Orders, 18 Public Works Work Orders, 0 CO Calls, 6 Odor Calls. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the Public Works report and place on file. Motion by Mcfadden; second by Strebin. Motion carried.

LICENSES/INSURANCE: Chairman McFadden said Travis Mains gas moved to Wisconsin. Larson said the new agent came in and met with the employees; one is from Champaign, and they have an office in Danville.

BUSINESS DISTRICT UPDATE (nothing)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (nothing)

NEW BUSINESS

The Treasurer had provided a spreadsheet on the line-item transfers that need to be made and said fuel for all departments was more expensive. There was also tree removal that went over budget. Those were the two major items. We budgeted \$2,000.00 for Business District and awarded \$5,000.00. The attorney line-item was over because of a lot of ordinances and work with gas problem. He said some items may come in lower or higher once April is finished. General Fund uses state money (income tax, revenue tax, pull tabs, cannabis sales. He said we must present a budget and show we are under what was budgeted and that items were corrected. McFadden said the Business District money is being moved from overage rather than Business District. Larson said the Business District money is a separate line item and it will be lowered by that amount. It is a separate item in the Treasurer's Report so they can see what is being collected in the Business District and shows a total. Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the transfers. Motion by McFadden; second by J Slavik. Motion carried.

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to hire Bert Pitchford for the Public Works Department as a laborer. He will start March 25, 2024. One worker we had went to work at the City of Danville. They interviewed six and were down to three after a written and a hands-on test. Bert Pitchford has gas and water experience. McFadden said he is the water worker from Ridge Farm. McFadden said he showed up with a folder of certificates. He will need to catch up on gas. Motion by Gallion; second by Hughes. Motion carried.

The Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 is presented for a vote. Discussion on tweaks that were to be in this tentative version. Weese asked if there were any questions. J Slavik has a list of things for the Treasurer to change. Revenue on General Fund (first page): J Slavik appreciates Larson getting it ready in such a short time, as there was a 2hr 20-min meeting and a lot of work to get here. Gaming collected 2023-2024 (what was collected in this fiscal year)....at the top he does not see the gaming in the top for 24-25...decided we could give \$100,000.00 from gaming...waterworks shows us giving \$200,000.00. That was what was originally brought up. Larson said that is how much he anticipates we will collect through April this year. What we did originally (we never received gaming until 2011) so they decided to not budget the revenues until collected, so they would not say they were getting it until the end of the year and then (now \$211,000.00 is in gaming) and budget towards something. He said a lot went to the park; some has gone to \$50,000.00 for the Michigan St. Lift Station in the sewer dept. So that is when he reports this, it is like the Business District revenue – a bottom-line item that is not to be considered revenue to use this year. Weese thinks it is a good idea to get the water back to where it needs to be. McFadden said the 1 million gallons down the drain did not help. Larson said, for example, there will be a line item. He said Business District revenue does not go in the upper portion; it is just to show what we have

collected. They discussed attorney fees when the attorney was not here. It is going from \$5,000.00 to \$9,000.00. Slavik asked if they agree to change it to \$9,000.00. McFadden said they did. All agree. WWDZ other sewer services: going from \$20,000.00 to \$10,000.00 for audit fees. Larson is comfortable with \$10,000.00; it was \$12,000.00 this year but should go down. GAS: Natural Gas training \$22,500.00. Larson said there is a private company natural gas, has classes strictly for gas. There is training in Public Works, but that is strictly gas instead of moving into public works since it is specifically for Gas. The items to the right: Larson said they are items Bennett would like to have. J Slavik asked what line item is the \$22,500.00 is under. Larson said maybe it should be in there; it was an after-thought. A line item for this training will be added. Slavik mentioned replacing 7 gas main valves, a portable generator, tools, cut-off saws, lights, training, but asks about telemetry housing unit. Slavik suggested that was an add-on after budget, so it needs added; Larson agreed. \$6,500.00 has its own line item. \$24,000.00 add-on at pump station, protective shelter. (Lien-to on garage could be built by our guys.) Larson thinks it was on the cheat sheet. That sheet appeared at the wages/salaries meeting. Everyone is ok with this. In Sale of Water, Slavik noted the budget has \$765,000.00 and this is the same amount this year; he asks was number high? Larson said we did not make it in that item. He hoped we would make it with the raise. Capital Improvement: Larson said we would make maybe \$75,000.00. Slavik said if Larson budgets \$115,000.00 for next year, then he is \$40,000.00 off, because if they are going from \$4.00 to \$8.00 there should be twice as much money. Larson said we may be at \$150,000.00 and the increase should go into effect by May, so there would be a year's worth of it. Slavik suggested that if we do not get a grant or money from somewhere, the question is we will not possibly do all projects. Larson said the engineer is doing the writing for the grant and IEPA loan, for meters, at an estimated \$1.9 million. We have to come up with the difference. He said we could move \$200,000.00 from Gaming, but they would still need to borrow from the gas system or elsewhere. Slavik said we will not do projects until we know we have funding. Larson said we had to give an idea to the engineer and put in application that rates would be raised. We are going to buy meters for \$104,400.00.

