

**Village of Westville
Regular Meeting
December 20, 2023
6:00pm**

The Clerk stated that the Mayor and the Attorney had prior commitments and cannot be present this evening, so #17 and #18 will be moved to the January 18, 2024 Regular Meeting. She also stated that #15 B and D are actually the same issue, so #15 B is stricken and will be addressed with #15D, and that #16 should be A-B-C rather than A-B-B, so the second B is edited to reflect C. The Clerk said she needs a motion naming a Trustee to serve as Mayor Pro Temp ("MPT"). Motion to have Ellis serve as Mayor Pro Temp for this meeting made by McFadden; second by Strebin. Roll called by Clerk Slavik on the motion. Motion carried.

MPT Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Present at Roll Call: Trustees J Slavik, Strebin, Hughes, McFadden and Gallion, as well as Village Treasurer Larson and Village Clerk V Slavik.

AGENDA

MPT Ellis entertained a motion to approve the agenda and place on file. Motion by Hughes; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Works Director Bennett said the refund we are receiving from Panhandle Pipeline came from FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) and is due to depositions from certain individuals; specifically, the testimony of one female witness, Becky. This was determined over tariffs ruled in our favor that Panhandle overcharged February 2021. In accordance with Article IV, within 60 days of the date of the order, Panhandle was required to provide refunds and provide a report to the Commission, consistent with sections 154.501 and 154.502 of the Commission's regulations.

Brandon Bott from B&B Construction owns 308 E Kelly and would like to have it re-zoned to business to house a hair salon and boutique. On the three buildings downtown: the Village was pursuing condemnation, but Bott had talked to Mayor Weese and Attorney Barney, and he will instead work with the Village with ideas to refurbish them to support new businesses. His demolition of 311 S. State has begun and they are working in the back first and will close part of Rt. 1 for up to 7 days beginning January 4, 2024. WDAN is posting the lane closure notice on their outlets to inform the public.

MINUTES

Gallion said under "Park" in the minutes, Klugow had not yet gotten the parts for the tennis court light; the minutes will be amended to state "Klugow checked, and the parts were bad and Klugow was going to give us a cost estimate to repair". MPT Ellis entertained a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 11-15-2023 and Gas & Water Committee Meeting Minutes of 12-12-2023 and place on file. Motion by Gallion; second by Hughes. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

MPT Ellis entertained a motion to approve the Claims and place the report on file. Motion by McFadden; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

CLERK REPORT

MPT Ellis entertained a motion to approve the Clerk Report, turn the money over to the Treasurer and place the report on file. Motion by Slavik; second by Hughes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Larson's report was for November 2023. He said we are still under budget a little. He said there will probably be more expenses under "Trees" and the budget is already over in that line item, so there will need to be a line-item transfer. The refund received from Missouri Gas was over \$715,000.00. Slavik questioned the expenses in gas for meters and questions the meters purchased under gas were water meters. Larson will look into it. MPT Ellis entertained a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and place on file. Motion by Gallion; second by Hughes. No further discussion. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS (none)

POLICE REPORT

MPT Ellis calls on Chairman Strebin for a report; he deferred to Chief Varvel. They are still working on getting the speed limit sign up and running; there was discussion on where the signs should be erected and an issue with someone living in an RV and the progress on condemning a property on Michigan. MPT Ellis entertained a motion to accept the Police Report and place it on file. Motion by Hughes; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS

Streets & Alleys Chairman Slavik and Sewers Chairman Ellis had nothing to report. Gas & Water Chairman McFadden said the new men are working out great and both have signed for the apprentice program. Sidewalks Chairman Ellis had nothing to report. Park Chairman Gallion said the tennis court had two layers to tear out and they were hauled off to Bob Brown and Ribbe and we saved money that way. The ballast on the lights on the tennis court was bad; he got a quote from Klugow to fix and replace, and a quote from RC to replace. RC's quote was cheaper to replace with better lights. The work will be done after the first of the year and the lights will be brighter than what was there. There are three documents to submit by January 1 for the new park equipment grant. This will go to the controller next, and the funds are disbursed sometime after that step. Buildings & Grounds and Community Beautification Chairwoman Hughes discussed properties taken down and those on the slate for 2024. She discussed the CILBA Board reconstruction, and she will serve for a year.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT BY Director Michael Bennett

