

Village of St. Joseph

Village Board Meeting

July 9, 2024

Mayor Fruhling-Voges called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

Roll call was taken. Fruhling-Voges Present
Page Present
Vallee Present
Painter Present
Wolfersberger Absent
Cummings Present
Rapp Present

Others in attendance: Joe Hackney, Village Administrator; Debbie Routh, Village Treasurer; Mike Sennert, Interim Village Clerk/Village IT; Marc Miller, Village Attorney; Mike Peters, Public Works Director (via Zoom); Jim Arndt, Arndt Municipal Support Inc.; Butch Dalhaus, Rector Solar; Justin Headley, BOW Renewable (via Zoom); Andrew Weber, BOW Renewables (via Zoom); and Nora Maberry, The St. Joseph Record.

Consent Agenda (* indicates action item, omnibus motion):

1. Regular Village Board Meeting minutes - June 11th, 2024* - [Exhibit #1](#)
2. Treasurer's Report - July 2024* - [Exhibit #2](#)
3. Investment Recommendations - July 2024* - [Exhibit #3](#)
4. Approval of bills in the amount of \$191,933.20* - [Exhibit #4](#)

Trustee Rapp requested identifiers be added to the bill list for each electric charge indicating which Village property it was for. Trustee Cummings asked when outstanding checks that haven't been cashed will come off of the list. Debbie Routh, Village Treasurer responded that the last two will come off the list soon since there have been several attempts to contact the people. Trustee Page requested that the donated church building be referred to as the Village Hall since momentum is picking up on the development of a community center at the sports complex.

Cummings motioned and Vallee seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call was taken: Page-Aye, Vallee-Aye, Painter-Aye, Cummings-Aye, and Rapp-Aye. Motion passed 5-0

Public Participation:

None

New Business (* Indicates Action Item):

1. Economic Development Report

Jim Arndt from Arndt Municipal Support Inc. gave the trustees an update on new businesses he has been in communication with since his last report. He reported that he gained a lot of attention for the village at the recent Retailer's Convention in Las Vegas. Arndt said there are currently 5 businesses looking to locate in St. Joseph and 2 of them have made site visits.

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The latest business is Kino's Coffee Shop that is interested in the antique store space on Main St.

Mr. Arndt also relayed that he has had positive conversations with Douglas County about extending their enterprise zone to St. Joseph. He will report back to the board when he has more information. Trustee Rapp asked for further explanation of an enterprise zone. Arndt responded that it would give the village the option to offer incentives to new businesses, such as tax abatements.

An update was also given on the hotel that is interested in coming to the village. They have financing arranged and are looking for local investors.

2. Public Hearing and Approval of 2024/2025 Appropriations Ordinance* - Exhibit #5

Mayor Fruhling-Voges opened the public hearing and asked for public comment. Hearing no public comment, Village Administrator Joe Hackney gave an overview of the projects in the village that are receiving the appropriations from the state.

Mayor Fruhling-Voges closed the public hearing and resumed the regular board meeting.

Page motioned and Cummings seconded to approve the 2024/2025 Appropriations Ordinance as presented. Roll call was taken: Page-Aye, Vallee-Aye, Painter-Aye, Wolfersberger-Aye, Cummings-Aye, and Rapp-Aye. Motion passed 5-0

Old Business (* indicates Action Item):

1. Consideration and possible selection of a qualified bid for Solar Services at the WWTP* -Exhibit #6

Trustee Cummings said she wanted to state that she is opposed to purchasing solar panels for the WWTP with the debt the Village currently has for other projects.

Mayor Fruhling-Voges explained the debt the village has currently taken on for the different projects. She also mentioned that the state does review sewer rates to make sure that we have enough money to cover the low interest loans the village has taken out.

Trustees Painter and Rapp both commented that they were in favor of purchasing the solar panels at the WWTP and not proceeding with the solar panels at the sports complex at this time.

Painter motioned and Rapp seconded to approve the qualified bid from Rector Solar for Solar Services at the Waste Water Treatment Plant as presented. Roll call was taken: Page-Aye, Vallee-Aye, Painter-Aye, Cummings-Nay, and Rapp-Aye. Motion passed 4-1

2. Consideration and possible selection of a qualified bid for Solar Services on farm ground owned by the Village* - Exhibit #7

Trustees discussed tabling the selection of a qualified bid for Solar Services on the farm ground owned by the Village and possibly revisiting it in the future.

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Vallee motioned and Page seconded to table the selection of Solar Services on farm ground owned by the Village. Roll call was taken: Page-Aye, Vallee-Aye, Painter-Aye, Cummings-Aye, and Rapp-Aye. Motion passed 5-0

Village Administrator:

Village Administrator Hackney requested that the Trustees send him feedback about the proposed work on the new Village Hall. He also asked that Trustees interested in going to the IML Conference, let him know as soon as possible.

Staff Updates:

-**Village Attorney**-Nothing to report.

-**Village Clerk**-Nothing to report.

-**Public Works**-Nothing to report.

Mayor's Desk:

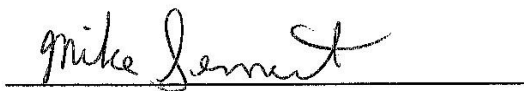
-Mayor Fruhling-Voges reported she has had discussions with the Champaign Forest Preserve about the Pedal the Parks event they are planning. The Forest Preserve is looking for overnight parking for some participants that choose to leave their vehicles in town and camp overnight at the Forest Preserve. The Mayor also mentioned that registration for the event will take place at Kolb park.

Board of Trustees:

- Trustee Vallee inquired if there was any movement about past due sewer bills. Hackney responded the village hasn't gotten enrolled in the collections program at the state yet, but he will continue to work on that.
- Trustee Painter discussed GFL's desire to have a garbage collection contract with the village.
- Trustee Rapp thanked Public Works Director Mike Peters for getting the estimated hours for mowing the different parts of the village. Administrator Hackney will figure out the cost for each mow using the staff salary amounts.

At 8:17 p.m. Rapp motioned and Page seconded to adjourn the meeting.

These minutes are respectfully submitted.



Mike Sennert
Interim Village Clerk

Approved: July 23, 2024