Slavik appreciates the board going through all of this at two meetings. They agreed on wage and salary increases of 8% for police and 7% for all other employees; that is in Larson's numbers. Strebin discussed part-time police, requesting to move up from \$22.68 to \$27.00, which is still under other local communities; he said we either raise the part-time rate, or we pay junior officers \$41.00 per hour for overtime. It makes sense to raise the part-time rate so part-timers will want to work, and there are people interested at that rate. Varvel said Showers has turned down other offers to make double; he has been here 15 years, and he feels Showers deserves it. Weese said he is very dependable. Slavik asks Gallion what the lowest guy makes. It would be \$27.60 with the 8% raise. Varvel thinks that is fair, and he is the only one and this would be the same rate for anyone who comes in. Varvel spoke with the others, and they are OK with that. Slavik said it would be a savings if we do get a couple of extra part-time officers; Strebin said it also saves wear and tear on people. Larson will put part-time police at \$27.00 per hour. Larson said on January 1, the family leave act adjustment from the state, anyone who works 90 days is entitled to paid leave, based on the hours. Example: Doug works 8 hours a week, after 40 hours he is entitled to a day. Every five weeks he will have a day off. Every 5 weeks would have to give him an extra 8 hours' pay. Larson did not see anything regarding any exceptions; Weese said IML is still fighting it. Barney said he did not think the number of employees is considered for municipalities; he thinks it is in businesses. Back to Police, Strebin said the initial proposal was 10% with a step incentive program. The other officers will make the same amount and there is no incentive to stay; no room for growth because the top three will not be leaving. He would like a little more consideration for this proposal. Slavik said Strebin was not here, and they did not want to tie to a future board but want to look into seeing how they could implement a step this fall. They were not interested in doing it at this time. They are not abandoning that thought, and they want it to be with all employees. Slavik reminded us that we have a longevity bonus, so those who have been here longer will receive more. McFadden said what

Strebin is asking will take time and right now we need to get the budget done. So, they will see how they can get it across the board. McFadden said we are trying to get there and in two years the raises have been 13%. Gallion said under PARK on projects there is \$110,975.00 and that is a typo...it is to be separated with tree removal at \$15,000.00 and construction/maintenance at \$95,000.00. Larson said we do not have to spend it on tree removal. A Special Meeting is set for April 24, 2024 at 6:00p.m to pass the final budget, as it will have been posted for 30 days from this meeting.

McFadden said the garbage companies are not notifying the Village when they raise their rates. The Clerk said she sent renewals with the stipulation highlighted that they are required to notify the customers and Village of an increase within 60 days. McFadden also said 3014 Georgetown Rd. was sold two years ago and did not receive the money. Barney said we have requested information from their attorney, and they cannot find where we were paid. They were given a deed. McFadden set a Gas & Water Committee Meeting April 9th at 5:00p.m. This will be to give newly elected board members a tour of departments. Mike, Michelle, and Sarah will be involved and there will be a little tour, so the board knows what is involved. It will take about an hour-and-a-half, in two groups.

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to approve the tentative budget. Motion by Mcfadden; second by Hughes. Motion carried. The tentative budget will be posted for 30 days for public comment. A Special Meeting is set for April 24 at 5:30p.m. to vote on the Final Budget, which would then take effect May 1.

ADOURNMENT

Mayor Weese entertained a motion to adjourn at 7:05p.m. Motion by Strebin; second by Hughes. Motion carried.