November 09, 2023 through December 14, 2023

In the Water Department: Changed meters, worked on repairs, took routine water samples, changed daily totalizer chart, calculated daily usage, took chlorine residuals, swept, and mopped water plant, water break on E. Kelly in front of 610, water break on Brook Street behind the Legion, town water leak survey to locate Brook St. water break. Found two other small repairs

that were completed, IRWA met with two new employees over Water Apprentice program, two meetings with engineers for IEPA loan, Jake attended water training for apprentice program. Water Surveys are still being turned in and a MANDATORY RESPONSE is REQUIRED... PLEASE REMIND YOUR NEIGHBORS these are due BY APRIL 2024! In the Gas Department: Changed meters, worked on repairs, changed daily high/low charts, checked odorizer daily, Patrolled gas system, Took odorant readings, had a GUA meeting in Olney, had two separate incidents where someone was digging without calling a locate in – 811, Mike & field team to attend OQ training Jan. 23 & 24, will hold a liaison meeting with Westville Fire department, 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: Mulched leaves in the park, removed tennis court asphalt, Klugow finished with ditch work by Trinity, filled holes in alley behind 702 N State, replace damaged street sign Golf Lane, remove all plants from Depot planters, clean up glass E. Main, straighten sign Solomon & Bridgett, collected flowerpots at square for season, install salt spreader for season and cut off cable new park playground equipment. 32 J U L I E CALLS, 12 Gas & Water Work orders, 5 Water Work Orders, 6 Gas Work Orders, 16 Public Works Work Orders, 0 CO Calls, 5 Odor Calls.

MPT Ellis entertained a motion to approve the Public Works report and place on file. Motion by Strebin; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

LICENSES/INSURANCE

MPT Ellis calls on Chairman McFadden. Chairman McFadden said our employee health plan renewal increase is only 9%, but some with higher premiums have retired, and new younger workers will be added, so the monthly premium might not change much overall.

BUSINESS DISTRICT UPDATE

MPT ELLIS said there are no new applications and the project submitted by CMS Accounting & Tax Service is complete. Copies of the paperwork were handed out to the board, and the attorney has been copied also and we are waiting for his approval to write the check to honor the \$5,000.00 grant reimbursement for this project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MPT Ellis said that Clint Hudson and Daniel Vance were chosen to work in the Public Works Department and are doing a great job. MPT Ellis entertains a motion for board approval of the Mayor's appointments. Motion by McFadden and a second by Gallion. Motion carried.

The money reimbursed from Missouri Gas for the February 2021 overcharge for gas billing will be returned to all current residential and business customers in the form of a credit on gas accounts. MPT Ellis entertained a motion to refund the gas reimbursement. Motion by Gallion; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

The speed limit sign discussed in the last meeting is approved for purchase at \$4,303.00. MPT Ellis entertained a motion to purchase. Motion by McFadden; second by Strebin. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A 2022 F650 has been found for \$95,393.00 with a little over 7,800 miles on it from Uftring Auto by East Peoria. It will replace the 1994 F700 dump truck. It will be delivered by Uftring to Koenig Body and Equipment in West Peoria to have a 10-1/2ft plow put on for \$11,967.00. Bennett said the F500 and the 3500 also need to be replaced soon. MPT Ellis entertained a motion to purchase the truck. Motion by Hughes; second by McFadden. Motion carried.

Clerk Slavik said that Ordinance #23-1518 is an ordinance that is required to be passed that provides for 40 hours of leave time for full-time employees, even though we already make that part of our local policy. This ordinance needs to be passed before January 2024. MPT Ellis entertained a motion to adopt Ordinance #23-1518. Motion by McFadden; second by Gallion. Motion carried.

MPT Ellis calls on Gas & Water Committee Chairman McFadden to discuss the water rate and the capital improvement fee increase needed to support the water company, as costs have gone up for water, materials and engineering fees and the Village's rates have not gone up for a few years. Slavik raised concern over the amount suggested and felt maybe it should be incremental instead of all at once. Larson had asked the engineer to look to IEPA for a grant that could be paid back with capital improvement fees. McFadden set a Gas & Water Committee meeting for January 4, 2024 at 6:00p.m. to discuss the increases and bring their recommendation back to the full board.

ADJOURNMENT

MPT Ellis entertained a motion to adjourn at 6:47p.m. Motion by McFadden; second by Strebin. Motion carried.